

Michael Mack

Football, Basketball

Class of 1997

A loss was a rare sight for Nyack teams that featured Michael Mack in the mid-1990s. Mack's elite athleticism combined with his leadership and clutch play helped lead Nyack to numerous titles and playoff runs. His teams compiled staggering records: 25-4 in football and 64-7 in basketball. Michael won several accolades as one of Nyack's best-ever wide receivers and as an all-time great basketball forward. He went on to enjoy an excellent collegiate football career at Division 1-AA North eastern.

Mack helped a struggling Nyack football team return to prominence and reach even greater heights. After they reached the section finals his sophomore year, Michael had a monster season his junior season. He had 555 receiving yards, including many big 3rd-down receptions to keep drives alive, and earned First Team All-County and Second Team All-State. Mack was pivotal as the team went 10-1, winning a league title and a section title, and advancing to the state playoffs for the first time.

As a senior co-captain, Michael was willing to adjust his game to become a bigger part of the running game to fit a changing offense. His efforts to help his team, which had lost most of its starters from the previous season, paid off for him and for Nyack. Mack earned First Team All-County and First Team All-State, and was even named All-American Honorable Mention. Nyack went 8-1, won a league title, and made it to the section semi finals. Michael also starred defensively. He had game clinching interceptions in two different games, including in a bowl game victory in his last game. Despite playing with three different starting quarterbacks in three seasons, Mack finished with 1,101 career receiving yards, good for second-best in school history at the time, and set a school-record with 67 career receptions.

In basketball, Michael was called up to varsity as a freshman for the playoffs and got to experience a section title-winning run. He became a starter as a sophomore and helped lead the team to a league title and a 20-0 start before a close loss in the section finals to Poughkeepsie. Mack had a monster game in the semifinals with 17 points and 18 rebounds, stepping up with the team struggling by igniting scoring runs and playing great defense. As a junior, he led the county in scoring as he helped Nyack win another league title and reach a 3rd straight section final. Michael scored 22 points in the quarterfinals and semifinals, earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team. His senior year, Mack led Nyack to yet another league title and a trip to the section semifinals. His efforts to expand his game helped the team, including his 41% shooting from 3. Michael even became the 4th Nyack boys player to reach 1,000 points, which he ironically achieved in the only home loss of his career. His legendary cousin Jim Mack,

another NHS 1,000 point scorer, was present at that game.

Michael was named both Team MVP and League Player of the Year as a junior and as a senior. Mack finished with 1,074 points, good for 2nd in program history at the time behind Ernie Watkins (NHS AHOF 2018), having passed his cousin Jim. Nyack was a 1-seed each year Michael started.

After being recruited by D-1 schools in football and basketball, Mack decided to play football at Northeastern. In high school, Michael had worked hard to improve his grades for college, and his efforts allowed him to enjoy a fantastic collegiate career. His 107 career receptions are currently 7th-best in program history. Mack's character earned him respect and praise from many, including his Hall of Fame coaches John Castellano (2017) and Gary Gray (2016). Castellano said that Michael "endears himself to a lot of kids," while Gray said, "he does a good job of helping the lesser players feel good about themselves," and "he's one of the most respected players in Rockland County"