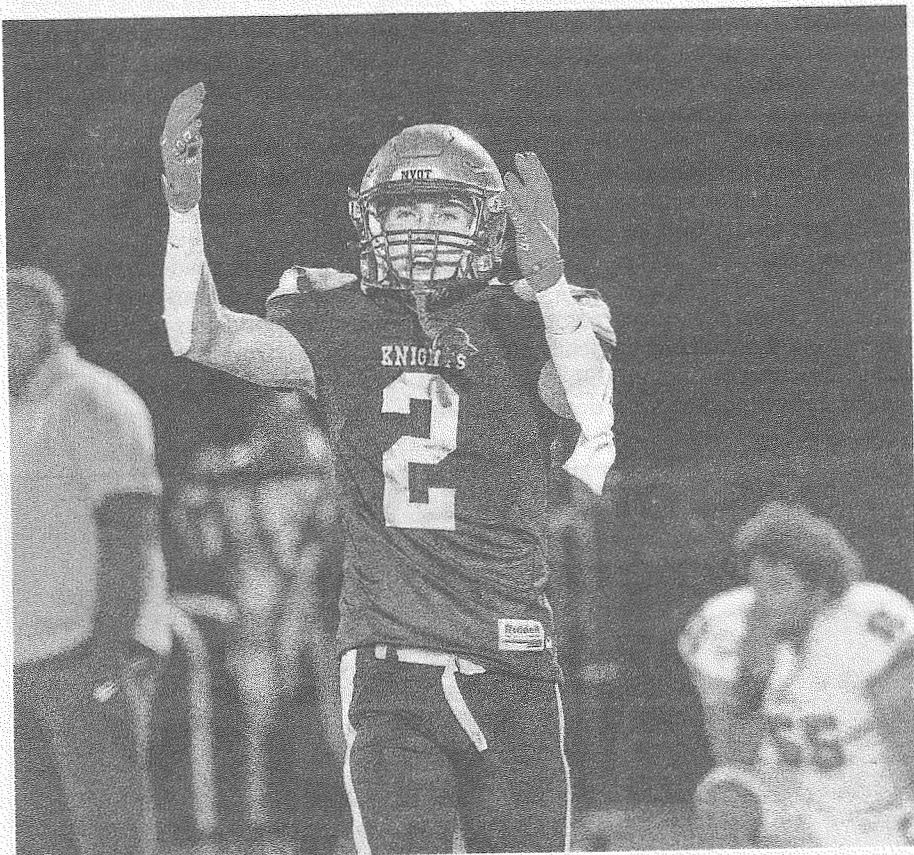


SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Making themselves indispensable



Northern Valley Old Tappan hosts Eastside in a football game on Friday October 7. NVOT #2 Timothy Clune is shown. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO / NORTHJERSEY.COM

Fields, Powell among players who rarely come off field

Greg Mattura

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Jack Dugan pushes the pile across the goal line for a touchdown, kicks the extra point, then boots the ensuing kickoff into the end zone for a touchback.

"I enjoy being involved all the time,"

Westwood's senior standout said Tuesday afternoon. "It's helpful to the team that we don't have to find a bunch of guys to do all these things. I can do each of those things."

Dugan is among North Jersey's most versatile football players as a running back, linebacker, kicker and

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punter. He has totaled 100 points for a 6-0 team ranked No. 19 in the USA TODAY NETWORK New Jersey Top 25.

Dugan is among a dozen North Jersey seniors nominated by coaches and selected by NorthJersey.com for the inaugural "Mr. Versatility" team. From offense to defense to special teams, these 12th graders rarely come off the field.

Deshawn Caviness, Bogota

Caviness has played every offensive line position for one of North Jersey's smallest schools. The 6-foot-2, 225-pounder also plays nose guard, tackle, end and inside linebacker, averaging 6.5 tackles per game, as well as every snap on special teams.

"Deshawn has the ability to not only play, but to dominate any position we put him in," Bucs coach Brian Appleton said. "On defense, he has the ability to shut down an entire half of the field. Offensively, we can put him at any spot on the line and run right behind him. His versatility has kept us in every game."

Timmy Clune, Old Tappan

Clune is a receiver, defensive back, holder, and plays on all special teams. The 5-11, 160-pounder has 12 catches, including three touchdowns, as well as 24 tackles and four pass breakups.

"He has worked his way up the ranks to become a starter as a senior after playing just about every skill position in his previous three years," said coach Brian Dunn said, whose Golden Knights are No. 16 in the state Top 25. "He is the perfect example of a player who puts the time in on the field and in the weight room during his career to get his opportunities."

Nicky Coffaro, Ramapo

Coffaro is a receiver, rotates at cornerback, and returns punts and kicks. He has 21 catches for 286 yards and two TD for the high-scoring Green Raiders. The 5-10, 170-pounder has 101 yards on kick returns and 91 yards on punt returns.

"He is our go-to guy when we need someone to come through with a big third-down or fourth-down conversion," Green Raiders coach Michael DeFazio. "And he's a dynamic kickoff and punt returner."



Passaic Tech hosts Ridgewood in a football game in Wayne, on Friday, Sept. 23. PT #2 Eric Jackson catches the ball. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Jack Dugan, Westwood

Dugan has rushed for 569 yards and eight TD and caught seven passes for 127 yards and three scores. The 5-11, 195-pounder has 28 tackles and a fumble recovery. He has one field goal and 31 extra points. He has 21 touchbacks.

"He's a team leader, everybody follows his lead, and he's one of the hardest workers on our team," said Cardinals coach Dennis Hard, who says one of Dugan's nicknames is "The Money Maker."

Lloyd Fields, Dwight Morrow

Fields plays tackle and blocks well as a fullback. The 5-9, 200-pounder plays defensive end and linebacker, and works on all special teams, including as a long snapper. He has 21 tackles, featuring three sacks.

"Lloyd is that blue-collar guy that just shows up and goes to work every day for this team and it rubs off on guys," Maroons coach Joe Hoyle said.

Zach Herninko, Rutherford

Herninko is a slot receiver, fullback, outside linebacker, long snapper and plays on other special teams units. After leading last year's team in tackles, the 5-10, 170-pounder leads again with 64, and he's returned an interception for a score.

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Football

the job done for us.”

Eric Jackson, Passaic Tech

Jackson is a three-year starter at safety, two-year punt returner, and starts every skill position on offense, as well as every spot at linebacker and in the secondary. Through six games, the 5-10, 175-pounder has 35 tackles,

105 all-purpose yards and completed his one pass attempt for a TD.

“He is the heart and soul of our team,” Bulldogs coach Matt Demarest said. “He has consistently given up personal glory for the success of the team. He practices hard and pushes the others to work hard. Eric will play every special team. He does not want to come off the field.”

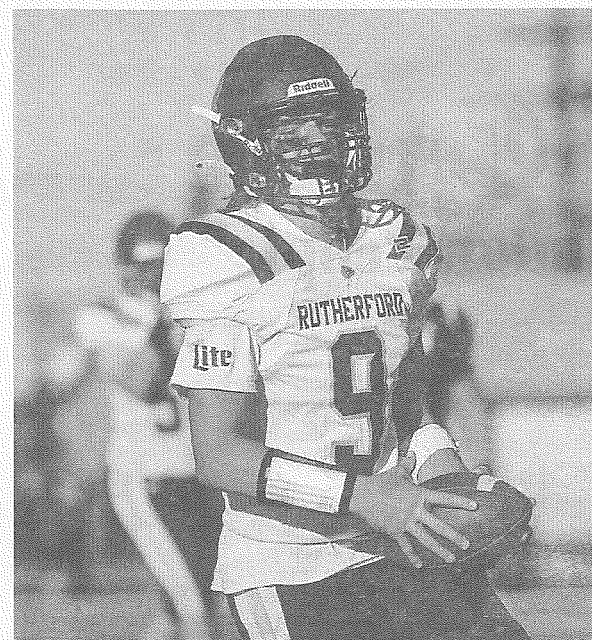
Dillon Kelly, Ramsey

Kelly plays slot receiver and can run from that position. He plays free safety and returns punts and kicks. The 5-11, 175-pounder has caught 28 passes for 557 yards and seven TD and has run for 164 yards and two scores. He has three pass breakups and an interception. He averages 21.0 yards on kickoff returns.

“Dillon makes our team go. He can do it all. He runs from the slot, catches the ball as a receiver and blocks extremely well,” Rams coach Adam Baeira said. “On defense he plays downhill and covers at his safety position. He’s having a great year.”

Ruben Mancilla, Fort Lee

Mancilla plays offen-



After catching a short pass, Rutherford FB Zach Herninko scores a touchdown to give Rutherford football a 17-0 lead against Becton just before halftime. ASHOK GINDE/SPECIAL TO NORTHJERSEY.COM

sive line and inside linebacker, is the long snapper for punts and kicks and also kicks off. The 5-10, 210-pounder is among the Bridgemen’s leader in tackles with 36 and he’s recovered three fumbles.

“Ruben is our most versatile asset on the offensive line if we need to change someone’s position,” Bridgemen coach Charles Salame said. “He’s a great leader and captain that holds the whole team accountable and is a great lead-by-example guy.”

Giancarlo Martinez, Ridgefield Park

Martinez is a receiver and running back, safety and linebacker, is the holder for field goals, and protects on punts. The 5-7, 150-pounder has 250 total yards rushing and receiving and two TD. He has 48 tackles and a pass breakup.

“He meets with the coaches often after practice to give us input into the game plans,” Sacarelts coach Chris Rapp said. “And he keeps us informed on how the guys

on the team are doing and gives us a culture check.”

Sam Powell, Tenafly

Powell is a receiver who filled in at running back and is the backup quarterback. The 5-10, 155-pounder is a cornerback, backup safety, kicker, punter and punt returner. He has caught 13 passes for 258 yards and three TD and rushed for a score.

“He is undersized, but he always plays tough and allows a small program like ours to be competitive versus much larger players and programs,” Tigers coach Peter Toale said.

Leo Ramirez, Wood-Ridge

Ramirez has started at cornerback, both safety spots, and outside linebacker. He has 18 tackles and three interceptions. The 6-foot, 170-pounder plays receiver, and has 13 catches for 195 yards and three scores. On special teams, his duties include returning punts and gunner on kickoffs.

“He brings a selfless attitude on and off the field, an important characteristic that all great leaders possess,” Blue Devils coach Joe Cutrona said. “His competitiveness and will to win is second to none.”