

1968 Nyack Football Team

Nyack High has been graced by many mighty football teams over the years, but the Nyack football team of 1968 certainly stands out as one of the most exceptional. Loaded with talent, experience, and young men of high character, the '68 team built a campaign to admire as they achieved a long and hard-fought-for dream for their school.

The Nyack football program had won a number of titles before 1968, but they had never had a truly perfect season: unbeaten and un-tied against all opponents. Coach John Beake's (NHS AHOF '23) teams won three straight championships heading into the '68 season, but all of those title teams fell just short of perfection.

Stewarded by new coach Paul Lankau (NHS AHOF '16), the '68 squad was ready to deliver Nyack to that summit. An overwhelming offensive line included captains Bob Corvino (NHS AHOF '15) and Bob Eubanks (NHS AHOF '23), as well as mainstays Walt Treptow, Tom Challacombe, and D.J. Boily. The sweltering defense was led by the likes of Corvino, Greg D'Auria (NHS AHOF '17), and Paul Bracco. A budget issue cost them regular practices before the season, but the whole team came together and prepared with their best effort and focus: nothing was going to deny this team their prize.

The '68 crew started with close wins over Suffern and TZ led by their defense, but then the offense found their groove. QB Torrey Smith and receiver John Fenton proved Nyack had a potent passing threat, and along with backs Bobby Smith and Donald Cooper, Nyack beat Ramapo, Clarkstown, and Spring Valley by three scores each. Next game a battle of unbeaten against mighty North Rockland. In front of over 5,000 people at MacCalman, Nyack triumphed 13-6. A smothering defensive effort, including a vital pick six by Andy Kane, and a huge performance by young Tom Sanders (NHS AHOF '22) keyed the win and put Nyack in pole position for the title.

With history still in mind, the boys of '68 made sure to finish strong. A 53-0 thrashing of Pearl River saw Bobby Smith run for 197 yards and 6 TDs before the finale against Nanuet brought a 26-0 Nyack win that secured a 4th straight title and the programs long-sought perfect season: they were unbeaten and un-tied at last.

The stats speak for themselves. Nyack's suffocating defense conceded just 57.8 yards per game and only allowed 25 points total for the whole season. That's about 3 points per game. The offense formed an insurmountable tandem with the defense, led by a clutch pass attack and a bruising rushing attack that led the PSAL with 1635 yards. The All-County 1st Team featured eight Nyack defenders, and the entire offensive line was on the 1st or 2nd Team. 17 total Nyack players earned All-County, and the team would come to be named "Team of the Decade" by the Journal News. The '68 football team should long be remembered for the way they all pitched in and fought for each other during good times and bad to produce one of the most magical seasons in Nyack's storied history.