



Taryn Donnarummo <taryn1031@gmail.com>

Fwd: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone

1 message

peterbonadies@gmail.com <peterbonadies@gmail.com>
To: taryn1031@gmail.com

Tue, Nov 5, 2024 at 2:58 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>
Date: November 5, 2024 at 1:31:36 PM EST
To: publicinput@hamden.org
Cc: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone
Date: November 5, 2024 at 1:27:19 PM EST
To: Taryn Donnarummo <tdonnarummo@hamden.org>
Cc: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone
Date: November 5, 2024 at 1:21:41 PM EST
To: gary Highsmith <ghighsmith@hamden.org>, Taryn Donnarummo <tdonnarummo@hamden.org>
Cc: Peter Bonadies <peterbonadies@gmail.com>

Hi All,

My name is Peter Bonadies. I am a lifelong resident of Hamden and a graduate of the Hamden Public Schools. My wife and I have three children who are in HPS. I am also the President of the Hamden Education Foundation and the Hamden Alumni Association. Please accept this letter and the attached letters of support as an HEF petition in support for the naming the Football Stadium after Coach Ron Carbone. As you will find from the letters, Coach Carbone was much more than a Football coach, and his teachings soon generations of Hamden graduates. We believe that honoring Coach is another step towards strengthening our community ties with one another and to support the HPS. We hope to honor him while he is able and ideally announce the dedication at the Green Bowl 2024. HEF is willing to purchase signage to match the Luzzi signage for the naming. We will also work with the community members and

Gmail - Fwd: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone
supporters of this project to develop a fundraiser and to establish a scholarship
named after Coach Carbone.
Please reach out to me if there are any questions, or if I can present at any
meetings.
My contact is 203-804-6002.
Best,
Peter

Begin forwarded message:

From: peterbonadies@gmail.com
Subject: Letters of Support for the Naming of the Football
Stadium for Coach Ron Carbone
Date: November 3, 2024 at 8:33:34 PM EST
To: Kaplan Melissa <makaplan6@yahoo.com>

Hi Melissa,
Attached are a number of letters, including a cover letter and support letters for the naming of the football stadium honoring coach Ron Carbone. As you will see highlighted in the letters, he was and is way more than a coach. He is in his 80s and his health is not the greatest. Folks would love to honor him while he is still able to participate.
He would like to help orchestrate this effort and to build it as a scholarship fundraiser for an annual scholarship offered by the HEF funds collected for this naming/fundraising effort.
We can work directly with the guidance counselors for the recommended requirements for a scholarship.
Ideally, we would love to announce this effort at the Green Bowl coming up at Thanksgiving and perhaps even have Coach Carbone on the field field to wave to the crowd as we work on the details and signage.. over the winter. I know this Very tight timeline, but do you think it is something that could work to bring to the board?
Many of the members that were part of his teams, and who have written letters would be available in person to support this effort at the appropriate board meeting.
I have spoken with John Cross regarding this effort as well as the cupola.
Please let me know if I am missing any details or other required information to move this exciting forward.
My cell is 2038046002
Please reach out to me at any time.
My best,
Peter

IN SUPPORT OF COACH RON CARBONE:

Peter,

Thanks so much for your efforts to name the stadium after Coach Carbone. Let me know if there is anything else that I can do.

My playing and professional careers directly reflect the impact that Coach Carbone had on

me as a young adult. "Without him in my life, there is no me"

-High School Football Hamden HS from 1979-1981 for Ron Carbone Captain senior year

-Full athletic scholarship to Rutgers University

-Professional athlete Washington Redskins 1986-1987

Super Bowl XXII Champions

-Assistant Football coach Hamden HS for Ron Carbone 1988-1992

-Head Football Coach North Branford HS 1993-1996, North Haven HS 1997-Present

-Teacher 1990-Present

My entire professional career as a teacher and a coach has been devoted to paying tribute to

the man who guided and nurtured me during my teenage years and into early adulthood. He

taught me that you have to prepare your kids well enough to give them a 50% chance of success, and the team has to carry the responsibility of the other 50%.

It is a partnership in success. You achieve this by having a tireless work ethic, an

indomitable will, and high moral standards. Coach Carbone

possessed all of these traits

and demonstrated them to us throughout his distinguished career.

As stated above, if I never play for this man, my life will take on a different trajectory.

Naming the stadium after

our coach would be a fitting tribute to him and his life's work at HHS but it would also

honor all of my former brothers who donned the Green and Gold during his time at the

school. He is a CHSCA Hall of Fame Coach. He is more than worthy of this honor.

Yours truly,
Anthony J. Sagnella
Hamden High School Football Team
Class of 1982

In Support of Ron Carbone
To Whom It May Concern:
I, Douglas Harkins, played under Coach Carbone from 1984-1988
as a Hamden High School
football player and senior captain, and I write this letter with my
whole-hearted support to
rename the Hamden High School Football Stadium as "The
Ronald C. Carbone Athletic
Stadium". For the past 45 years, I have immersed myself in
football whether it be playing,
coaching, or supporting the game, and in all that time, there is no
more deserving figure for
such an honor than Coach Carbone.
As a father of two sons in their senior year as Xavier football
players, I have recounted to
them countless lessons from Coach Carbone that still hold
relevance in my life and have
shaped me as a man. He expected the best from us not only as
players but as men. He used
to speak of the intrinsic values football taught his players about
how to live their lives as
strong men who could persevere through life's adversities. He
would say, "If you throw an
interception, are you going to just turn around and quit or will you
summon the strength to
fight and win?" It was more than just a game. It was a dress
rehearsal for life's challenges,
and he made sure that we were prepared to stand strong as men
of character.
When I think of all the influences that I encountered after high
school during college
football or my years of service in law enforcement, it is his voice
and his lessons that I call
upon when I need direction. He left a lasting impression, and no
matter when I see him, I
seek to make him proud. I was lucky to have a football coach that
taught me the value of
leadership as I carried that example into every facet of my life.
It is with great support and enthusiasm that I support the
renaming of the stadium and am
willing to help this initiative in any way possible. If you should
need anything further, please
do not hesitate to contact me at (860)-914-5908.
Best regards,
Captain Douglas Harkins '89
Madison Police Department
Monday, October 14, 2024

Sent from my iPhone

10 attachments

-  **Summary LOS for Ron Carbone Naming Rights.pdf**
52K
-  **Coach Carbone LOS RDiana.pdf**
34K
-  **Coach Carbone LOS- Alex V..pdf**
71K
-  **cid:ADC44E70-0DEC-4F0B-878B-DBFC9AA311A5.pdf**
89K
-  **Coach Carbone LOS Hernandez.pdf**
32K
-  **cid:BC4FF4B1-AAD0-40DB-90D9-BFFEA3A9E5EF.pdf**
41K
-  **Ronald C Carbone LOS - Sweeney.pdf**
47K
-  **cid:6D35719E-E897-4285-B7F0-C06C3B00FD4C.pdf**
45K
-  **cid:F7EE9EAA-45BB-489C-9D5F-EAD990494054.pdf**
47K
-  **cid:1C4B21B6-B524-4972-927C-7B4056DD61E3.pdf**
141K

In Support of Ron Carbone

To the Hamden Board of Education,

I had the great fortune of entering Hamden High School in 1975 at the same time Ron Carbone became the head football coach of Hamden High School and a full-time teacher. The next three years would be the most formative years of my life, and Coach Carbone would become the most influential person of my life. He taught me the importance of dedication to tasks and loyalty to people which I maintain have been the keys to nearly all of the successes in my life.

Carved into my life's Mount Rushmore of football coaches are high school hall of fame football coach Ron Carbone, college hall of fame football coach Carm Cozza and NFL hall of fame football coach Don Shula. Having played for all three, I can attest that Ron Carbone walks alongside those greats in coaching proficiency and his influence on my life is unparalleled. He taught me to win with humility and accept defeat only as a

last resort. Everyday in my life as a surgeon has been based on those tenets.

Coach Carbone embodies all the qualities we in the town of Hamden should seek in our coaches and teachers. Naming the athletic complex and stadium after Coach Carbone would be a tribute to Ron Carbone and an honor to our town.

Sincerely,
Rich Diana, MD
HHS Class of 1978

Dedication of the Hamden High School Stadium in honor of Coach Carbone:

Honoring the man who guided all of us through the roughest transitional years of our lives is but a small step to give back the love that he gave us.

I played at HHS from the fall of '88 to Thanksgiving '91

Support for naming the stadium:

Coach ran the football program as an extension of family. He was most often the most intelligent person in whatever room he was in. Although Coach occasionally “flexed” his extensive vocabulary, his genius was in reaching everyone in a way that made people from all the neighborhoods of Hamden feel the tie of family and that we could run through a brick wall to bring pride to our teams. Coach did this with exceptionally clear directives and made the bond of sweat the sole unifier in my era. Nobody worked harder or gave more to the people of Hamden than Coach Carbone. Naming the stadium after him is a magnificent idea.

Fond memory/lesson learned: Narrowing this is a challenge. In a way, walking the track with him during PhysEd where he would make the complicated seem simple. He could make any opponent seem beatable and always did so by adhering to fundamentals and effort.

To really nail the strongest lesson learned, I think of the collective passion with which he taught us and inspired us to play. Coach Carbone could use the tone of his voice to direct an entire room of men to believe in the task at hand. He did this without foul language. Coach taught us that each of us had greatness in us and that we had to dive into every drill with the same intensity in order to tap into the individual and team greatness. My favorite phrase that embodied the collective goal was: you have to play with an indomitable spirit and esprit de corps. Although the fall of '91 team ended with a 4-4-1(yes, we were the 14-14 tie with ND), our team definitely took the field with that spirit. Under Coach's guidance, we were extremely hard to score upon and seemed to always have a defender in good posture to stop the plays the opposition did best. I have translated this lesson in preparation and effort leading to success to every facet of my life.

A message to Coach:

Thirty-two years after leaving HHS, the voice in my head driving me to dot my last i, or cross my last t, comes from your inspirational coaching that drives me to try to be my best at everything that I do. Your lessons have made my family a stronger family, and they've never met you. Having coached at North Haven High School with Anthony Sagnella for the past twenty-eight years, I can say that you have coached our student body, in a way. Every time our players study film and work on getting their hips in good posture, they are playing in the type of program you taught us in. I wish they all could hear your voice change octaves, indicating something was of paramount importance! I've applied the character you developed in me during tough medical times, relationship hardships and some down football years. I was beyond lucky to have met you at fourteen and to have every lesson my parents had taught me get reinforced through playing for you at Hamden. My parents thank you for your role in my life as well. In every tough situation, I apply a couple of simple rules you taught me: keep the answer simple, repeat the task to perfection, and do it with all my heart.

Coach- thank you for guiding me to realize the correct path in life and in football. I cherish every conversation we've ever had and will love and pray for you as long as I live.

Most sincerely,
Alexander P. Velardi '92

Joe DeDomenico, CFP
110 Washington Avenue
North Haven, CT 06473

Cell#: 203-915-0391

Hamden High Class of '81 

Hamden Hall line Coach '08-'09

During my time at Hamden high, my
My classmates and I were fortunate to grow up at a time when Families were strong.
Playing for Ron Carbone created a second family for us.
In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that with the exception of my father, no one influenced
my life, or is more responsible for any success, than Coach Carbone.

Coach taught us
the values of teamwork, discipline and accountability through the game of football... which
prepared us for the game of life.
I can remember him saying that "the Gridiron was one of the last bastions where young men
could test their mettle".

Each day before triple session practices in the heat of August, there would be
A quote above the locker room door... This quote was not just about football... but about
life.

Although the list of life lessons are too extensive for letter format... (It would require a book
instead)... Here are a few that remain top of Mind over four decades later:

"Gentlemen...

"The Cross is Antecedent to the Crown"

"If you have time to kill... work it to death"

"There are only two ways you can lose a ballgame... you can run outta time... or you can run
outta guts".

To say that we were fortunate to have Coach Carbone as a mentor would be a vast
understatement... The truth is he was a second Father.

For the above reasons, I believe naming Hamden High Stadium after him would be a fitting
and appropriate tribute to this great man we love.

Joe DeDomenico

October 15, 2024

Dear Hamden Board of Education:

It is an honor and a privilege to write a letter of support to name the Hamden High School Football field after legendary and CT Hall of Fame football Coach Ronald Carbone, The Ronald C. Carbone Athletic Stadium. Mr. Carbone, or “Coach”, as former student-athletes adoringly and respectfully call him, is an exceptional leader and a once-in-a-lifetime figure in the lives of countless Hamden High Football players. A mention of his name activates a vivid memory of *Coach*’s animated voice cracking as he encourages players to give an unrelenting effort every play. That enduring memory often played in my head as I became a man. His modeling of character in the face of challenges was awe-inspiring. His uniqueness lied in how he took the X’s of O’s of football and turned them into invaluable life lessons.

Reflecting to my youth I realize the honor it was to play for *Coach* in my junior and senior year. Serving as one of four Captains in my senior year in the fall of 1979, I fondly recall him spending his break-time during triple sessions to teach me techniques, as I had never played organized football. He was a master teacher that tapped into youngsters’ passion to be and do their best! Forty years after the dogdays of triple sessions, my father lie dying, and Senor Carbone, as my parents, with their heavy accent adoringly called him, visited my grief-stricken mother and tenderly said good-bye to my father. My heart swelled with gratitude as tears of sadness and joy uncontrollably erupted from deep within my being. I was profoundly struck by his compassion and was left asking, how many people has *Coach* touched throughout his storied career? His kindness and goodness were on full display once again, and like so many other times, his actions were remarkably genuine and loving.

Coach has taught me, and others, invaluable lessons about life, leadership, and what it means to be good person. The lessons becoming germinating seeds growing inside of countless adults. His persona guiding my adulthood and professional careers. I simply strove to emulate Coach Carbone; a man who modeled selflessness and humility.

Coach Carbone is worthy of having the football field named in his honor, but the decision lies with you, the Board. The overwhelming support *Coach* has earned in the community is stunning, but not surprising! His tenure at the helm of Hamden High School football impacted generations of young student-athletes and their families. Naming the field in his honor is long overdue!

Very Truly Yours,

Hamlet M. Hernandez
Hamden High Class of 1980

Ron Carbone Stadium

To the Hamden Board of Education,

I am writing this letter with immense pride and deep respect to express my wholehearted support for naming the Hamden High football stadium in honor of Coach Ron Carbone. I believe the stadium should be named the Ronald Carbone Stadium to recognize a man whose influence has been both generational and transformative, touching the lives of countless athletes and students at Hamden High School.

Coach Carbone was more than just a football coach. He was a leader who had a positive impact on young men both on and off the field. He treated each athlete as if they were the most important person in the world, offering his undivided attention and helping them navigate not only their challenges on the football field but also their personal struggles. His concern for his players extended far beyond sports - he genuinely cared about their lives, their futures, and their success in all areas.

My personal perspective is that of a man who changed the trajectory of my life. Coming from a family where attending college was not the norm, college wasn't something on my radar. However, Coach Carbone saw potential in me and guided me down a path that led me to Trinity College. His guidance and belief in me forever altered my future, and I know I am just one of many whose lives he has touched in such a meaningful way.

Coach Carbone instilled in all of us the value of hard work, preparation, and dedication. His insistence on being prepared for every game and every practice taught us life skills that carried over into the classroom and beyond. His influence has helped shape the success of so many young men who were privileged to play under his leadership.

When we name a stadium or any other public space after an individual, it is not just to honor their memory but also to uphold their values and contributions as examples for future generations. Naming the stadium after Coach Carbone would celebrate the qualities we want to see reflected throughout our school and community: mentorship, dedication, and the positive influence of a great leader.

With great humility and respect, I urge the Hamden Board of Education to move forward with naming the Hamden High stadium in honor of Coach Ron Carbone—a coach, a teacher, a family man, and, above all, a mentor who has touched the lives of so many in a profoundly positive way. This is the kind of individual we should honor, recognize, and aspire to emulate in our community.

Thank you, and Godspeed.

Sincerely,
Dominic Rapini
Hamden High Class of 1979

October 20, 2024

To; Dominic Rapini

From; Robert Sweeney
15 Lancelot Way
Hamden, Ct 06518

Re: Re-naming of Hamden High Stadium

My name is Bob Sweeney. I played football under Coach Ron Carbone from 1980 to 1982. I am writing this letter in support of the re-naming of Hamden High Stadium in honor of Coach Carbone.

I played for Coach Carbone during a pivotal time in my life. I was the son of an alcoholic father, and my strong mother had divorced him to protect my three siblings and me from the effects of this disease. At 16, I didn't fully grasp the impact of alcoholism, but I was deeply affected by the situation. Sports have always been a significant part of my life. I was a big kid and naturally gravitated toward football. Before high school, I would attend Hamden High games and dream of one day becoming a Green Dragon. It was a thrilling moment for me when I finally made the team.

Looking back, it might have been one of the most important days of my life. This was the day that I began being mentored by Coach Carbone. Coach Carbone quickly instilled so many values within me. To this day, the most important thing is that with commitment and discipline, anything can be accomplished. We would work so hard, both physically and mentally, to do our best individually and, more importantly, as a team. But more notably, he taught me that this was not only true on the gridiron but in real life as well. He taught me about integrity. He taught me how to win. He taught me how to lose. He taught me how to find the reasons why the outcome did not turn out the way I wanted and how to be disciplined and persevere to change that outcome.

After graduating high school, I decided to forgo college and start my own business in the construction/excavation industry. I married my high school sweetheart, and we started a family. The business I started is now a \$20 million business that employees over 80 people. My high school sweetheart and I remain happily married after raising our three wonderful children, and we are now thoroughly enjoying the blessings of four beautiful grandchildren. We are truly blessed!

Over the years, I have been questioned many times and what I attribute the success of my business to. My response will always include that when I was a 16-year-old kid floating rudderless in the ocean, I was blessed to find an amazing mentor in my high school football coach Ron Carbone. I could've gone in so many directions at that young age, but I was blessed by becoming a Green Dragon football player and being mentored by Ron Carbone. Coach Carbone was instrumental in helping that boy become a man. Helping this man become a good husband. Helping this man become a good father and grandfather. I have called on his teachings throughout my life both personally and professionally. I know my story is not unique. I am still very close with many of my high school teammates, and we still share similar stories about the extraordinary impact that Coach Carbone has had on all our lives. I know for a fact that my life would not have turned out as blessed if not for my three years of being taught and mentored by Coach Carbone.

Coach Ron Carbone has always been a humble man. It is not unusual for conversations with my previous teammates to question why such an amazing man, who has profoundly affected so many lives in such a positive way, has not been showered with awards and proclamations for all that he has accomplished. His accomplishments as a football coach are legendary. The statistics support these facts. From his days coaching at Derby through his time at Hamden Hall. But what you will not find in any research in Coach Carbone's Statistics are the lives that he has so remarkably impacted. How many young boys he has shaped and helped become great men. Coach Carbone's wins and losses alone should support this effort. Ironically, when I think about coach Ronald C. Carbone, wins and losses do not cross my mind. What I think about is the man. The man who so quietly, humbly, and selflessly, provided so much to so many. It has been 42 years since I have played for coach. I still try and live and teach his lessons every day. He is still

the man that I strive to emulate in everything that I do. I hope this is some of the legacy that will be discussed for so many years to come. In a day and age where Heroes are so few and far between, please do not squander this opportunity to recognize this amazing man. Please bestow him the honor of renaming Hamden High Stadium to the as “The Ronald C. Carbone Athletic Stadium.”. Thank you

Robert Sweeney
bob@sweeneyexcavation.com

Letter of Support for Renaming Hamden High Stadium to Ronald Carbone Stadium

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the renaming of Hamden High's football stadium to the Ronald Carbone Football Stadium in honor of Coach Ron Carbone. As a Hamden High School alumnus and someone who had the privilege of both playing for and coaching alongside Coach Carbone, I can personally attest to his tremendous impact on the lives of countless young people, including my own.

As a child, I faced many obstacles. I was the youngest of nine children, and my father passed away when I was just one year old. Additionally, I was born with an aortic valve obstruction that prevented me from playing sports until I reached middle school. It was in middle school football, after my restrictions were lifted that I had the fortune of meeting Coach Carbone for the first time. During our initial meeting with the middle school football team, Coach Carbone spoke about the importance of commitment—to the team, to each other, and to the pride of playing for Hamden High football.

From the very beginning, Coach Carbone emphasized the values of hard work, dedication, and discipline. He set high standards for all of us, but more importantly, he fostered a family-like atmosphere that gave me the guidance and structure I needed at a critical time in my life. Coach Carbone taught us all that everyone has a role to play in the team, and he instilled in us a “never quit” attitude that has stuck with me throughout my life.

Football under Coach Carbone's leadership didn't just prepare me for success on the field—it transformed me for life. His teachings about responsibility, perseverance, and teamwork have had a profound and lasting impact on me, shaping the person I have become.

I was also fortunate enough to work with Coach Carbone and his son Gary as a coach on the Hamden High football team. Coaching alongside him gave me an even deeper appreciation for his character, leadership, and dedication to the Hamden community.

Renaming the stadium in Coach Carbone's honor would not only be a fitting tribute to his legacy but also serve as an enduring reminder of the countless lives he touched through his service to Hamden High School and its football program. His commitment to building character, fostering teamwork, and providing guidance to young people deserves to be commemorated for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this well-deserved honor for Coach Carbone. It would be a privilege and a fitting tribute to his legacy.

Sincerely,

Steve Dwyer
Hamden High School, Class of 1980

“When you are the anvil bear, when you are the hammer, strike.”

I support the effort to name the Hamden High School sports stadium in honor of Coach Carbone. I graduated from Hamden High in 1980 and played varsity football under Coach Carbone for three years. I could write a book of stories about those seasons, filled as they were with blood, sweat, tears, laughs, travails and triumphs, starting each year with grueling triple session workouts and ending with the Green Bowl. I suspect that many of my contemporaries would also have hours of tales to tell, and many of the stories, if not all of them, would feature Coach Carbone.

Coach Carbone was a severe taskmaster. He pushed us and pushed us hard. Practices were long and there was always a lot of contact in those days. Coach Carbone's assistants were, as you know, loudly vocal about their criticisms of our efforts when we fell short and would occasionally punctuate their critiques with a physical reminder that anything less than 100% would not fly. Coach Carbone's approach was more psychological. A small shake of the head, or a curse under his breath, were more devastating than a forearm shiver to the head. It's more important to remember, though, that all the yelling and the contact and criticisms were not gratuitous; they were intended to make us as good as we could be – to drive us to a level where maybe we could not get on our own.

For Coach Carbone, football was more than a game. It was a crucible that tested you in ways that life would mimic. He would often implore us not to leave any regrets on the field. In other words, muster all your ability, play full out and “empty your tank,” as he liked to say. If we did that, even if we fell short, there would be no recriminations. I know that he believed that he was not teaching us a football lesson. He believed he was teaching us a life lesson that we could carry with us in all our endeavors, one that would prove most valuable when we were most challenged.

I hope that your efforts to have the stadium named after Coach Carbone are successful. It would be a fitting honor for a man who gave so much of himself to so many young men who played the game.

Joe Aceto
Class of 1980

**Michael Harkins
97 Pratt Road
Clinton, CT 06413
646-634-1730**

October 12, 2024

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in heartfelt support of naming the Hamden High School Stadium the “Ronald C. Carbone Athletic Stadium”. My name is Mike Harkins and I had the great honor of playing on the Hamden High School Football Team for Coach Carbone from 1977-1979. Coach Carbone has not only significantly helped me in my life, he was very instrumental in the lives of my three brothers who played for him in the 1980’s and 1990’s. The life lessons he taught on the football field have stayed with us throughout our lives. He taught us the importance of being a good teammate and working toward a common goal-a championship. He taught us perseverance in the face of obstacles, trusting your teammates and to never give up, no matter the odds. Under his guidance, our teams routinely won All-District Honors and more every year.

Coach Carbone always put his players well-being first. I recall my senior year in 1979, I suffered a broken hand injury in the second to last game of the season. I had a cast placed on my hand and was given the begrudging approval of the physician to play in the last game against Notre Dame. Coach Carbone recognized I could have suffered greater injury to my hand if I played which could jeopardize my future playing college football. He understood what was at stake, and although it was an important game against an arch rival, the well-being of a player was more important to him than winning a football game. He made the tough but correct decision to keep me out of the game.

Coach Carbone supported my brothers and I in many ways, but his help in promoting my brother Doug and I to the UConn Football Staff helped us both obtain football scholarships. We both went on to play at UConn for four years each, earning All-Conference and Captaincy honors.

As many are aware, Coach Carbone is a member of the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame and well respected throughout the state and beyond. He is a gentleman and a teacher who taught his players the game of football to help them win in the game of life. My family and I fully support naming the Hamden High School Stadium after Coach Carbone. It is a fitting honor to a man who has dedicated his life to so many people in Hamden. Future generations of Hamden High School football players who play on this field will come to know and understand the profound impact Coach Carbone had on so many players.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Harkins

Hamden High School Class of 1980

