

# **Jermaine Harris**

## **Football, Basketball**

### **1988-1992**

Jermaine Harris was one of the most iconic players in Nyack's illustrious football history. He was a truly dominant fullback, becoming Nyack's all-time leader in rushing yards and touchdowns over his career. Jermaine led the team to victories in three consecutive Section 1-B bowl games and also led them to an undefeated season as a sophomore. He was also a key player on the basketball team his senior year after not playing his junior year, helping to carry the team to the section quarterfinals and to a 15-5 record.

Jermaine was very successful as a freshman, scoring 17 touchdowns on the junior varsity team before being called up to varsity for the last game. Harris exploded onto the local football scene as a sophomore, rushing for 830 yards on an average of 6.6 yards per carry and also playing well as a linebacker. He scored eight touchdowns and earned All-State and First-Team All-County honors. Jermaine ran for 199 yards in a victory over Tappan Zee that brought Nyack to 9-0 on the season and set them up for a bowl game clash with unbeaten Ossining. Nyack beat Ossining by one thanks to a late field goal, with Harris scoring a touchdown along the way to help the team make amends for their bowl loss the previous season. The team finished 10-0 and was ranked fourth in the state.

As a junior, Jermaine rushed for an incredible 1,436 yards and 16 touchdowns in leading Nyack to an 8-2 record. He opened the season with a mind-boggling 243-yard, four-touchdown performance in a win over Clarkstown North, even adding a two-point conversion. Harris broke David Gilbert's single-season rushing yard school record in a 49-0 win over Pearl River as he rushed for 165 yards. Jermaine finished the season with a 221-yard, four-touchdown masterpiece in a bowl victory over Somers, breaking the school's single-season touchdown record in the process. He once again earned All-County and All-State honors.

In Jermaine's senior season he broke the Rockland County rushing record by running for 1,297 yards, and he set another school record with 22 touchdowns in one season. He led the team to an 8-1 record and another bowl game victory, this time over rival Rye, who had beat Nyack twice recently in hotly-contested games. Harris ran for 175 yards and three touchdowns in the win, finishing his career with 3,578 rushing yards and 48 touchdowns. His final carry was a 45-yard score, and after the game coach John Castellano said, "I want him four more years." Harris won All-County and All-State honors again, and most impressively was named New York State Class B Player of the Year.

Jermaine was more than just a great athlete; he also stood out as a role model. Coach Castellano said "Personally, in all my years coaching, you couldn't find a nicer individual, or more of a team player than Jermaine Harris. He was quiet but led by example by the way he

practiced, and the way he played 110 mph all the time. Just a total class act, both on and off the field"

Harris ended up playing fullback and linebacker at Division II American International College, where he was a captain and earned an offensive MVP award as a sophomore. He'll always be remembered for his superb play in high school, which helped relaunch Nyack as a dominant football power in the area.