

# **Ronnie R. King**

## **Football, Basketball**

### **Class of 2001**

During one of the golden ages of Nyack athletics in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many exceptional sports stars excelled for NHS. One of the most memorable athletes of this era was Ronnie King. Ronnie played quarterback on the varsity football team for 4 years, leading the team to a state title as a senior. He was also a standout basketball player on a team that won a section title in 2001. In both sports, King came through with clutch performance in the biggest games to lead Nyack to victory.

Ronnie King's remarkable football career at NHS began in 1997 in his freshman year when Coach John Castellano (NHS AHOF 2017) walked into his class and asked him to join the team. King was practicing with the team later that day and the rest is history. He replaced the starting QB in the second half in a losing effort against Suffern in his first game, and then lost in his first start against Yorktown. Ronnie then turned it around, leading the team to 3 straight wins and scoring the winning touchdown against Ossining to get Nyack into the playoffs. He capped off his impressive freshman season by scoring 3 TDs and rushing for 191 yards in a bowl game win over Yorktown.

King led Nyack to the section semifinals in his freshman, sophomore, and junior seasons, and in his senior year he took Nyack to even greater heights. In a campaign that would earn him County and State Player of the Year honors, Ronnie rushed for over 800 yards and passed for over 600 yards, recording 18 passing TDs and 10 rushing TDs. The experienced King delivered in the playoffs. He threw 3 TD passes to Nigel Morris (NHS AHOF 2015) in an 18-15 win over Brewster in the section title game, avenging the previous season's playoff loss to the Bears. Ronnie had 109 rushing yards in a state quarterfinal win over Warwick Valley, and then dazzled in a 35-0 state semifinal win over LaSalle with 2 rushing TDs, 2 passing TDs and a 2-point conversion. His heroics caused Fulton to gear up against him in the state final, so King handed it off to Jason Alcin, who ran for 150 yards and 3 TDs. Ronnie threw a TD pass and guided the team to a 34-20 win and the school's first football state title.

Ronnie King also excelled on the basketball court. He was the team's best defender, tasked with guarding the other team's best scorer. He was also a good rebounder and one of the best 3-point shooters on the team. In his junior year in 2000, Ronnie helped lead Nyack to the section finals, where they fell 48-42 to Kennedy and their superstar Donnie McGrath. After winning the football state title in the fall of 2000, King, Morris, and Alcin had a late start with the basketball team which led to some early struggles. They quickly bounced back, however, and Ronnie helped them get revenge on McGrath and Kennedy in the section semifinals before beating Peekskill for the section title. King forced several key turnovers in a regional final win.

over Chenango Valley to earn Nyack a spot in the state semifinals, where they lost to powerhouse Amityville.

Ronnie King was incredibly successful in his Nyack sports career, going 34-4 as a starting QB and helping the basketball team reach the Westchester County Center 3 straight years. He showed remarkable poise as a leader in both football and basketball and will be remembered as one of the most special athletes in Nyack's illustrious sports history.