

GRIDIRON 2006

CASE AT SOMERSET

THURSDAY, NOV. 23, 10 A.M.

HANSON MEMORIAL FIELD



A supplement to The Spectator, November 22, 2006

Game could hinge on SHS ground game

By **GEORGE AUSTIN**
Editor

This year's Thanksgiving Day game matchup features a Somerset team that is vastly improved from a year ago versus a Joseph Case High School squad that may be better than its won/lost record indicates.

"We have to play very, very well," Case coach David Gibeau said. "They are a very good team. We can't make any mistakes. We have to execute our offense and play very good defense against them."

The game will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday at Somerset's Hanson Memorial Field.

The key to the game for Case could be how well the Cardinals are able to defend against Somerset running backs Ryan Richardson, Justin Fuller and Matthew Therrien who give coach Jesse McKinnon multiple weapons to choose from during the game, including Richardson who has over 1,000 yards rushing this season.

"Those three backs are great," Gibeau said. "They run hard. It's tough to stop them. We have to

make sure we tackle very well. They're going to get their yards. We have to stop their breakaway runs."

Gibeau said his team will have to throw the ball well and running back Nick Monte will have to gain some yards in order for the Cardinals to win. Case quarterback Rich Mello has a dangerous receiver in Joel Banaszek who caught three touchdown passes of 38, 23 and nine yards in the last game for the Case.

"Offensively, our run game has been our life blood, combined with our quarterback's ability to make good decisions," Somerset coach Jesse McKinnon said. "Defensively, we've just got to continue with what's been successful for us and that is gang tackling, great pursuit of the ball and tight pass coverage."

The Cardinals have a 2-7 overall record on the season, but Case has lost three close games. Gibeau points out that Somerset is a bigger school than Case and plays against better competition.

The teams do have some com-



Photo by **GEORGE AUSTIN**/The Spectator

IF CASE WANTS TO WIN ON THANKSGIVING, the Cardinals will have to stop the rushing attack of Somerset, including the explosive Matt Therrien (above).

See **PREVIEW**, Page 20

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He makes the grade on and off the field

Somerset's Clark Andrew excels in football and in the classroom

By **GEORGE AUSTIN**
Editor

SOMERSET — During a time-out when the Somerset High School football team is huddling and getting ready for a critical third down and four yards to go situation, offensive lineman Clark Andrew, as he often does, will recommend a play and head coach Jesse McKinnon says 10 times out of 10 the play works.

"He's another coach on the field," McKinnon said. "He'll come up to the coaching staff at half-time and he'll want to look at our play charts. He'll make suggestions and back them up with reasons why we should be running them."

McKinnon says Andrew has the same type of intelligence about the sport he plays as he does in the classroom at Somerset High School where he is ranked third academically in the senior class. Andrew obviously is not the stereotypical jock.

McKinnon first met Andrew when he was the coach of the freshman football team at Somerset High School and Andrew joined the team in his first year at the school. At that time, McKinnon said Andrew was laid back, had long hair and was wearing sandals. Andrew told his coach he was an offensive lineman.

"I just kind of laughed to myself because even on

a freshmen team, he's a little undersized," McKinnon said. "Then I remember the third or fourth day of practice, pulling (assistant coach) Nick Freitas aside and saying nobody can beat Clark in any of our drills."

McKinnon is not laughing anymore. At offensive guard, Andrew uses his 5-foot-11-inch frame with 195 pounds, which is small for a lineman, to help open up holes for a very good backfield that has consisted of running backs Ryan Richardson, Justin Fuller, Matt Therrien and Billy Huard, all of whom have been sprung for big runs because of the play of that line.

"He's without question, the leader of that offensive line and he's one of the toughest players I've ever coached," McKinnon said.

Andrew played soccer until he was in seventh grade when he decided to join the football team at Somerset High School.

"I just thought it looked like a lot of fun," Andrew said. "A lot of my friends played it, so I decided to give it a try. I fell in love with it."

Andrew said he does in fact like the intellectual parts of football, the blocking schemes that the lineman have to learn and changing formations on the line of scrimmage. He said he has become a student of a game which may be more complicated than it

See **MAKING THE GRADE**, Page 18



Photo by **GEORGE AUSTIN**/The Spectator

A STUDENT OF THE GAME, Somerset High School's Clark Andrew is an important part of the offensive line on the football team and is also one of the top students in the senior class.

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Athletic ability is in the Murgos genes

by JASON KENNEY

SWANSEA — Like sister, like brother.

When David Murgos was growing up, he remembers his three older sisters, Carrie, Jennifer, and Laura, being standout athletes at Case High School.

Carrie played soccer, Jennifer played soccer, basketball, and ran track, and Laura played volleyball, basketball, and softball.

While his siblings graduated before he was even a student at Case in 1997, 2000, and 2002 respectively, Murgos always hoped to one day follow in their footsteps.

"They set the bar high in sports," said Murgos. "I look at their athletic awards at home and it's so impressive. They have always been leaders to me."

Although Murgos may not have played the same sports as his older sisters, he will graduate from Case this year knowing that he has made several contributions to the football team during his four years of high school.

"When he was coming up, we were hoping he would follow in the tradition of his three sisters," said Case head varsity football coach Dave Gibeau. "They were all good athletes and so is Dave. He's a little prone to injuries once in a while, but he's a tough kid who plays hard. He's contributed a lot to our football program and he'll be sorely missed after this season."

As a member of the varsity football team, Murgos has played a number of positions over the



Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator

DAVID is the fourth Murgos sibling to excel in sports at Case High School. His three older sisters also were standouts in other sports.

past four years, including running back, tight end, linebacker, and cornerback.

"He's very versatile," said Coach Gibeau. "You like to see

that in a player, especially at the varsity level."

From observing him on the field, it's clear that Murgos is a skilled athlete who enjoys the sport very much.

In the game against South Coast Conference foe Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School on October 13, for instance, Murgos

helped the Cardinals rally from a two touchdown deficit to eventually win the game, 24 - 19.

Murgos scored the Cardinals' first touchdown of that game when he hauled in a Bears punt and sprinted 75-yards into the end zone to make it 13 - 6. That spectacular run changed the momentum of the game and Case went on to post their first victory

of the season.

Murgos was also instrumental in the Cardinals victory over non-league rival Bishop Connolly High School on November 3. In that game, Murgos scored two touchdowns on runs of 29 and 16 yards in the third quarter to help Case cruise to a 49 - 20 win over the Cougars.

See MURGO, Page 19

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Battle of the unbeaten teams

In 1955, a state championship was on the line in Thanksgiving game

By GEORGE AUSTIN
Editor

Because they play in different leagues and there is a different system in Massachusetts for deciding on state champions, what is on the line in the Thanksgiving Day game for the Somerset and Case high schools every year is pride more than anything else.

But back in 1955 there was a lot more riding on the result of a game that was played between Somerset and Case on the Thursday in November.

Both teams were undefeated and there was a state championship on the line as Somerset was ranked number one in the Eastern Massachusetts Class D rankings. But the Cardinals made sure that the Blue Raiders did not win that state title by beating Somerset, 20-6 on Thanksgiving day.

"The Swansea team was very, very good," Austin O'Toole, a defensive end and punter for the Somerset team, recalled last week. "The Case coach was very good. Our defense was very good, but our offense was kind of ordinary. We won with defense."

After the loss, Somerset dropped to number two in the rankings behind Charlestown High School and Case was ranked fourth. Somerset had a 7-0 record coming into that Thanksgiving day game and Case was 6-0-1.

Somerset had given up only one touchdown all year on defense. The defense was led by All-State defensive tackle Roland Cordeiro, co-captain Ed Oliveira, Mike Freitas and Joe Costa. O'Toole said the Somerset players were very quick.

"It was a real big rivalry," O'Toole said. "We knew a lot of those guys from Swansea because we had played every sport against them since eighth grade. We knew the Swansea guys well."

The athletes from the neighboring towns had competed against each other in basketball, baseball and track, as well as football.

"There really was no real pressure," O'Toole said. "No one was



PICTURED AT POTTERSVILLE FIELD is Somerset High School's varsity football offensive team during the 1955 season. In the back row are Dee Collins, Mel Douthwright, Lou Souza and Bob Nichols. In the front are Austin O'Toole, Roland Cordeiro, Henry DeMarco, Merrill Chace, Jack Furtado, Earle Dennis and co-captain Cliff Hoole. Collins, Douthwright, Souza, Furtado and coaches John Simpson and Bill Luti are all members of Somerset High School's Athletic Hall of Fame.

psyched out of their mind about it. It was just another game."

Case coach Jim Cassidy's team was led by Bill Marr, who would go on to play for Princeton, Bob Morais and Darryl Doane. Marr had a big interception during the game. Doane, in an interview last week, said the game had two good teams and two good coaches.

"It was called the game of the day in Southeastern Massachusetts," Doane said. "They had a lot of radio stations from Boston. It was a beautiful day to play and watch football."

O'Toole said the turning point of the game may have been when Somerset was driving and the halfback put the ball down on the ground after he thought the play was over, but the whistle had not been blown. The officials ruled it a fumble and Case recovered.

"We just got up and walked back to the huddle," O'Toole said. "We didn't consider it a fumble."

Doane played middle line-backer and end on offense. He can remember spending much of the game chasing after Somerset running back Lou Souza.

"I didn't have a lot of trouble bringing him down," Doane said.

See UNBEATEN, Page 17

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SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL'S MATT THERRIEN is a threat to score a touchdown from anywhere on the football field.

By GEORGE AUSTIN
Editor

SOMERSET — There are just so many ways that Somerset High School football player Matthew Therrien can beat you, and he usually does it in a spectacular way.

There have been the long runs out of the backfield. There have punt and kickoff returns for touchdowns. He has caught a long pass in the endzone. And then he can take one away from your with an interception from his defensive back position.

"I think as far as football is concerned, I think Matt has really defined himself as one of the more exciting players in the area," Somerset coach Jesse McKinnon said. "He's a play maker for us, whether it's offense, defense or special teams."

Most of the carries in the backfield have gone to Ryan Richardson and Justin Fuller. But when the ball has been given to Therrien, he usually makes it count. He has had a lot of long runs this season and have some have come at key junctures in games and have given the Blue Raiders some momentum when they needed it.

"When I hear I'm getting the ball, I get really excited," Therrien said. "I just don't know when I'm going to have the chance to do something with the ball, so when I have the chance, I want to make something happen."

While he may not have as many carries as the other running backs, McKinnon said Therrien probably has the highest yards per carry average in the area. While teams are focusing on stopping Richardson and Fuller, Therrien showcases his talents on the field.

"In the early stages of our season, he was doing a lot of blocking for those guys and never, ever made mention of anything concerning him not getting the ball," McKinnon said.

Therrien said the Blue Raiders have a balanced attack with several different players who can make plays.

"I like to return punts the best," Therrien said. "It's very dangerous. It's the most fun because you never know what's going to happen. The guys on the punt team, they like to hit somebody. They look forward to that."

McKinnon said that everything Therrien does, he does right. He talked about a very unselfish

play that Therrien made in a win over Durfee earlier this year. On a fourth down play, Therrien jumped up in the air from his defensive back position, and instead of making what would have been an easy interception that would have gone down in his personal statistics, batted the ball hard to the ground.

"He gave up his own interception so the team could have better field position," McKinnon said. "That speaks volumes about his intelligence and his character."

Therrien also showed how much of a team player he is at another time in that Durfee game. He made a 56-yard run to the Durfee one-yard line that set up an easy score for the Blue Raiders. Instead of rewarding Therrien for the long run, as coaches often do, McKinnon decided to go with a quarterback sneak for the touchdown because he thought it was the right play at the time. Quarterback Andrew Gauthier scored on the play and Therrien celebrated with him like it was his own six points. McKinnon said at the end of the game, he explained to Therrien why he called the play.

"His response was, 'We scored coach. It doesn't matter who does the scoring. We scored,'" McKinnon said.

Therrien was on the Somerset Middle School football team when he was in seventh grade, but did not play much. He became a captain of the team when he was in eighth grade.

"I loved football, so I stuck with it," Therrien said.

Therrien, a senior at Somerset High School, said that former Somerset Middle School coach Mike O'Brien put it into the heads of the players that they were going to be winners. He said the players learned how to play with heart, be tough and play as a team. He credits McKinnon and assistant coach Nick Freitas with helping him and the rest of the team to be good football players when they started out on the freshmen team. McKinnon and Freitas coached the freshmen before becoming varsity coaches last year.

Therrien said his favorite football player to watch is Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison because of the spectacular catches he makes.

While Therrien may be small by football player standards at



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See THERRIEN, Page 17

Case High players keep positive attitude

By JASON KENNEY

SWANSEA — Talk with the coach and captains of the Case High School varsity football team, especially after a grueling weekday or weekend practice, and you would never know they had a disappointing season this year.

With a 2 - 7 record, the Cardinals have no chance for the playoffs or the M.I.A.A. Super Bowl, but they have always maintained a positive attitude before and after every game they play on the gridiron.

"When we practice, we don't think about the record," said Case head varsity football coach Dave Gibeau. "For those couple of hours each day, we act like an undefeated team."

Coach Gibeau, who has been at the helm of the Cardinals for the past sixteen years, said his team's substandard record never enters their mind when they play a game.

"When we get into a game, we're not thinking about our record. That doesn't even enter our mind," said Coach Gibeau. "What we do is focus on winning that

particular game that we are playing that day."

"Being around as long as I have been, I've seen so many things happen. You can beat teams, sometimes just blow them out of the water when you're not supposed to win," said Coach Gibeau.

Senior tri-captain Doug Macedo, who has been a varsity starter for the past two years and an offensive guard, agrees with his coach.

"It's hard at times, but I think we practice harder than any of the other teams we face," said Macedo. "You just have to play with the talent you have. We always go out on the field every Friday afternoon or night and play our absolute hardest. That's what it's all about."

"We try to keep our spirits high. Our coaches do a great job. They say, 'practice hard and you should have fun.' We always have a blast and that's what matters," said Macedo.

Senior linebacker Nick Monte, who is another tri-captain on the team, feels the same way.

"Our record may be disap-

See POSITIVE, Page 16




Photos by BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator

CASE FOOTBALL COACH DAVID GIBEAU has kept a positive outlook on the season with his players this year.




ERIK MACEDO has seen time at running back and comerback for the Case football team.

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Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/ The Spectator

RYAN RICHARDSON is the leading rusher for the Somerset High School football team this season. He has gone over 1,000 yards in nine games.

Richardson can take over a football game

By **GEORGE AUSTIN**
Editor

SOMERSET — Football teams do not want to let Somerset High School running back Ryan Richardson get off to a good start with rushing the ball. Because if they do, they know they could be in for a long night.

"Ryan is just a tremendous football player," Somerset head coach Jesse McKinnon said. "When he decides to take a game in his hands, he completely takes it over. The kids look to him a lot for his toughness and for aggression on the field and they feed off that."

Richardson has gone over 1,000 yards rushing for the season this year for the first time in his high school career. It was a milestone he wanted to reach when the season first started.

"Last year, I came close, but I didn't end up making it," Richardson said. "This year, I was glad I made it."

But the team has also made significant improvement in the wins and losses columns after a winless season last year and the senior running back gives a lot of credit to his teammates for that accomplishment.

"We've all been with each other since our freshman year," Richardson said. "We just work as a team on every play. It's not just one of us playing the game. It's all of us that help contribute."

Richardson especially praised his offensive line which he says has done an excellent job blocking for him this season.

"They're not big players, but they get the job done," Richardson said.

Richardson, who also plays linebacker for the Blue Raiders, said Somerset High School coaches Jesse McKinnon and

Nick Freitas along with former Somerset Middle School coach Mike O'Brien have been big influences on his football career.

"He sets the tone a lot," McKinnon said. "He's more of a lead by example type guy. He's not that in your face vocal leader. But on those occasions when he does speak, you see it in the eyes of the players. They listen."

Nobody in Richardson's family played football before him. His father was a good hockey player. Richardson, a senior on this year's team, has been playing football since he was in sixth grade on the Pop Warner team in Fall River.

"I played back yard football and I saw the Pop Warner League in the paper, so I signed up," Richardson said.

Richardson says he likes football because he "can hit people." He hopes to play football for a college, but the Thanksgiving Day game will be the last for Richardson as a Somerset High School player.

"I like playing against Case," Richardson said. "I know a lot of the players on their team. I don't think it's as big a game as Durfee. Last year, I think we played better against Durfee than we did against Case."

Richardson says football and the coaches he has met because of the sport have helped him to get his life on track.

"They taught me a lot of discipline," Richardson said of his coaches. "I used to be a punk. When I was little, I used to get into trouble. They disciplined me. They taught me the basics of football."

Now the only one that tends to get in trouble when Richardson is on the football field is opposing defenses who try to stop Somerset's leading rusher.



#12 D.J. Durand
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Good Luck, Cardinals!**
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Farrell brothers play and coach for the Cardinals

By JASON KENNEY

SWANSEA — Although they are 12 years apart and hold different positions within the football program at Case High School, brothers David and Scott Farrell are two people that can always be counted on to work hard and do their best.

David, 29, is the head coach of the freshman football team while his brother, Scott, 17, is a center and linebacker for the varsity team.

David, who graduated in 1995, played for the Cardinals when he was a student at Case and was a member of the 1992 MIAA Division 4A East Super Bowl runner-up team.

"David was tough," said Case head coach Dave Gibeau. "I remember when we played a game against ORR (Old Rochester Regional High School). I think everybody got hurt and I put David in as fullback. He was only five feet tall and weighed 130 pounds. He kept pounding and pounding the ball and we eventually won the game."

In September 2001, David was hired as a long-term substitute teacher at Case and was hired as a full-time social studies teacher in the following year.

David said that after teaching at the school for almost two years, Coach Gibeau asked him if he'd be interesting in coaching the freshman football team, even though he would be having his younger brother on the team.

"I was honored when Coach Gibeau asked me to coach the freshmen," said David. "Since I once played for him, I know what he expects and wants."

After taking the job, David said that Coach Gibeau mentioned his brother almost immediately.

"Coach Gibeau said, 'you're going to have your brother on the team,'" said David. "Then he asked, 'is he as tough as you?'" "While David admitted that it was awkward at first coaching his brother, he said it really worked out in the long run.

"It took a little while for me to get adjusted to," said David. "I never really coached anything be-

fore, and having a younger sibling on the team made it a little harder. It's an adjustment where you just have to separate yourself from being a coach and your family."

Scott also felt the same way about having his older brother as a coach at first.

"It wasn't as easy as you would think," said Scott. "I had him the first year he was coaching and it was a big adjustment for the both of us."

Scott said that contrary to what one would think his brother treated him no differently than anyone else on the team.

"He really doesn't let anyone get away with a lot of stuff," said Scott. "He has high expectations and I realized right away that I wasn't at home anymore."

David said that having his brother on the team also helped him as a teacher because many of the students he has on the field he also has in the classroom.

"It's really the same as teaching in the school," said David. "I have students in my classes that I've had on the field in the past. They already know what you're all about and they grow to respect you."

Despite their age difference, Scott said he and his brother have always been very close. He remembers his brother going to his football games when he played for Pop Warner Little Scholars and now David comes to his varsity games on Friday night, hoping he has helped him improve as a player. Coach Gibeau said both David and Scott had a good upbringing and it's reflected by the fact that their father comes to all the games.

"Their father comes to every game to either watch Scott play or David coach. It's really a nice thing to see," said Coach Gibeau.

While the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Somerset High School will be the last time that Scott will play football for Case, he is excited about the game.

"I'm really looking forward to this game," said Scott. "We may not have had the best season, but I think we'll win on Thanksgiving."

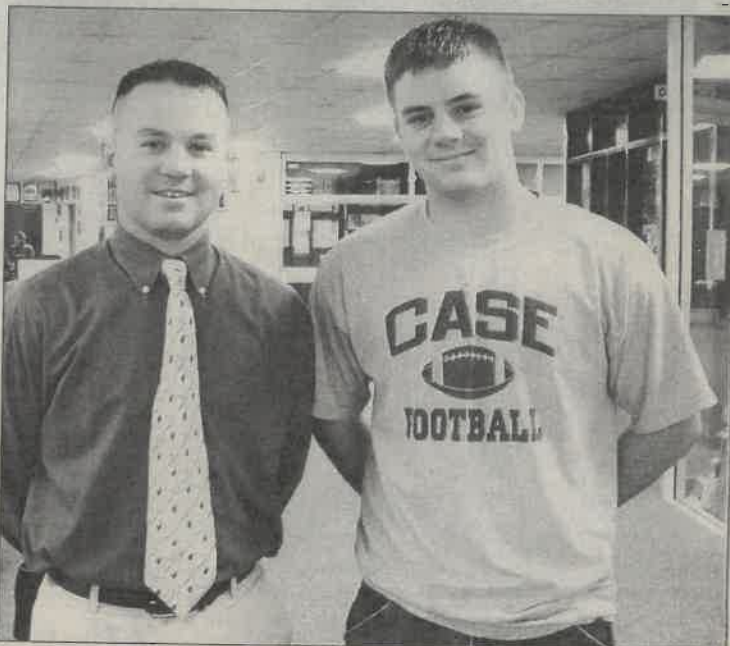


Photo by JASON KENNEY/The Spectator

DAVID FARRELL (LEFT) AND HIS BROTHER, SCOTT FARRELL, have had some key roles on the Case football team this season.

To All
Our Loyal
Readers..

*As the warmth
and spirit of this
special holiday
surrounds us, let's
reflect on the many
good things in life
that each of us has
to be truly
thankful for...
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Happy
Thanksgiving

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and
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JUNIOR RUNNING BACK BILL HUARD carries the ball for the Blue Raiders in a game earlier this season.



Photo by **BOB ALMEIDA**/The Spectator

SOMERSET DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR NICK FREITAS puts some of the Blue Raiders through a drill in practice.

The roster for Somerset High School's football team

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| No. 2, **Captain, Justin Fuller , RB/DB, Senior, 6'3, 200 lbs. | DB, Senior, 6'3, 170 lbs. | No. 21, Vinny Moschella , WR/DB, Senior, 5'11, 165 lbs. | OG/LB, Junior, 5'9, 210 lbs. | 6'0, 220 lbs. | 155 lbs. |
| No. 3, Jake Scott , QB/DB, Sophomore, 6'1, 155 lbs. | No. 22, Eric St. Amour , WR/DB, Junior, 5'6, 160 lbs. | No. 23, Billy Huard , RB/DB, Junior, 5'10, 165 lbs. | No. 41, Dennis Pritchard , TE/DE, Sophomore, 6'1, 175 lbs. | No. 60, Nate Tattersall , OG/DE, Junior, 5'11, 180 lbs. | No. 80, David Cabral , WR/DB, Sophomore, 5'8, 150 lbs. |
| No. 4, Andrew Belyea , WR/DB, Sophomore, 5'7, 140 lbs. | No. 24, Matt Therrien , RB/DB, Senior, 5'7, 170 lbs. | No. 25, Bryan Palmer , RB/DB, Sophomore, 5'9, 155 lbs. | No. 42, Shane Hyde , WR/DB, Sophomore, 5'7, 145 lbs. | No. 61, Michael Reinersten , OT/DT, Junior, 6'0, 225 lbs. | No. 81, Nick DaCosta , TE/DE, Sophomore, 5'9, 160 lbs. |
| No. 5, Brian Vaccaro , WR/DB, Senior, 5'11, 160 lbs. | No. 26, Ryan Richardson , RB/LB, Senior, 5'10, 180 lbs. | No. 27, Josh McGowan , TE/DT, Senior, 6'1, 220 lbs. | No. 44, Matt Summers , RB/LB, Junior, 5'11, 190 lbs. | No. 63, Evan Carlos , OG/DT, Sophomore, 6'0, 195 lbs. | No. 82, Ryan DeCosta , WR/DB, Senior, 5'9, 175 lbs. |
| No. 6, Andrew Gauthier , QB/DB, Freshman, 5'10, 170 lbs. | No. 28, Jimmy Robitaille , RB/LB, Senior, 5'11, 160 lbs. | No. 29, Phil Hebert , OG/DT, Sophomore, 5'11, 185 lbs. | No. 48, Jeremy Mello , WR/DB, Junior, 5'9, 155 lbs. | No. 70, Michael Dutra , OG/DT, Sophomore, 5'9, 155 lbs. | No. 84, Ben Brodeur , TE/LB, Senior, 5'9, 160 lbs. |
| No. 7, **Captain, Derik Reade , QB/LB, Senior, 6'0, 175 lbs. | No. 30, Jesse Perrin , RB/LB, Sophomore, 6'0, 175 lbs. | No. 51, Phil Hebert , OG/DT, Sophomore, 5'11, 185 lbs. | No. 49, Jimmy Robitaille , RB/LB, Senior, 5'11, 160 lbs. | No. 72, Justin Pereira , OT/DT, Sophomore, 5'7, 170 lbs. | No. 99, Matt Braga , DT, Senior, 5'9, 235 lbs. |
| No. 9, Bud Palmer , RB/DB, Junior, 5'8, 165 lbs. | No. 31, Ryan Kennedy , RB/LB, Senior, 5'7, 170 lbs. | No. 54, Ryan Dunn , OC/DE, Junior, 5'9, 180 lbs. | No. 50, Andrew , OG/DT, Senior, 5'11, 195 lbs. | No. 75, Brian Taylor , OT/DE, Senior, 6'3, 190 lbs. | Head Coach: Jesse McKinnon |
| No. 10, Graham Gasper , RB/DB, Sophomore, 5'10, 155 lbs. | No. 32, Zach Boulay , WR/DB, Junior, 5'9, 210 lbs. | No. 55, Ryan Sullivan , OG/DE, Senior, 6'1, 225 lbs. | No. 52, Tyler Langlais , OT/DT, Senior, 6'0, 220 lbs. | No. 76, David Dupont , OT/DE, Senior, 6'5, 230 lbs. | Trainer: Mike Pomerleau |
| No. 11, Zach Zajdel , RB/DB, Sophomore, 5'9, 165 lbs. | No. 33, Austin Brough , DB, Senior, 6'3, 170 lbs. | No. 56, Clark Andrew , OG/DT, Senior, 5'11, 195 lbs. | No. 53, Clark Andrew , OG/DT, Senior, 5'11, 195 lbs. | No. 77, Jacky Keller , OC/DT, Senior, 5'9, 225 lbs. | Athletic Director: Kim Sousa |
| No. 13, Anthony Dowd , WR/DB, Senior, 6'2, 174 lbs. | | No. 57, **Captain, Tyler Langlais , OT/DT, Senior, 6'0, 220 lbs. | No. 58, Ryan Sullivan , OG/DE, Senior, 6'1, 225 lbs. | No. 78, Matt Kochan , offensive tackle/defensive tackle, Junior, 5'10, 240 lbs. | Principal: R.W. Pineault |
| No. 20, Kyle Rego , WR/DB, Senior, 6'2, 174 lbs. | | No. 59, **Captain, Tyler Langlais , OT/DT, Senior, 6'0, 220 lbs. | No. 59, **Captain, Tyler Langlais , OT/DT, Senior, 6'0, 220 lbs. | No. 79, Mathan Mendonca , OG/DT, Sophomore, 5'6, 155 lbs. | Superintendent: Richard Medeiros |

Asst. Coaches: **Nick Freitas**, **Frank Sullivan**
 Freshman Coaches: **Gary Rockcliffe**, **Jon Berbuc**
**** (Captains)**



CASE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH DAVID GIBEAU talks to running back Nick Monte about a play.



Photos by **BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator**

CASE DEFENSIVE LINEMAN ZACK DECOF is seen in pursuit of a ball carrier.

The roster for Joseph Case High School football team

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>No. 2, Nick Monte-Captain, RB/LB, 5'10, 171 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 3, Rich Mello, QB/CB, 5'8, 135lbs, Senior</p> <p>No. 5, Rob Dos Reis, RB/CB, 5'6, 145 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 7, Larry Machado, QB/CB, 5'6, 150 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 11, Mike Berube, RB/CB, 5'10, 145 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 11, Mitch Cabral, QB/S, 5'11, 176 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 12, D.J. Durand, QB/LB, 5'8, 180 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 15, Dave Murgo, TE/LB, 5'8, 169 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 17, Matt Kershaw, RB/CB, 5'6, 138 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 20, Erik Macedo, RB/CB, 5'6, 145 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 21, Dennis Lynch, RB/DB, 5'11, 150 lbs., Junior</p> | <p>No. 22, Seth Buker, RB/LB, 5'7, 162 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 23, Ryan Jordan, RB/CB, 5'11, 165 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 24, Jared Cusick, TE/DE, 6'1, 165 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 30, Matt Coelho, LB, 5'7, 180 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 31, Zack Cordeiro, RB/CB, 5'4, 130 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 32, Matt Pelland, RB/LB, 5'6, 170 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 34, Joel Banaszek-Captain, RB/CB, 5'10, 160 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 37, Ryan Moniz, DE, 5'7, 142 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 39, Ryan Cassidy, TE/DE, 5'10, 170 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 43, Ryan Carvalho, TE/LB, 5'9, 145 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 44, Tony Andreozzi, RB/DB, 5'4, 135 lbs.,</p> | <p>Sophomore</p> <p>No. 46, Jeffery Camara, RB/LB, 5'8, 150 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 50, Matt Zolinerz, OL/DL, 6'0, 165 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 51, Josh Aubin, OL/LB, 5'5, 135 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 52, Aaron Borges, OL/DL, 5'10, 215 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 53, Rich Mundy, OL/DE, 6'2, 195 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 54, Dave Martelly, OL/LB, 5'8, 180 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 55, Scott Farrell, C/LB, 5'8, 178 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 57, Eric Fino, DE, 5'11, 205 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 58, Mike Castro, OL/DL, 5'9, 185 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 60, Mike Vital, OL/DL, 5'8, 180 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 62, Brian Ward, OL/DE, 5'9, 165 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 64, Matt Bisbano, OL/</p> | <p>DL, 5'11, 215 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 65, Chris Aubut, OL/DE, 5'11, 180 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 66, Pat Heywood, OL/DL, 5'11, 170 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 68, Kyle Brisson, OL/DL, 5'6, 167 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 70, Colin Fardig, OL/LB, 5'7, 171 lbs, Senior</p> <p>No. 72, Zack Decof, OL/DL, 5'11, 167 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 73, Mark Waring, OL/DL, 5'11, 200 lbs., Sophomore</p> <p>No. 77, Doug Macedo-Captain, OL/DL, 6'0, 306 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 78, Mark Chagnon, OL/DL, 5'11, 182, Sophomore</p> <p>No. 79, Grant Leech, OL/DL, 5'6, 151 lbs., Sophomore</p> | <p>No. 84, Alec Brown, WR/DE, 6'0, 165 lbs., Senior</p> <p>No. 86, Dustin Belanger, TE/DE, 6'2, 176 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 88, Dan Pyne, TE/DE, 5'10, 168 lbs., Junior</p> <p>No. 89, Andrade Azevedo, WR/S, 5'8, 165 lbs., Senior</p> <p>Head Coach: David Gibeau</p> <p>Assistant Coaches: Sean Scanlon, Ross Thibault, Dave Farrell, Walter Medeiros, Dave Miranda</p> <p>Trainer: Russ Boardman</p> <p>Superintendent: Stephan Flanagan</p> <p>Asst. Superintendent: Christine Stanton</p> <p>Principal: Brain McCann</p> <p>Asst. Principal: Robert Silveria</p> <p>Asst. Principal: Karen Ragland</p> <p>Athletic Director: Bruce Cookson</p> |
|---|--|--|---|--|

Tattersall lets his playing do the talking

By **GEORGE AUSTIN**
Editor

SOMERSET — Nate Tattersall, a defensive end and offensive guard for the Somerset High School football team, has very different personalities on and off the field.

"Nate is the most laid back, easygoing kid to the point where you have to go check his pulse," Somerset coach Jesse McKinnon said. "But put a football helmet on that kid and he is a lights out player."

Tattersall said former Somerset Middle School football coach Mike O'Brien, as well as McKinnon and Somerset High School assistant varsity coach Nick Freitas have been big influences on him, as far as teaching him the fundamentals of football. He also says they are the ones who have taught him how to be intense on the football field.

"I don't know what happens. I'm not one of the loud ones off the field. When I get in there, I just get pumped up," Tattersall said.

The Blue Raiders do not keep

any statistics on sacks, but they know that Tattersall is the leader on the team in that category because he has just had so many more than everyone else, including four big tackles of the quarterback in the backfield in a game against Coyle Cassidy. He also had a big sack in a game against Bishop Feehan.

"He's been terrific," said assistant coach Nick Freitas, who is the defensive coordinator for the team. "He's the epitome of a tough football player. He's not a rah, rah guy. He's quiet. He's focused on the job at hand. He's a good solid kid, solid football player who likes to play."

McKinnon said Tattersall has also done a good job on kickoffs to help with field position and also the pop kicks the Blue Raiders do to try to recover the ball when they are behind in games. Tattersall said that he did not want to be the kicker, but was told someone was needed at the position, so he just does what he is asked to do.

"I used to play soccer when I was young," Tattersall said. "I

played until I was 11. I think that helped me out a lot with form."

Tattersall has connected on 11 point after touchdown kicks and one field goal.

Tattersall started playing football in seventh grade at Somerset Middle School for coach O'Brien.

"I just wanted to play," Tattersall said. "My friends played. I just like hitting people."

Tattersall has made the adjustment from playing junior varsity football last year to the varsity this year very well.

"The speed of the game picked up a lot, but it's still the same thing, the same reads," Tattersall said of the difference between varsity and junior varsity football.

Tattersall says that team unity is the reason why the Blue Raiders have made such a marked improvement in their win/loss record this year after a very difficult season in 2005.

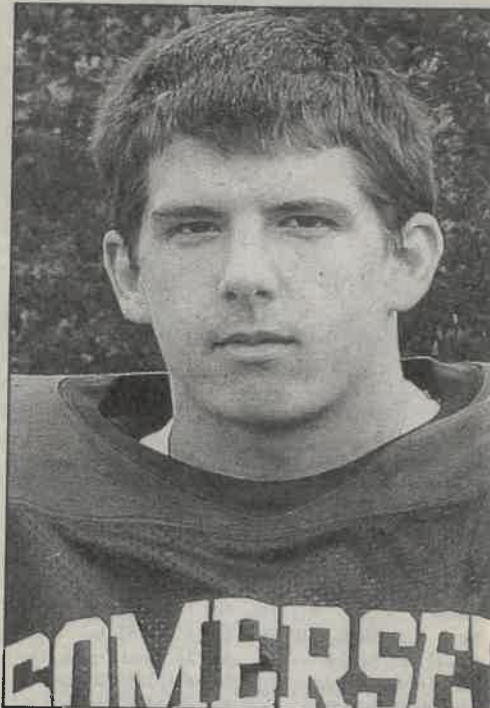
"I think the team's more together," Tattersall said. "Last year, we were at each other every time something went wrong. This

year, we're more encouraging to each other."

Tattersall is looking forward to the Thanksgiving Day game

this year.

"Everyone is there," Tattersall said. "Everyone is up for it. It's our cross-town rival."



NATE TATTERSALL leads the Somerset High School football team in sacks.



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Tyler Langlais
Somerset
OT/DT



52
Aaron Borges
Case
OL/DL

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Monte returns home to coach at Case High

By JASON KENNEY

SWANSEA — Impressed by the dedicated coaches he once played for when he was a student at Case High School, Mike Monte couldn't say no when he was asked to be the assistant coach of the freshmen football team this year.

Monte, who graduated just over a year ago in June of 2005, was offered the job when former assistant coach Walter Medeiros was called back to Iraq for active duty this past September.

"I needed an assistant freshmen football coach. I couldn't argue with President Bush about Walter having to leave. I called him but he wouldn't listen," said Case head varsity football coach Dave Gibeau jokingly. "So I started asking around and when Mike showed some interest, I hired him because I knew what he was like as an athlete and student at the high school."

While Monte was a little nervous when he first started the job, he said that the jitters are no longer there.

"Coming back was a little weird at first," said Monte. "I was nervous if I would be able to have the point of view of a coach, but I really like it. Things have really gone smoothly for me."

Since Monte is so close in age to everyone on his team, he admitted that he sometimes stands in front of them and remembers that it wasn't that long ago when

he was on the gridiron playing for the Cardinals. He said that is one of the main reasons why he has been so effective with the team.

"I think the kids listen to me because they know I went through the same stuff not that long ago," said Monte. "They know what I did on the team and I think that helps a lot."

Monte also said that some of his biggest supporters in the football program are the upperclassman on the varsity football team that he once played with.

"All the seniors on the team were sophomores when I played, even my brother Nick is a senior on the team now," said Monte. "I didn't know how they would respect me, but they have been very good to me. They tell the freshmen that I'm someone they should look up to."

In his playing days at Case, Monte was a standout tight end and defensive end, who was the team's most valuable player during his senior year. He was also named an Honorable Mention All Star by the South Coast Conference.

"When I played, I did just about everything and never came off the field," said Monte. "I tell the freshmen, 'try to be the guy that doesn't come off the field.'"

While Monte was a standout athlete on the varsity football team, he actually played soccer for two years before joining the team during his junior year.

"When I was growing up, my mom had me playing soccer," said Monte. "When I was a freshman, some of my friends on the varsity soccer team asked me if I would be interested in being a goalie. So I just figured I'd go for it."

Although Monte had fun on the team, he realized that soccer wasn't the sport for him.

"During my sophomore year, I realized that it wasn't for me," said Monte. "My brothers Byron and Nick were playing football at the time and I felt it was time for me to just jump in."

Coach Gibeau said that joining the football team was one of the best moves Monte made as a student at Case High School.

"Once he started playing football he couldn't get it out of his blood," said Coach Gibeau. "It was a great move for him. If he would have played the first two years he was here, he would have been really special, but he was still a good player who worked extremely hard both on and off the field."

Although he only played for two seasons, Monte said he will always have fond memories of his high school football days, and he hopes to foster in his team what his coaches have instilled in him.



Photo by GEORGE AUSTIN/The Spectator

MIKE MONTE is an assistant coach for the Case High School football team.



Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator

CASE ASSISTANT COACH ROSS THIBAULT watches his players practice for Case High School.




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Celebrating field's 50th birthday

By **GEORGE AUSTIN**
Editor

SOMERSET — The 50th birthday of Fernald L. Hanson Memorial Field was reached this football season. The first game was played on the field, named in memory of a former selectman, on September 29, 1956 when head coach John Simpson's army of Blue Raiders easily handled a much smaller team from Provincetown.

Football was the sport of choice at Somerset High School at that time. There were about 180 boys at Somerset High at the time and 140 of them played football on either the freshmen, junior varsity or varsity teams, according to Doug Chapman, founder of the Somerset High School Athletic Hall of Fame. But Chapman said for the first game at Hanson Memorial Field, Coach Simpson asked then SHS Principal Francis Kilgrew if he could dress all 140 players for the varsity game. Kilgrew obliged and more shoes had to be purchased so that every player was equipped for the game. Provincetown had 22 players for the game.

The players from the Somerset team were sent out of the locker room underneath the old auditorium one by one, Chapman said.

He said it took so long for all the players to reach the field, that some of the Blue Raiders were warming up while others were still sitting in the locker room.

The opening kickoff of the game was returned for a touchdown by Jim Rockcliffe who would later be inducted into the Somerset High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Jack Furtado, who would go on to be a longtime Joseph Case High School baseball and softball coach, kicked the extra point after that touchdown.

Somerset went on to a 28-0 win to celebrate the opening of its new field after playing for many years at Pottersville Field where the area's first night high school football game was played in 1940 with rented flood lights. Some of the most memorable games on Hanson Memorial Field include the last game of legendary Somerset football and baseball coach Jim Sullivan in the early 1970s. Somerset had already won the

league title and had a big lead a half-time against a winless Case team. But Case came back and won. That was the first ever win for Case head coach Joe Santos. In 1981, the Somerset team that won on Thanksgiving qualified for the Super Bowl for the second year in a row with a 10-0 record. In 1978, quarterback Rick Stafford and tailback Greg Gagnon each had over 2,000 yards of total offense during a season in which SHS went 8-1-1, going undefeated on Hanson Memorial Field. Stafford ended up playing football for Dartmouth College and was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers of the old United States Football League, but never played at that professional level. Gagnon received football scholarship offers, but went on to a career in baseball as one of the leaders of a Minnesota Twins team that won two World Series championships. Simpson went on to become the head football coach at Colby College.

it
Somerset vs. Provincetown
Hanson Memorial Field
—Dedication—
September 29, 1956
2:00 P. M.



THIS IS WHAT THE COVER OF THE PROGRAM looked like for the first football game at Hanson Memorial Field.



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WR/DE Case

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Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/ The Spectator

RUNNING BACK TONY ANDREOZZI carries the ball during a Case football team practice.

Somerset High School baseball team to be honored at half-time

SOMERSET — High school football may be the sport of choice on Thanksgiving for most people, but the Somerset High School baseball team will also be in the spotlight at Thursday's game, as well. The Blue Raiders, who won the Division 2 state title last spring, will be receiving their

championship rings during half-time of the football game.

Led by the "Three Amigos" of Bryan Leigh, Brandon Schofield and John Kineavy and coach Larry Thomas, The Blue Raiders won the state championship over Hudson in a game at Lowell last spring.



CASE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM CAPTAIN JOEL BANASZEK tries to stretch a carry into a few



Thanksgiving Day is our national day of gratitude. A moment in time to reflect and to appreciate all of our blessings...and all we have been given. With all we have to be thankful for, we understand how difficult this holiday season can be if you have experienced the loss of a loved one. We are here to help.

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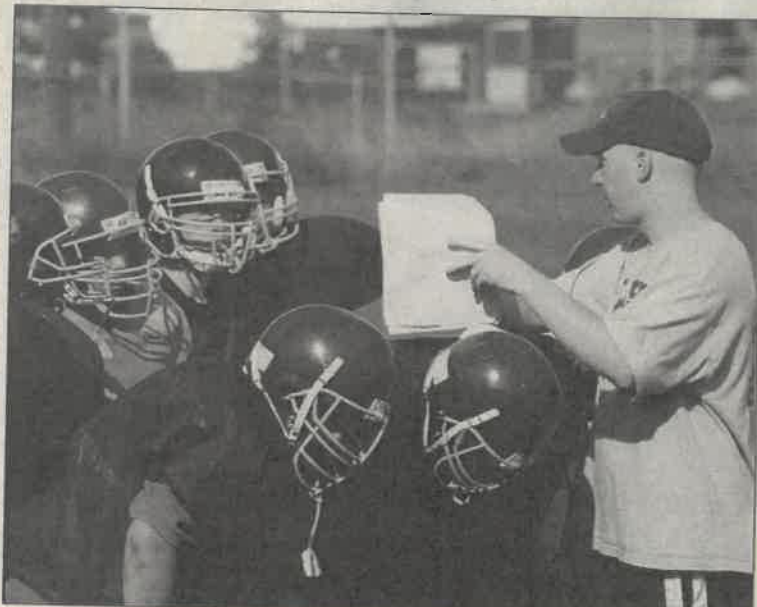
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Positive: Case players have kept their heads up



Photos by BOB ALMEIDA/ The Spectator

CASE COACH SEAN SCANLON gives some direction to the Cardinals during a game earlier this season.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

pointing, but that hasn't changed our outlook," said Monte. "Everybody practices hard and gives it their all."

While the Case High School Cardinals have been unlucky in several games this season, sometimes their hard work at practice has translated into a stellar victory on the field.

In the two games they did win this year against Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and Bishop Connolly High School, the Cardinals dominated those games from start to finish, winning 24-19 and 49-20 respectively.

"Those games really helped our moral as a team," said senior linebacker Dave Murgio, who scored touchdowns in each of those games. "After losing a couple of games in a row, it felt great to win, especially against Connolly since that was our last game on our home field this season."

Although Case was unable to secure any other victories, the Cardinals are looking forward to the annual Thanksgiving Day

game against Somerset High School where they can play in front of their family, friends, and supporters.

In fact, the Cardinals plan to treat this game as it were the opening game of a season.

"We'll treat that game like it's the start of a new season," said senior tri-captain and tailback Joel Banaszek. "Somerset may be a tough team this year, but we're going to come out, play hard, and be smart."

"In our eyes, if we beat Somerset then it's going to be a successful season," said Macedo. "We are going to do what we do. Pound the ball and do our best. We're going to go out there and get things done."

Regardless of how the Thanksgiving Day game goes, Coach Gibeau said he still enjoys coaching the varsity football team at Case High School.

"The kids really are great," said Coach Gibeau. "They may not have much speed or size, but they make it fun to come to practice and coach them. If they were jerks, I wouldn't be here."



CASE OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE LINEMAN GRANT LEECH works on some technique in practice.



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Unbeaten: Game had bearing on state title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

to tackle him because he was so fast."

When he was playing end on offense, Doane said there was a Somerset linebacker who had sustained a hand injury before the game who was hitting him with his cast every time he ran off the line of scrimmage.

"I was averaging close to a touchdown a game and I didn't get any that day, so he did a good job on me," Doane said.

The game was moved to Swansea because rain had turned Pottersville Field into unplayable mud. It would have been the last varsity game played at Pottersville Field because Hanson Memorial Field was under construction and used the following football season. Doane

said there was bumper-to-bumper traffic from Somerset coming into Swansea for the game. He said the team needed a police escort to get to the field.

Doane said there were a lot of college scouts at the game, especially from the Ivy League schools.

"When they saw our marks, we didn't get many calls," Doane said.

Doane said the coach at the University of Rhode Island at the time wanted to recruit eight or nine of Case's best seniors to make them the nucleus of his freshmen team. He said most of the Case players were prepared to go to URI, but a few months later, after a very good season, the coach at the university got another job at a bigger school and the Case players went to other

schools. Doane went to Dean College.

O'Toole's father was a principal at Somerset High School and he remembers riding back with the team on its bus after going to one of his first football games. He said people started throwing rocks after the game.

Later in life, O'Toole worked at Case High School as an English teacher and got to know the coaches of the football team.

O'Toole said he still goes to high school football games.

Both teams had their season opener canceled because of a polio scare that year in 1955.

O'Toole said football has changed a lot since he played.

"The information you get now just by watching a game on television and the analysis they give, you learn a lot more about

the game," O'Toole said. "I think the biggest difference is weight lifting. We didn't have a strength and conditioning program like that. The players today are bigger and stronger."

Doane said when he played high school football there was not as much of the rah-rah atmosphere. He said players would not pound their chests after plays and the only celebrating that went on after a touchdown was shaking hands with the closest player.

"It wasn't the type of in-your-face type of thing," Doane said of what football was like when he played. "It was more of a gentleman's game. If you hit the quarterback and knocked him down, you put out your hand to help him up. Then on the next play you would try to hit him harder."

Doane said the Thanksgiving Day football game was a bigger event than it is today when he was playing for the Cardinals at Case High School.

"Back then, you didn't have soccer," Doane said. "The girls' teams weren't very big then. It was a few years before they got going strong. When you looked at high school sports, you looked at football, basketball and baseball."

Doane, who used to be a dispatcher for the Swansea Highway Department, is now retired.

O'Toole said the members of the Somerset team were not that disappointed after the loss in the big game in the mid 1950s.

"No one cried," O'Toole said. "When we lost, we didn't consider it the end of the world."



SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL DEFENSIVE TACKLE MATT BRAGA works on the sled in practice.

Therrien: He is big play threat for SHS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

5-foot-7 and 170 pounds, McKinnon says that he has a lot of heart, toughness and character.

"I hope that my son grows up to be half the kid that Matt Therrien is," McKinnon said.

The Thanksgiving Day game will be the last chance for McKinnon and everyone else see Therrien make those exciting plays for Somerset High School. And Therrien is looking forward to it.


He said he likes the rivalry and the tradition of the game against Case.

"You see the older people at the game who have played football," Therrien said. "You want to win it for them. It's not just our game. It's for the town."

HAVE AN OPINION?
WRITE A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR.

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Making the grade: Andrew is a good player and student

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

looks to the average person.

"It's truly a team sport," Andrew said. "If one player messes up, it can hurt the whole team. It appears like it's brutal force, but a bunch of things have to go right for a play to work."

Andrew said McKinnon explains plays well. He said plays are not only diagrammed in the playbook, but the idea behind the play is also spelled out.

"It definitely helps to be able to adjust on the fly, how to recognize what the defense is trying to do or what the offense is trying to do," Andrew said.

Andrew said the offensive line is intelligent as a whole. He said they have been playing together for several years and understand the game well. He said they know what everyone else is supposed to be doing on the field on a particular play as opposed to just knowing their particular assignment. But the one thing the Somerset offensive line does not have a lot of is size.

"We try to make up for it by really focusing on techniques, like keeping low and keeping your feet moving," Andrew said. "We like to think of ourselves as an aggressive offensive line. We try to make up for it with toughness."

Andrew said the Wing T offense the Blue Raiders run also requires a lot of angle blocking where size is not as important for linemen.

Andrew said the "unsaid, unofficial goal" of the team this season has been to prove people wrong this year after an 0-11 record and a lot of criticism in the 2005 campaign. The Blue Raiders have made significant improvement this season with a 5-4 record and almost winning the Eastern Athletic Conference championship. Andrew pointed out that with a few breaks here and there in the close games Somerset lost, the Blue Raiders could very easily could have an 8-1 record.

"We wanted to come out and prove to people that we were in fact a good football team and we have done that," Andrew said.

At Somerset High School, Andrew was named a commended student by the National Merit Scholarship Program. He is a member of the National Honor Society, has received the Edgar Allan Poe Creative Writing Award, Outstanding Achievement in Geometry Award, Andrew Jackson Self-made Man Award and Bausch Lomb Science Award.

"He's a student for all seasons," Somerset High School Principal Robert Pineault said. "He's very dedicated. He confronts the challenges of academics."

Pineault said Andrew does a good job of balancing his classwork with the big commitment to the football team. He noted that Andrew also participates in

a lot of extracurricular activities. He was class president last year and a member of the Big Buddies, which is a group of students that helps out other students at the school and incoming freshman.

"He's really a very dedicated young man, a very nice young man," Pineault said.

The Thanksgiving game will be the final one for Andrew and some of those players who have helped to turn the team around this year. Andrew likes playing in the game. He remembers going to the game as a youngster with his father and brother.

"It's a good rivalry," Andrew said. "It's not bitter like some rivalries can be. It's fun."

Andrew is an avid New England Patriots fan and his favorite player is Tom Brady because he likes the way the quarterback performs well under pressure and the leadership he displays.

"Even if he's having a sub-par game, he's able to hold it together," Andrew said. "I respect that."

Andrew also likes to watch college football. As far as where he would like to go to college, he is looking at the University of Southern California, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania and New York University. He said he would like to major in business. While he may not be playing football for those colleges, the Thanksgiving Day game may not be the end of his involvement in the sport. In the future, he may use that football intelligence again to help out some young players like himself.

"Hopefully, some day when I have kids, I'll be coaching football," Andrew said.

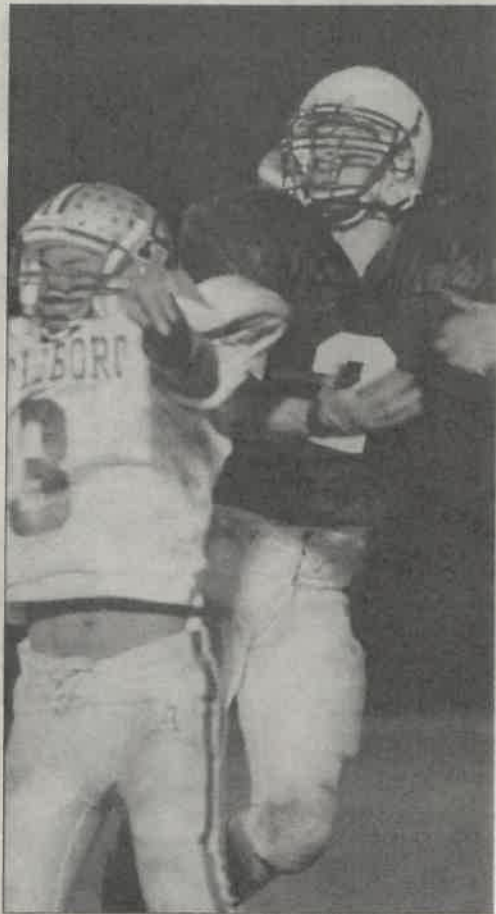


Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator

SOMERSET'S JUSTIN FULLER goes up for the ball against an Attleboro player in a game earlier this season. Fuller is key player on both offense and defense for the Blue Raiders, as a very powerful running back coming out of the backfield and in the defensive secondary where he has had a lot of interceptions over the last two years.

Bountiful Blessings

This time of year always seems to bring us a little closer together. We're thankful for the opportunity to serve you and wish each of you a bountiful holiday, full of blessings and goodwill. Enjoy the time with your family, and please visit us again soon.

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Good Luck to Both Teams And
Happy Thanksgiving to all

from

Arthur R. Machado
County Commissioner

Murgo: Athletic ability runs in this Swansea family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"He was outstanding [in those games]," said Coach Gibeau.

Athletic Director Bruce Cookson agrees, and said that all four Murgo siblings have left their mark on the athletic program at the high school.

"The Murgo family has had a rich history and career here at Case High School," said Mr. Cookson. "One of the things that characterizes all of them is they are fine quality human beings as well as fine athletes. I've enjoyed knowing everyone of them. They are kids who knew their roles in terms of what their goals were. They did well in the classroom and on the athletic fields and courts."

As good a player as Murgo has become on the gridiron, he didn't officially start playing football until he was in the fourth grade when he joined Pop Warner Little Scholars, a non-profit organization that provides youth football programs for children and adolescents throughout the United States.

"I always wanted to start playing football younger, but my parents wanted me to wait a little longer," said Murgo. "From watching the sport on TV, I've

always loved it and thought it would be an awesome sport to play someday."

After playing football for Pop Warner and at Case the past four years, Murgo is one of several seniors who will be playing in their last high school game on Thanksgiving.

"The Thanksgiving Day game is the highlight of the year for everyone," said Murgo. "But it's really sad knowing that all the time you spent on the field playing is going to be over after that. I'm going to miss it so much. It's been great being on this team."

While Thanksgiving Day will be the last time Murgo plays football for Case, he will still be involved in sports, playing for the baseball team in the spring. With graduation on the horizon, Murgo plans to attend a four-year college and would like to play football wherever he goes.

While Murgo is undecided on what to choose for a major, he said he could always follow in the path of his sisters who are all teachers or are planning to be.

"I'm thinking about becoming an mechanical engineer, but I'm still unsure," said Murgo. "Then again, I could follow in my sisters' footsteps and become a teacher."



Photo by BOB ALMEIDA/ The Spectator

CASE FOOTBALL PLAYER DAVE MURGO works on a drill in practice. While the Thanksgiving game may be the highlight of the season, Case head coach David Gibeau points out that the players work hard all season in practice and in games before the big holiday event.



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Preview: Teams are ready for the big game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mon opponents. Both of them beat Bishop Connolly. Somerset beat Case by a 36-0 score and Case by a 49-20 margin. Bishop Connolly star quarterback Shane Viveiros did not play in the game against Case. Somerset beat Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School, 23-6, while Case lost to the Falcons, 41-20. But the teams also played D-R under different circumstances. Somerset in its first game of the season at home and Case at the end of the season in an away game.

After an 0-11 season last year, the Blue Raiders will come into Thursday's matchup with a 5-4 record, overall and 3-1 record in the Eastern Athletic Conference. The Blue Raiders may have won the EAC championship if Bishop Stang had not scored a touchdown in the last minute of the game in a game at the Dartmouth school. Somerset has been on a roll as of late, having won three games in a row, including a victory over Bishop Feehan, a team the Blue Raiders had not beat since 1992.

Gibeau, who has been involved with the Thanksgiving Day game between Case and Somerset as a coach or player since 1968, said

he always gets excited about the game. He said there is a lot of special moments during the game and it is usually the last high school game for the seniors.

McKinnon will be leading the Blue Raiders in the Thanksgiving Day game for the second time. He is hoping for a better result than last year when his team lost at Cardinals Stadium.

"I think the Case/Somerset Thanksgiving Day game has always been a game of great emotion, regardless of seasonal outcome or records," McKinnon said. "We've played in some very big games this year, so we know what it is like to take the field under very emotional circumstances."

Gibeau said there are more people at the Thanksgiving Day game than during the rest of the season and a lot of people just come to that one game during the year. What gets lost, he said, is that the players work very hard in games and practices all season long leading up to the traditional game.

"These are real nice kids," Gibeau said. "They try their hardest. They execute the best they can. You can't be disappointed in them."



Photos by BOB ALMEIDA/The Spectator

SENIOR CAPTAIN JOEL BANASZEK, a running back, is one of Case's most dangerous weapons on offense.



#5 Brian Vaccaro
Somerset
WR/DB

*Happy Thanksgiving
to all of our friends.
Enjoy the game
—May the best team win!*



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**The Best of Luck to
All The Teams...**

Happy Thanksgiving

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SOMERSET'S BILL HUARD, seen here with the ball in a game against Attleboro, has seen action at both running back and defensive back this season.