

John Beake

Head Football Coach

1964-1967

Nyack has been blessed with many stellar football coaches in the program's storied history, but John Beake was certainly one of the most important. Coach Beake's tenure at Nyack only lasted four years, but he clearly made the most of his time here. His teams won three county titles in those four years as he managed to continue Nyack's winning tradition while finding ways to bring the program to another level. Beake also started Nyack's lacrosse program, which would become a local power in their own right.

John Beake took over a Nyack football team that was familiar with success, but that had struggled to win outright county championships. The relatively young Beake quickly earned the trust and respect of his players. He set a clear standard with his no-nonsense approach and commitment to hard-nosed, physical football while also innovating the team. Beake introduced pro-style sets and masterminded trick plays that, combined with Nyack's intense physicality, overwhelmed their local rivals. Alongside star QB Jerome Whidbee (NHSAHOF '23), Beake's 1964 team got their undisputed title at 7-0-1, but Coach was just getting started.

After a down year in 1965, the 1966 team returned to championship form as Beake and his staff's development of future Nyack Hall of Famers George Askew (NHSAHOF '22), Bob Corvino (NHSAHOF '15), and Bob Eubanks (NHSAHOF '23) paid off. The team bulldozed Rockland opponents as they allowed just 5.4 points per game en route to another 7-0-1 record and county title. 1967 saw Nyack defend their championship as Beake's squad beat both Spring Valley and North Rockland, a rare feat making the season that much more memorable. When it was all said and done, Coach Beake's teams had gone 24-4-4, further establishing Nyack as a Rockland powerhouse.

Coach Beake's remarkable success at NHS launched him on an incredible career in the NFL and college ranks. He became an assistant coach with the Kansas City Chiefs, helping them win Super Bowl IV in 1970. Beake later joined the Denver Broncos, ascending to General Manager and putting together two Super Bowl champions in the late '90s. John was also critical in the development of NFL Europe and served in some of the highest-level positions in the NFL's organization.

With all his success producing champions at the high school and pro levels, John Beake's most important impact was on the young men he coached at Nyack. He was tough as nails, providing them valuable discipline, while also providing life and academic support that went far beyond his job description. Beake gave inspiration to play and fall in love with football, like Greg D'Auria (NHSAHOF '17), while using his connections to make sure numerous players went to college and prepared for their future. Along with his wife, Marcia (NHSAHOF '23), John Beake's unquestioned devotion to Nyack has left a special legacy that the community can long cherish.