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ANTHONY "JAKE" SOBESKI STADIUM | WEST PITTSTON, PENNSYLVANIA

DUWALS



WYOMING AREA VS PITTSTON AREA

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
OCTOBER 25, 2019**

WA vs PA: The "Rivalry"

Frank DeAngelo - WA Social Media Broadcaster

Since the very first meeting between these schools in NOV 1967 (won 28-7 by PA) every kid on both sides of the river who ever picked up an orange Nerf football has imagined themselves playing in this game. They pretended to be their favorite player in blue and red; or green and gold; with none more famous than Pittston's Jimmy Cefalo. Cefalo would go on to play for Joe Paterno at Penn State and Don Shula at Miami; appearing in Super Bowl XVII and catching a 76 yd TD Pass.

As mini-footballers, many clamored for the number of their favorite player; as our colleague James Simerson so fondly remembers his attempt to secure Jim Pizano's "32". All imagined themselves making the key play; the winning score, and picking up the "Falcon" trophy. As players would come up through the ranks; they'd hear the same things..."the only game that matters"; "you'll never get hit harder than you do in this game". Each Sr Class with a scheduled home game for the Rivalry Game would have it circled on the calendar in great anticipation; the chance to beat their rival at home in front of friends and family; to earn bragging rights for a full year or more as paths would cross post graduation. Today in 2019; we have former Patriot Parents with Warrior sons and daughters and vice versa; including probably the only two Father and son combo to play QB in this game for opposing Schools ; Carl DeLuca for Pittston Area and Dominic DeLuca for Wyoming Area. Although the game hasn't been played on Thanksgiving for over 40 years now; the contest is still always well attended and supported with Community activities such as bon-fires; pre-game walks, and tailgates. The "Rivalry" is now 50 plus years strong and shows no sign of slowing down. Good Luck to Athletes from both sides tonight and to all of our fans, ENJOY THE GAME!

Here are some WARRIOR memories of the PA-WA Game from some Warrior Grads!

ANDY HERGAN (1973 grad) - a then record 20" of snow fell on Thanksgiving Day 1971. The game was played on Saturday with high snow banks beyond the bleachers and end zones. WA 32 PA 23.

JIM STALEY (1973 grad) .but what about the next year, 1972...Andy threw a touchdown pass...to me! PA heavily favored and we almost pulled it out...PA 14 WA 8

BRIAN DOVIN (2005 grad)- Beating PA for the District championship on a fake FG in 2004 as time expired! Marianacci to Mattei!

LEN KARROTT (1990 grad)-6-2 loss my senior year at PA-1989

DAVE DeMARK (1998 grad)-The 1995 game was a barn burner. PA had Mike Owens and a strong team. It came down to a goal line stand when a freshman named Greg Insalaco stood Owens up sealing the victory. 1997....in the rain. PA dominated the 1st half to take a 14-0 lead . 2nd half kickoff is returned by George Beck for a score. We never looked back. WA 42 PA 14. Beck was on the cover of the dispatch that year. Jeff Hoover and Kevin Pugliese with some fierdy halftime speeches!

MARTY PEPE (1992 grad) 1991 38-0 WA win my senior year. PA called PJ Melvin and told them that I had a BB gun at their bonfire in order to try and get me suspended. Never happened and we ended up torching them.

VIC PACCHIONI (1997 grad) -some teammates did some things to my car and blamed it on PA to fire me up (as if he needed that!) -THANK YOU-To all WARRIOR and PATRIOT COACHES-Past and Present-Who emphasized the fundamentals of Football and Life and worked to ensure that we left each Program as better People prepared for the challenges the future would bring!

Wyoming Area adding five new members to Ring of Pride

The Wyoming Area Football Alumni Association will add five new members to its Ring of Pride, along with honoring the 2003 District 2 championship team during ceremonies at the Oct. 25 home game against Pittston Area.

Walt Charney, John "Jack" Langan, Paul Angeli, Mike Fanti and Eric Randazzo make up the new class of inductees.

Charney was a three-sport athlete for three years at West Wyoming before being a member of the first Wyoming Area football and baseball teams as a senior. He stayed active in the sport locally, coaching youth football.

Langan, a 1974 graduate, was a member of the 1971 championship team and a two-year starter at defensive back. Also a running back, he served as a team captain and represented the Warriors in the UNICO All-Star Game.

Angeli, a 1987 graduate, played three years at tailback for the Warriors after helping the freshman team to a championship in 1982 as an eighth-grader.

Fanti has spent 22 years coaching at Wyoming Area since graduating in 1997. He serves as assistant head coach and coaches the linemen. A social studies teacher at the high school, Fanti played on two Wyoming Valley Conference Division 2 championship and district finalist teams with the Warriors.

Randazzo, a 2001 graduate, was a team captain and conference all-star as a senior. After three seasons lettering as a running back and safety, he was selected to play in the UNICO Game. He played on the 1998 district championship team.



Mike Fanti



Walt Charney



Paul Angeli



Warriors dug deep for district title in '03

Jack Smiles - Reprinted with permission from the Pittston Progress - October 20

After a 7-1 start the 2003 Warriors lost their last two regular season games and backed into the District 2 AAA playoff bracket as the fourth seed in the four-team tournament. That meant a first round game at no. 1 Berwick, who had beaten the Warriors back in September. But the Warriors won 19-13. A 25-yard Brett Gibbons-to-tight end Matt Mattei Td pass with 5:38 left was the game winner. Gibbons also threw a 37-yard Td pass to Mario Palmeri with 4.6 seconds left in the first half. Tom Nocera recovered a bad snap on a Berwick punt attempt to set up the first WA Td, a run by Joe Marianacci, and tackle Mike Trotta recovered a fumble on Berwick's last possession. Berwick quarterback Christian Force was 5-17 passing with

two interceptions. This was typical WA defense in 2003. Teams averaged only 35.3 passing yards per game against WA. They led the WVC on total defense and points per game, 7.9.

While WA was beating Berwick, PA beat Valley View setting up a WA-PA District 2 AAA title game at Scranton. Two weeks earlier PA had beaten WA 26-23 in double overtime. The Citizens Voice called it "One for the Ages." It was, and so the title game was one for two ages. The Warriors won it 28-21 with a touchdown pass from Marianacci to Mattei off a fake field goal with 7.6 seconds left in the game. Marianacci wasn't the regular holder, but coach Paul Marranca put him in there because he is a lefty, better to execute the pass to Mattei as they drew it up. So the Warriors beat two teams who they lost to during the season to win the D2 title.

Marianacci was one of five Warrior WVC all-stars. Marianacci rushed for 699 yards and 10 Tds, caught 42 passes for 608 yards and six Tds, returned two punts for Tds and was a DB on the shutdown pass defense.

Trotta, considered the strongest player in the WVC, Mattei, WR/DB Mario Palmeri, and Dave Pacchioni who played quarterback, fullback and DB were the other four all-stars. There were plenty of unsung heroes as well, like Nocera and Nikoloff, a blocking fullback.



PITTSTON AREA PATRIOTS



Number	Name	Position	Height	Weight	Grade
1	Alex Hoban	RB/LB	6'1	193	10
2	Anthony Thomas	K/P	5'11	140	11
3	Alex Anastasi	TE/DB	6'	190	12
4	Brennan Higgins	WR/DB	6'	175	12
5	P.J. Pisano	QB/DB	5'10"	165	11
6	Andrew Krawczyk	WR/DB	6'2"	185	12
7	Mike Nocito	QB/DB	5'11"	165	12
8	Jimmy Spindler	QB/DB	5'8	155	9
9	Zac Sulima	WR/DB	5'10"	170	12
10	Brandon Savokinas	WR	5'9	145	12
12	David Behm	WR/DB	6'4"	190	11
13	Devin Shandra	WR/DB	5'10"	145	12
14	Gino Triboski	WR/DB	5'8"	145	10
16	David Girman	WR/DB	5'9	140	10
18	Bruce Rydzy	WR/DB	5'10	155	11
20	Kahleb Murray	WR/DB	5'10"	150	10
21	Joe Cornwall	WR/DB	5'9	160	11
22	Dylan Lukachko	RB/DB	5'8"	150	12
23	Tyler Granahan	WR/DB	5'10	155	12
24	Fanny George	RB/LB	5'10"	190	12
25	Brad Montgomery	WR/DB	5'10	140	12
26	John Symons	RB/LB	6'	208	11
28	Devin Adkins	RB/DB	5'5"	155	11
33	D.J. Darbenzio	FB/LB	6'	200	11
34	Ed Murdock	RB/LB	6	160	12
36	Dan Ivochini	RB/LB	5'10	185	12
40	Bryheem Patterson	WR/DB	5'10"	165	11
41	Ethan Menichini	RB/LB	5'7"	165	11
42	Adam Lazar	FB/LB	5'7"	155	10
43	Bryan Herron	RB/LB	5'8"	175	12
48	John Morris	FB/LB	5'10"	185	11
53	Noah Lyons	OL/DL	5'9"	210	11
55	Chris Reiss	OL/DL	5'9	180	11
56	Dan Viquez	OL/DL	5'9	200	12
60	Adrian Colon	OL/DL	5'9"	230	12
61	Matt Soy	K	5'9"	230	11
63	John Galonis	OL/DL	6'2	225	12
64	Teagan Reboli	OL/DL	5'11"	210	11
65	Joe Galonis	OL/DL	6'3	220	11
66	Branden Farrell	OL/DL	5'8"	260	10
68	Tony Molinaro	OL/LB	6'2	195	12
70	Hugh Bentham	OL/DL	5'9"	230	12
71	Nick Thayer	OL/DL	5'10	290	10
74	Jack Albert	OL/DL	5'11"	230	10
75	Jake Jones	OL/DL	6'	235	10
77	Tyler Brody	OL/DL	6'	220	11
79	Stephen Yanchis	OL/DL	6'3"	286	11
80	Yvon Idoh	WR	6'4	150	10
81	Ryan Tarrant	TE/DL	5'10"	145	10
82	Joe Slusark	WR	6'2	165	12
84	John Stone	WR/DB	6'1	185	11

Coaching Staff

Nick Barbieri
 Joe DeLuca
 Ken White
 Jason Mills
 Charles Montagna
 Sam Eramo
 Joe Graziano

Greg Holl - Equipment Manager
 David Galli - Director of Football Operations

Kevin Booth, Superintendent
 John A. Haas, Principal



PA SCHEDULE 2019

08/23	7:00 PM	vs Nanticoke	W 30-8
08/30	1:30 PM	vs Berwick	L 46-0
09/06	7:00 PM	@ Tunkhannock	L 35-32
09/13	7:00 PM	@ Dallas	L 56-15
09/20	7:00 PM	vs Wallenpaupack	L 21-14
09/27	7:00 PM	vs West Scranton	W 28-27
10/04	7:00 PM	@ Williamsport	W 20-7
10/11	7:00 PM	@ Scranton Prep	L 17-3
10/18	7:00 PM	vs Crestwood	W 21-20
10/25	7:00 PM	@ Wyoming Area	



Head Coach Nick Barbieri

RIVALRY by the Numbers:

Winning Streaks:

PA 5 games, 1972-76
WA 4 games (twice) 1990-93, 1995-98

Lopsided Victory: 1973: PA 41 - WA 0
2018: WA 40 - PA 0

Highest Scoring Game: 2001: PA 52 - WA 24

Lowest Scoring Game: 1990; PA 6-WA 2

Playoffs: 2001:PA 52- WA 24
2003: WA 28 - PA 21

WYOMING AREA WARRIORS



Coaching Staff

Randy Spencer, Head Coach
Mike Fanti, Assistant Head Coach
Joe Pizano, Athletic Director

Assistant Coaches

Rich Musinski
Tom Loftus
Jason Speece
Ken Kopetchny
John McNeil
Corey Popovich
Russ Herron
Don Hindmarsh
Carl DeLuca

Volunteer Coaches

Tom Campenni
Brian Hines
David Pacchioni
Kim Pace
Jim Pizano
Eric Speece
Mike Laffey, Strength Coach
Dr. Gerald Gibbons, Team Physician
Faith Musinski, Trainer
Charles Medico, Statistician
Janet Serino, Superintendent
Dr. Jon Pollard, Principal



Number	Name	Position	Height	Weight	Grade
1	Darren Rodney	RB	6'0"	190	12
2	Quadre Sessoms	WR	6'0"	205	12
3	Rocco Pizano	WR	5'7"	150	10
4	Riley Rusyn	WR	5'10"	165	12
5	Zajquay Williamson	RB	5'8"	160	12
6	Brian Williams	WR	6'1"	190	12
7	Nick Ross	WR	5'6"	135	10
9	Dominic DeLuca	QB	6'2"	200	12
10	Nick George	WR	5'5"	125	10
11	Derek Ambrosino	TE	6'3"	220	12
14	Usamah Alansari	WR	5'10"	160	10
15	Blaise Sokach-Minnick	QB	6'3"	185	10
16	Nico Sciandra	RB	5'9"	165	10
17	Jacob Williams	QB	6'0"	195	11
18	Michael Mondlak	WR	5'9"	165	12
19	Vincenzo Nova	WR	5'5"	130	10
21	Drew Mruk	RB	5'11"	180	9
22	Leo Haros	RB	5'9"	160	10
23	Corey Mruk	RB	5'10"	190	12
24	Sydney Kruszka	K	5'5"	100	11
25	Colby Gashi	RB	5'8"	195	11
26	Charlie Banashefski	RB	5'6"	170	12
30	Vincenzo Giambra	RB	5'7"	155	11
35	Enzo Scotto-Diluzio	RB	5'9"	185	12
36	FJ Braccini	RB	5'9"	205	12
38	Matthew Skilonger	WR	5'7"	155	11
40	Matt Ragantesi	RB	5'5"	140	10
42	Rich Hizynski	RB	5'9"	170	10
43	Dillon Williams	RB	6'3"	240	12
69	Nick Elko	RB, T	6'2"	265	10
45	Dylan Rosati	WR	5'8"	140	10
46	Daniel Angus	TE	5'8"	185	11
47	Jerrel Chepalonis	WR	5'9"	150	11
50	Dante Bovani	G	6'0"	240	12
51	Bryce Hinkle	C	5'8"	205	11
52	Nasir Condry	C	5'7"	215	11
53	AJ Merlino	T	5'10"	200	11
54	Matt Clarke	G	5'9"	275	10
56	Alessandro Mannino	T	5'10"	220	10
57	Owen Kelly	T	6'3"	230	10
58	Ethan Speece	C	5'11"	250	9
59	Jayden Rusyn	G	6'1"	230	10
62	Matt Pelleschi	G	5'7"	180	10
63	Dustin Doria	G	5'9"	220	10
64	Vincent Bowers	G	5'9"	190	11
66	Shawn Kostak	T	6'1"	235	11
68	Jaleem DeJesus	G	5'8"	190	11
71	Thomas Wycoski	T	6'5"	290	12
72	Tyler Brzozowski	G	5'8"	250	10
73	Ryan Gilpin	T	5'10"	250	10
74	Kameron Barber	T	5'8"	200	10
79	Alex Chickson	T	5'10"	220	10
80	Zack Sheridan	WR	5'6"	130	10
82	Michael Clark	TE	6'1"	200	10
86	Caleb Graham	TE	6'3"	210	12
87	Thomas Collins	TE	5'10"	165	11
88	Adam Sigman	WR	5'7"	140	11
90	Samuel Solomon	RB	6'4"	295	12
92	Stanley Moderski	K	5'9"	200	12
94	James Miller	TE	6'1"	200	12
95	Josh Cumbo	K	5'7"	230	12
99	Erik Trasciatti	WR	5'9"	150	10

Average Margin of Victory:

15 points (Either Team)

Games Decided by Less than 7 points:

18 out of 54... **33%**

Shutout Victories: WA 6 PA 3

Decade Dominance:

WA won 8 of 10 from 1990-99

PA won 7 of 10 from 1970-79

Stats provided by: Nick Perugini

WA SCHEDULE 2019

08/23	7:00 PM	vs Mid-Valley	W 56-13
08/31	1:30 PM	@ Scranton Prep	W 34-0
09/06	7:00 PM	@ Northwest	W 34-3
09/13	7:00 PM	@ Nanticoke	W 48-7
09/20	7:00 PM	vs Tunkhannock	W 49-10
09/27	7:00 PM	@ Lake Lehman	W 35-30
10/04	7:00 PM	@ Dunmore	W 35-14
10/11	7:00 PM	Southern Columbia	L 42-0
10/18	7:00 PM	vs Hanover Area	W 56-0
10/25	7:00 PM	vs Pittston Area	



Head Coach Randy Spencer

Versatile athletes on display in rivalry

Tom Robinson - Reprinted with permission from Sunday Dispatch
October 20

Pittston Area travels to Wyoming Area's Anthony "Jake" Sobeski Stadium Friday night at 7 to meet the Warriors in football for the 53rd straight year and the 55th time total. The two teams are led by versatile and explosive all-around players. Pittston Area's Andrew Krawczyk and Wyoming Area's Dominic DeLuca have each made an impact - and scored - while playing on offense, defense and special teams. Each team has also had many other players take their turns in the spotlight. Wyoming Area went into this weekend with a 7-1 record while Pittston Area was 3-5.

A closer look at how the teams compare:

OFFENSES

The offensive emphasis switched at Wyoming Area after an early-season injury.

The Warriors were likely to use many weapons anyway, but they started the season with the potential to lean on returning 1,000-yard rusher Corey Mruk in tough times.

Mruk was lost for the season to an injury in the third week.

The injury meant that DeLuca, already an effective runner from his quarterback position, would need to add that responsibility at times.

In addition, Darren Rodney has emerged as the most frequent ballcarrier and has led the team in touchdowns with 10.

DeLuca leads with 514 rushing yards and Rodney has 443. No one else has surpassed the 221 Mruk gained in less than three games.

Brian Williams gives the Warriors a deep threat and DeLuca a clear number-one receiver to which he can turn. Williams is tied for the lead in the entire Wyoming Valley Conference with six receiving touchdowns and is fourth in receiving yards with 382, averaging 18.2 on his 21 catches. He is the only player on the team with more than four catches.

DeLuca has completed half of his passes for 687 yards with nine touchdowns and two interceptions.

The offensive line is the unit that underwent the most changes from last year's

championship team. With the help of Nicholas Elko and Sammy Solomon, both fullbacks in the past, it has shown some improvement over the course of the season.

Pittston Area has been one of the WVC's most dangerous passing teams, but has faced significant struggles in getting the running game going.

The Patriots don't just dump the ball off with short passes. They can get it down the field to their wide receivers.



Nocito

Mike Nocito, who left the eighth game with an injury, is second in the WVC in completions (going 100-for-199) and passing yards (1,449). He has thrown nine touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Krawczyk leads the WVC in receiving yards with 666 and is among the players sharing the lead with six touchdown catches. He is second in receptions with 36.

Alex Anastasi, a former quarterback, has caught 26 passes from his tight end position.

Brennan Higgins has 17 catches and, like Krawczyk, averages more than 18 yards per reception. Franny George and Dylan Lukachko each have 10 catches out of the backfield while Devin Atkins has six.

The Patriots try to establish the running game with Lukachko, turning to him more than 16 times per game. His 3.0 average per carry is largely a sign of problems blocking for the ground game

that has produced just 75.5 yards per game overall.



Higgins

DEFENSES

Solomon, a 6-foot-4, 298 pounder, has been a force up front, leading the Warriors in tackles, tackles for losses and sacks.

End Derek Ambrosino is not far behind him with 5 1/2 sacks and 11 tackles for losses.

Linebackers F.J. Braccini and Charlie Banashefski and safety DeLuca are right with Solomon in a close race for the team tackles lead. DeLuca



DeLuca



Rodney



Krawczyk

also has two interceptions, one that he brought back for a score and another that he returned 48 yards to set up a touchdown.

Krawczyk has four of the five Pittston Area interceptions, including one that he returned for a touchdown and another he brought back 66 yards.

The Patriots have had trouble making the plays necessary to get off the field on defense, but have played better on that side of the ball in the past two weeks.

They had allowed 300 or more yards in five straight games, beginning with a stretch in which they allowed 137 points and 1,326 yards to Berwick, Tunkhannock and Dallas.

Pittston Area has just three sacks on its opponents' 156 passing attempts.

The secondary has been relied on heavily. Higgins has responded, often leading the team in tackles.

Linebackers Bryan Herron and George as well as Krawczyk are also among the team leaders in tackles.



Ambrosino

PLAYOFF ASPIRATIONS

Wyoming Area leads the District 2 Class 3A playoff race. Barring an upset, the Warriors will have a quarterfinal bye, then be at home for the semifinals and finals.

Pittston Area is highly likely to be part of the eight-team Class 4A playoffs. Without an upset, however, the Patriots will probably start out playing at one of District 2's three teams ranked among the top 10 in the state – Dallas, Berwick or Valley View. Those three teams are a combined 22-2 with their only losses coming against each other.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Since the above article was published, Pittston Area has clinched its district playoff berth. ... All statistics in the story are through eight of nine games. Wyoming Area, which came from 10 down to beat Lake-Lehman 35-30 last Friday.

"We gave it all we had every play," Rodney said. There was still more to be done.

DeLuca's 46-yard run up the middle with 5:36 left provided an insurance touchdown. His interception and 48-yard return a little more than a minute later essentially finished off the Bucks.

"Our coaching staff is constantly evaluating situations," Wyoming Area head coach Randy Spencer said. "In big games and situations, we have to use all of our resources."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Both teams have reliable kickers and dangerous return men.

They each have made more than 90 percent of their extra-point kicks.

Using a variety of returners, led by DeLuca and Williams, Wyoming Area averages 26.4 yards on kickoffs and 14.2 on punts.

DeLuca also averages 36.4 yards per punt while placing half of his kicks inside the opponent's 20.

Krawczyk blocked a fourth-quarter extra point for a one-point win over West Scranton and scored on the return when George blocked a field goal in the opener.



WA Cheerleaders



WA Student Section



PA Senior Cheerleaders



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1980 TEAM Reunion COMING - FALL 2020



Lou "Bikes" Ciampi, Dan Gercak and Todd Piatnik from the 1980 Eastern Conference Championship team. Plans are being made for a team reunion next fall.