

Nigel Morris

Football, Basketball, Track, 1999-2003

As a Nyack athlete, Nigel Morris could do it all. On the football field, Nigel was a part of almost every play on offense, defense, and special teams. He consistently delivered magical performances, even when injured. Morris was an essential part of several title winning football and basketball teams at Nyack High School. He earned a Division 1 football scholarship to play at the University of Toledo, where he started as a cornerback.

The year 2000 will always be remembered in Nyack High School sports history, as our football team won the State Championship. Nyack beat Fulton by a score of 34-20. With the team down six in the third quarter, Nigel had a great punt that pinned Fulton deep in their own territory. The defense then forced Fulton to punt, giving Nyack great field position and allowing them to retake the lead. Morris later had a 37 yard interception return for a touchdown that pushed Nyack's lead to 14 with 2:55 left and basically clinched the title. Nigel was only a sophomore, but he was honored as 3rd team All State, as a defensive back. He also kicked extra points and field goals.

In 2001, Nyack football lost in heartbreaking fashion to Horace Greeley in the section final. Nigel was named 1st team All-State as a defensive back. Nyack came back the following year, won the 2002 section championship, and went all the way to the state final. During his senior year, he returned four of his thirteen interceptions for touchdowns. Nigel Morris was again honored as 1st team All-State, this time as a running back. He was also recognized as New York State Player of the Year for Class A. Morris was a great running back, receiver and kick returner, but was at his best in the defensive back field. He recorded 31 career interceptions, a national record. During his three years on the football team, the squad went 32-2.

In basketball, Nigel continued to grow Nyack's athletic history. Morris started as a freshman on the 1990-2000 team that went all the way to the Section 1 Championship game, where they lost to Kennedy. Our 2000-2001 basketball team was one of our finest ever. Several players on the state championship football team were also on the basketball team. As the gridiron games went later and later into the winter, the hoops players were losing valuable practice time. When the football season was finally over, the tired and banged up players got psyched up for another epic season. Our basketball team, with Nigel playing point guard, went on to win the section, and make it all the way to the state semis. Nyack lost to perennial Long Island

powerhouse Amityville, who were led by Jason Fraser, one of the top players in the country. Over Nigel's four years playing Nyack basketball, he scored 1,065 points. He was All-Section each year, and All-State his senior year.

After Nigel's superb career at Nyack High School, he continued his education and played football at the University of Toledo. In 2004, Nigel recorded three interceptions and returned one 88 yards for a touchdown. He also had one fumble recovery, which he ran back 26 yards for a score. Nigel led the Rockets with 10 pass break-ups. He was named to the Freshman All-American team by the Sporting News. The next year, he had 33 tackles, one interception, and one fumble recovery, which he ran back 37 yards for a touchdown. In 2006, Morris had 45 tackles and two interceptions. Nigel's versatility and knack for coming up with big plays, cements his legacy as one of the greatest athletes to put on a Nyack uniform.