

# **Dan Berkowitz**

## **Special Contributor**

### **Class of 1988**

The Old Nyack High School clock tower longed served as an iconic landmark for Nyack High School Football, and thanks to the efforts of Dan Berkowitz, the Tower remains a prominent part of the Nyack Football experience. With the transition away from legendary MacCalman Field to the new stadium at the new high school, the Tower could have become a remnant of the past, but Berkowitz helped lead the drive to fund the construction of a new tower for the new stadium to keep the special tradition alive.

Dan played football and baseball at Nyack High. In baseball his junior season, the team followed up a disappointing regular season with a magical run to the section semifinals, knocking off three top teams along the way. His favorite football memories are of playing Friday Night Football before large crowds. He still appreciates the community for supporting the team strongly even when they weren't as good. His teammates became his "brothers for life," and with them he made memories playing under the Tower that would stick with him and inspire him to fight to bring the tower to the new stadium.

Berkowitz remained part of the Nyack Football program after graduating from NHS. He filmed games for the 1989 team and got lunches during the meetings. When he returned to Nyack, he officially started coaching Football at Nyack in 2004 and has been a Junior Varsity coach for 15 years. In his time as an assistant Varsity coach, Dan has helped the team win two section titles (2004, 2008) and has helped 10 student-athletes get recruited and receive full scholarships. Berkowitz has highly valued the experience he got coaching with legendary Head Coach John Castellano (NHS AHOF 2017), having "learned almost everything I know about football from him."

Dan got much of his love for Nyack sports from his father Shelly, who took the family to games when Dan was little and put him into youth sports. Shelly also donated the billboard listing Nyack's two state titles at MacCalman. A significant part of Dan's determination with the Tower Project was to provide the school with something his father would be proud of.

After helping pass the bond for the new fields and athletic complex, Dan felt guilty about taking the Tower experience away from future Nyack students. He came up with the idea of

creating a replica of the old tower building that could serve as a press box and locker rooms at the new stadium. He made a sketch of the idea and gave it to Dr. James Montesano, who said they could do it if they raised the money. Berkowitz was told many times that the \$500,000 couldn't be raised, but with the help of Athletic Director Joseph Sigillo, Dr. Montesano, Dan's girlfriend Tammie, and a very generous Nyack community, Dan was able to get the money raised to go forward with constructing the Tower building. Now complete, the Sennas/Crowther Clock Tower stands as a pillar for Nyack home football games, and well as for other Nyack teams playing at Tower Memorial Stadium. Thanks to Dan Berkowitz's leadership and dedication, the Nyack Tower can continue to inspire generations of Nyack athletes and fans.