

JEFFREY MANNING

CLASS OF 1977



During his four years at Mynderse, Jeff “Archie” Manning earned seven varsity letters. Brought up to varsity as a sophomore in both football and lacrosse, Manning started 26 consecutive games at center in football and 49 consecutive games at defense in lacrosse, before heading to Yale University, where he played four years of football during an era when Yale won four Ivy Football Titles over five years.¹ Manning also played two years of college lacrosse.

With the arrival of Coach Jack Daniels in 1974, Mynderse football became relevant again, following a few lean years since the legendary days

of the great George Davis. By his junior year Manning was a two-way football “60 minute man” and the defensive signal caller. When Daniels left for Colgate in 1976, new Head Coach David Geitner named Jeff a co-captain for the 1976 season.

Manning’s honors included High School All American, All-State, D&C All-Greater Rochester Football All Star, and a two-way FL East League All Star. Varsity football racked up a record of 20-5-1 (77%).

Under HOF Coach Al Henry, the Mynderse lacrosse “family” won three consecutive 5&20 league championships from 1975 to 1977, and Manning earned MVP Defense, All League, and All Conference honors. Varsity lacrosse compiled a record of 35-14 (71%).

Under HOF Coach John Nicholson, Manning most often played the “sixth man” role as the 1975-76 varsity basketball team won its second consecutive Section V -- AA Title with a record of 16-2 (89%).

Jeff Manning was remarkably active at Mynderse. Student Council President, he remained in the band and chorus and likewise had a male lead in the spring musical all four years. Following his sophomore Block M election, he was elected to the National Honor Society as a junior. Manning attended Boys’ State, and won several citizenship awards including Elmira Key, Police Benevolent Association, and

¹ For perspective, since 1956 Cornell has won a total of three Ivy Football Titles, and since 1981 Yale added only three Ivy Football Titles.

Junior Kiwanian. He graduated 12th out of a class of 212, and on his last day at Mynderse, Principal Peter DeBottis congratulated him for winning the Gould Award.

Starting all six games for the Yale Bullpups freshman year, Manning earned “Toad of the Week” honors in three out of six games for his offensive line play (Toad = Offensive Linemen). While seeing varsity action during his sophomore and junior seasons at center and tackle, Manning cracked the lineup regularly as a senior long snapper, and in his most memorable game took the majority of snaps during a tough loss to Boston College at night under the lights in the pouring rain at Chestnut Hill. It was Manning’s privilege to play for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Carm Cozza. Manning’s teams won Ivy Titles in 1979 and 1980, and five of Manning’s teammates were drafted by the NFL, with an additional seven players signing as free agents. These Bulldogs also featured six National Academic All-Americans plus two Rhodes Scholars. These Yale teams compiled a record of 21-5-2 (75%).

Like in his days at Mynderse, Manning pursued activities beyond athletics in New Haven. He sang three years with the Yale Spizzwinks(?), taking the musical lead in “It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane, It’s Superman,” and writing a major in “Economics & Political Science.” His undergraduate work held up well enough to earn a full scholarship for an MBA from Columbia University.

Jeff Manning has over 30 years of professional experience in corporate recovery, working with businesses operating at, near, or in bankruptcy. The 2013 annual Turnaround Atlas Awards recognized Manning as one of the top 100 restructuring and turnaround professionals in the world, and he currently serves as a managing director for Cohn Reznick’s investment bank.

With wife Laura, a former women’s rugby player at Villanova, they have five children. Oldest daughter Chelsea graduated as the volleyball co-captain at Connecticut College, where she earned All-Academic Team recognition from the NESCAC. Son Christian serves in the USMC (reserves) and is the long snapper at Stevenson University. Daughter Elsa is a four-year volleyball starter at Denison University and helped the National University of Ireland Maynooth volleyball win the 2014 Irish National title during her junior year abroad. Son Cooper rows crew for Loyola University Maryland where he also plays rugby, and youngest son Jed is a football, water polo, ice hockey, and lacrosse stand-out at Calvert Hall. The Mannings make their home in Maryland.