

John Castellano

Coach

Nyack has had a proud football tradition for over a century, with a litany of prominent players and coaches leading the way. One man stands out as a pivotal figure in Nyack's storied football program, John Castellano. Coach Cas took it to the next level, becoming the winningest football coach in school history, and bringing State Championships home in 2000 and 2003.

Coach Cas came to Nyack in 1988, and quickly reaffirmed our reputation as a football powerhouse. With fellow Hall of Famer Jermaine Harris (NHSA HOF 2016) carrying the ball, John led Nyack to three straight Section 1-B bowl game victories, in 1989, 90 and 91. In 1989, NHS went undefeated, and was ranked 4th in New York State. When the State Championship era began in the 1990's, Cas took the football program to new heights. In 1995, Nyack made it as far as the State Semifinals, falling to eventual champions Amsterdam.

In 2000, Castellano led Nyack to the pinnacle of New York State football, winning the school's first State Title in the sport. At the Syracuse Carrier Dome, NHS defeated Fulton 34-20, behind star Quarterback Ronnie King (NHSAHOF 2017) and Nigel Morris (NHSAHOF 2015). This season led to a run of four Section Titles in five years. After losing in the Section Final in 2001, and the State Final in 2002, Coach Cas and the team won it all again in 2003. Nyack capped off the season with a dominant 43-0 victory over Corning East. Pete Samoylo won State Player of the Year. Many Nyack fans were present in the Carrier Dome, including Super-Fan Ruth Case (NHSAHOF 2017), and her cowbell.

Nyack had another epic run in 2008, pulling off upsets over Somers, Ossining and Cornwall, to reach the State Semi-Finals, where we fell by one to Burnt Hills. This team was inspired by the performance of Terrence Fede, who went on to play for Marist College and the Miami Dolphins.

Castellano's legacy includes 14 League titles, 7 Section 1 titles and 2 State Championships. His final record at Nyack was 180-49-1, making him the 3rd all-time winningest Rockland Football Coach. D-1 players that John coached include Nigel Morris (Toledo) and Terry Baltimore (UConn). Coach Cas was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2017.

In addition to these achievements, Cas also coached Track and Girls Lacrosse. He taught Physical Education at NHS for 25 years, and was a long-time Dean of Students. After Nyack, Castellano worked as an Assistant Coach for Football powerhouse Don Bosco, helping the team to a #1 national ranking. He now coaches at Westlake High School, where he led them to a Section Championship in 2015. As he continues to add to his legacy, Coach Cas will always have a special place in the history of Nyack High School athletics.