



Unbeaten season on the line at the 60th Thanksgiving Classic



THE 2019 Div. North Champion MHS football team: front row left, Head Coach Tim Morris, Alex Brincheiro, Jesse Gardner, Brendan Maher, Mical Duntin, capt. William Pesce, capt. Jared Karelas, capt. Chris Cusolito, capt. Sean Herbert, Chris Allen, Eric Pimental, Micye Duntin, Tyrell Liles, Coach Jim Kent. 2nd row: Coach Trevor Rudolph, Ryan Maher, Tony DiFruscio, Jake Petitpas, Lian Whelan, Gavin Crowley, Frank Capaldo, Brendan Fennell, Matt Hickey, Andy George, Jake Rowe, Andrew Norton Jefferson, Joe Whitley, Coach Arthur Irsyk. 3rd row: Coach Paul Capaldo, Donald "DJ" Darwin, Mark Aylward, Charles Taggerty, Justin Camello, Brady Pitcher, Jamie Haggert, Mike Overlan, Jack Parella, Matt Dussault, Coach Spencer Walsh, coach Wayne Randolph. 4th row: Coach John Babula, Ryan McClintock, Shea Fogarty, Trevor Botto, Liam Maher, Kojee Khang, Rob Colozzo, Zach Federico, Luke Maher, Pat Lucian, Stefan Mackowski, Coach Mike Sasso, Coach Matt Montani. (Terry Bleiler photo)

Congratulations on an UNDEFEATED season!



FROM ALL OF US AT

brad hutchinson
Real Estate

193 Green Street, Melrose MA 02176
781-665-2222 • bradhutchinson.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING & GOOD LUCK AT THE GAMES!

Red Raiders and Warriors clash on Thanksgiving Day

109th meeting between rivals at home on Nov. 28

By JENNIFER GENTILE
MELROSE—If it's November, then it is football time between the Melrose Red Raiders and the Wakefield Warriors, two historical rivals who face each other for the 109th meeting this Thanksgiving in a rivalry that dates back to 1901. The 60th Melrose-Wakefield Thanksgiving Classic takes place next Thursday, Nov. 28 at Melrose's Fred Green Field at 10:15 a.m.

While the Super Bowl-bound Red Raiders await the Big Show, they must battle a revived Warrior team on Turkey Day. And will Melrose play their starters? Let's just say Coach Tim Morris always has, and it's always worked out.

"We play to win football," confirms Morris on Thanksgiving game preparation. "That's how you play and it's how we roll. Some years, we've played on a Saturday, then four days later on Thanksgiving and then go right to the Super Bowl, so you're squeezing many games in. Right now, we actually have an extra week this year to let our guys heal up."

The Red Raiders lead the series against Wakefield 61-41-6 and has topped the Warriors in six straight holiday contests. Melrose will look forward to extending that. And though Melrose fans are thinking Super Bowl (with good reason) the Red Raiders must focus on beating Wakefield if they want to take complete control of the Middlesex Freedom League—which they've already secured a claim to. Stone-



BEFORE SUPER Bowl, the Melrose Red Raiders must face rival Wakefield at home on Thanksgiving Day. Pictured is coach Tim Morris with his captains, from left: Chris Cusolito, Sean Herbert, Jared Karelis and Billy Pesce. (Terry Bleiler photo)

ham finished their season 4-1 in the Freedom League (Melrose was their only loss). A Warrior win would improve Wakefield to 4-1 in the league and a Melrose loss would finish their record 4-1 as well. Let's just say Melrose wants complete control of the league.

Last year, Melrose beat the Warriors, 34-13, on the road at Landrigan Field and now they will host a 6-4 Warrior team who is coming off two straight wins over North Reading and Dracut. Wakefield's record might not be spotless, but they have proven to be a team capable of surprises against brutally tough competition. They took care of Freedom rivals this year with victories over Wilmington, Watertown and Burlington and they also beat ML Large Belmont. Their victory over North Reading last week is certainly an indication that they are playing on high octane. So while Melrose certainly has the edge going in, don't expect Wakefield to roll over and play dead.

Leading the Warriors in QB duties is Joe Alden, though earlier quarterback efforts this season came from Wesley Pierre. Their best weapon is sophomore running back Aidan Sweeney, who scored 5 touchdowns over Dracut last week and another 5 against North Reading for a total of 21 on the season. Melrose will zero

Thanksgiving Football ticket information

Raiders host Wakefield, Nov. 28

MELROSE—The 60th Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic between the Melrose Red Raider football team and the Wakefield Warriors takes place at home on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28 at Melrose's Fred Green Field with a game time of 10:15 p.m.

Gray Appliance and City Hall as well as the Melrose High School main office. Prices are \$7:00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Students. Senior Citizens (60+) and children 10 and under are free.

All Game-Day tickets will be \$10.00.

Ticket information follows: Advance ticket purchase available at



FOOTBALL Page 7



MARTY'S FURNITURE COMPANY, INC.
• MARTY'S MATTRESS DEPOT •
99 Washington Street • Melrose, MA • 02176

MARTYSFURNITURE.COM
781-662-2400

*Happy Thanksgiving
and Good Luck
Red Raiders!*




Happy Thanksgiving from your friends at the Melrose Family YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A cornerstone of the Melrose community since 1894



Melrose Family YMCA | 497 Main St. Melrose, MA | 781-665-4360 | ymcametronorth.org

MHS Marching Band & Color Guard a Friday night special

Super Bowl will offer the best stage of all



THE 2019 Melrose High School Marching Band and Color Guard.

(Terry Bleiler photo)

By JENNIFER GENTILE
 MELROSE—They were the perfect partner to the Melrose Red Raider football team who punched their ticket to the Div. 4 Super Bowl and will battle to earn their second Super Bowl title in three seasons on Dec. 7. Whether it was braving cold and rain, or finding harmony in the humid nights of September, the Melrose High Band & Color Guard rocked the bleachers every Friday night at Fred Green Field with a thrilling soundtrack that accompanied home games. And now, they will play at the greatest stage of all: Gillette Stadium.

But the team is looking forward to another big spotlight at the 60th Annual Thanksgiving Classic held at home on Thursday, Nov. 28.

Led by Drum Major Chelsea Otaluka and Color Guard Captains Alessa Hatch & Kathryn Lawrence, Melrose has knocked the socks off of fans with their halftime show: "Reach for the Stars," a medley of multiple genres including music from "Enterprising Young Men (Star Trek)," Holst's "Jupiter," the

Coldplay hit "A Sky Full of Stars," and the Finale to Dvorak's New World Symphony. They feature two soloists, Cole Lepler on Baritone and Evan Vogan on Alto Sax.

The MHS Marching Band Staff is comprised of Marching Band Director Matthew Repucci, Assistant Marching Band Director Carlos Vivas, Head Color Guard Instructor Leanne Hogan, Color Guard Instructor Molly Margolis, Percussion Instructor Roger Brokelbank, Visual Instructor Andrea Hogan, Drill Writer Ed Devlin and Music Arranger Jack Tully.

Among the senior students on this squad are Dan Chase, Molly Corr, Christiana Csicsek, Alessa Hatch, Kathryn Lawrence, Cole Lepler, Chelsea Otaluka, Alessia Pari, Brian Pelrine, Alec Peterson, Ethan Pezzini, Katie Smith, Patrick Stringer, Lilli Sullivan, Liam Talbot and Evan Vogan.

This year, they have enjoyed an amplified postseason. Says band director Matt Repucci, "The team has had an incredible year with some really exciting games. The upperclassmen went to the Super Bowl back in 2017 and are glad

to do it again before graduating! We're lucky to have such a great football program. We get some really great performing opportunities and experience when we get to play for a packed crowd and [hopefully] go to Gillette every few years."

Melrose enjoyed one of their best NESBA competitive seasons this year. "It was probably our best overall season in recent years," confirms Repucci. "We have a really strong senior class and the rookies did a great job of adjusting to what we do very quickly." The team appeared in Finals this fall and there, they earned a gold medal. Noted the director, "All in all, it has been a great season for us."

One memorable night was a trip to perform in North Andover, up against a band in their division who had beaten Melrose by a point at Finals the prior year. "We really wanted to win this season opener. With the 'EEE' situation causing multiple schedule changes and field rehearsal times we needed to basically get off the bus, get our equipment unpacked

and go right on the field to perform. But the kids got off the bus and went right to the field and just nailed it. We took home first place by several points. It was an exciting way to start the season!"

Now they look for an even more

exciting way to finish it. A Thanksgiving win. Followed by a Super Bowl victory.

Check out the MHS Marching Band and Color Guard as they compete on Nov. 28 in Melrose on Thanksgiving Day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Go Red Raiders!



Robinson
FUNERAL HOME

809 MAIN STREET -MELROSE
(781) 665-1900

WWW.ROBINSONFUNERALHOME.COM





LEADING EDGE
REAL ESTATE

LEADING EDGE
real estate

Out front.
And always behind you.

536 Main Street
MELROSE, MA

Eileen Hamblin 781-820-6020
Lynette DeLucia 781-983-9231
Kate Cannon Cote 781-454-5588

MHS Cheerleading feeling "Super" this season

By JENNIFER GENTILE

MELROSE—Just two years ago the MHS Cheer team got to soak up the atmosphere at Gillette Stadium as the Melrose Red Raiders won its first ever Super Bowl. Now, they're going back.

It represents a culmination of a very successful season for the team, coached by Julie Pino and Meaghan DelGenio, who recently qualified for Regionals and competed last weekend at North Andover High.

Among those who represented Melrose there were Olivia Martineau, Brooke Heidebrecht, Talia Herbert, Jessica Glynn, Olivia Lavery, Olivia Hitchman, Megan Maggio, Gianna Market, Itia Figueira, Catherine Mullaney, Liz Grava, Lauren Overlan, Bella Fiore, Kiera Brady, Taylor Pesce, Madigan Laidlaw, Erin Doherty, Kayla Saunders, Anna Brincheiro, Emma Mignacca and Sofia Barletta.

Their senior captains are Olivia Lavery and Jessica Glynn.

Rain or shine, this squad rose to the occasion and helped support the 10-0 Red Raiders all season, and next, will set their sights to performance on the highest level of all: Gillette Stadium.

Good luck girls. And go Melrose!



THE 2019 MHS Football Cheerleaders. Pictured: bottom row from left: Olicia Martineau, Brooke Heidebrecht, Talia Herbert, Jessica Glynn, Olivia Lavery, Olivia Hitchman, Megan Maggio, Giana Market, Itia Figueira. Back row: Catherine Mullaney, Liz Grava, Lauren Overlan, Bella Fiore, Kiera Brady, Taylor Pesce, Madigan Laidlaw, Erin Doherty, Kayla Saunders, Anna Brincheiro, Emma Mignacca, Sofia Barletta. (Terry Bleiler photo)

Happy Thanksgiving
Let's Go Red Raiders!

Melrose Bank
 COMMUNITY BANKING. DONE WELL.

visit melrosebank.com
 call 781.665.2500

638 Main Street, Melrose

Member FDIC Member SIF



SENIORS OLIVIA Lavery (left) and Jessica Glynn (right) led the 2019 MHS Cheer Team. (courtesy photo)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Good Luck Red Raiders!

LEADINGEDGE
 real estate

617-548-3180 Agent
781-979-0100 x405 Office
AnnetteGregorio.com

Annette Gregorio



Melrose-Wakefield Through the years

1901	Melrose 12, Wakefield 0	1970	Wakefield 20, Melrose 0
1903	Melrose 5, Wakefield 0	1971	Melrose 32, Wakefield 20
1904	Melrose 50, Wakefield 0	1972	Melrose 28, Wakefield 14
1918	Wakefield 12, Melrose 7	1973	Wakefield 18, Melrose 0
1919	Wakefield 6, Melrose 0	1974	Melrose 50, Wakefield 26
1920	Melrose 20, Wakefield 6	1975	Wakefield 24, Melrose 16
1921	Wakefield 26, Melrose 6	1976	Melrose 24, Wakefield 14
1922	Melrose 26, Wakefield 0	1977	Melrose 30, Wakefield 6
1923	Melrose 12, Wakefield 0	1978	Melrose 24, Wakefield 6
1924	Melrose 27, Wakefield 0	1979	Wakefield 14, Melrose 0
1925	Melrose 33, Wakefield 0	1980	Melrose 14, Wakefield 0
1926	Melrose 14, Wakefield 0	1981	Melrose 12, Wakefield 7
1927	Melrose 57, Wakefield 0	1982	Melrose 31, Wakefield 20
1928	Melrose 40, Wakefield 12	1983	Melrose 16, Wakefield 7
1929	Melrose 37, Wakefield 0	1984	Melrose 14, Wakefield 7
1930	Melrose 33, Wakefield 0	1985	Wakefield 14, Melrose 0
1931	Melrose 0, Wakefield 0	1986	Wakefield 32, Melrose 0
1932	Melrose 13, Wakefield 13	1987	Wakefield 15, Melrose 14
1933	Melrose 6, Wakefield 0	1988	Melrose 26, Wakefield 10
1934	Melrose 40, Wakefield 0	1989	Wakefield 10, Melrose 6
1935	Melrose 13, Wakefield 0	1990	Wakefield 0, Melrose 0
1936	Melrose 6, Wakefield 0	1991	Wakefield 14, Melrose 13
1937	Melrose 13, Wakefield 0	1992	Melrose 20, Wakefield 6
1938	Melrose 7, Wakefield 0	1993	Wakefield 17, Melrose 14
1939	Melrose 7, Wakefield 0	1994	Wakefield 14, Melrose 0
1940	Melrose 6, Wakefield 0	1995	Wakefield 28, Melrose 27
1941	Melrose 7, Wakefield 0	1996	Wakefield 3, Melrose 0
1942	Melrose 19, Wakefield 0	1997	Wakefield 12, Melrose 0
1943	Melrose 13, Wakefield 6	1998	Wakefield 20, Melrose 17
1944	Melrose 6, Wakefield 0	1999	Wakefield 14, Melrose 14
1945	Wakefield 7, Melrose 6	2000	Wakefield 34, Melrose 13
1946	Melrose 13, Wakefield 0	2001	Wakefield 35, Melrose 14
1947	Wakefield 6, Melrose 0	2002	Wakefield 12, Melrose 7
1948	Melrose 7, Wakefield 6	2003	Wakefield 20, Melrose 14
1949	Wakefield 8, Melrose 0	2004	Wakefield 7, Melrose 3
1950	Melrose 7, Wakefield 0	2005	Wakefield 27, Melrose 7
1951	Wakefield 27, Melrose 13	2006	Wakefield 21, Melrose 0
1952	Wakefield 19, Melrose 0	2007	Melrose 15, Wakefield 14
1953	Wakefield 34, Melrose 0	2008	Wakefield 34, Melrose 27
1954	Melrose 12, Wakefield 0	2009	Wakefield 14, Melrose 13
1955	Wakefield 39, Melrose 13	2010	Wakefield 15, Melrose 7
1956	Melrose 21, Wakefield 18	2011	Wakefield 3, Melrose 0
1957	Wakefield 25, Melrose 13	2012	Melrose 28, Wakefield 15
1958	Melrose 14, Wakefield 14	2013	Wakefield 17, Melrose 14 (1)
1959	Melrose 20, Wakefield 6	2013	Melrose 13, Wakefield 7 (2)
1960	Melrose 12, Wakefield 8	2014	Melrose 17, Wakefield 15 (1)
1961	Wakefield 22, Melrose 12	2014	Melrose 24, Wakefield 0 (2)
1962	Melrose 0, Wakefield 0	2014	Melrose 15, Wakefield 14 (3)
1963	Melrose 34, Wakefield 6	2015	Melrose 21, Wakefield 0 (1)
1964	Wakefield 27, Melrose 18	2015	Melrose 27, Wakefield 8 (2)
1965	Wakefield 14, Melrose 6	2016	Melrose 28, Wakefield 8
1966	Melrose 22, Wakefield 12	2017	Melrose 35, Wakefield 12
1967	Melrose 8, Wakefield 6	2018	Melrose 34, Wakefield 13
1968	Melrose 50, Wakefield 13		
1969	Melrose 20, Wakefield 6		

Melrose leads series, 61-41-6

Middlesex League ruled by usual suspects

2019 saw Melrose, Stoneham go the distance

By JENNIFER GENTILE

MELROSE—This season the Middlesex Freedom League was once again a top-notch league in Massachusetts high school football, with two neighboring teams vying for a Super Bowl appearance. One got in (Melrose) one just fell shy (Stoneham) last Friday evening in North sectional finals. The Spartans lost to Bishop Fenwick for a chance to get to Gillette Stadium.

Unlike in 2018, Melrose has remained perfect in the ML League at 4-0 and barring a loss to Wakefield on Thanksgiving, should own the Freedom League title individually this season. Across the way in the Liberty (Large) division, Winchester (8-1) proved to be the top dog, though it was Reading (7-2) who clinched the league title at 5-0. Reading was eliminated by North Andover in playoff semi-finals.

It wasn't much of a surprise that Melrose and Stoneham led the top

of the pack in the Freedom, given that they returned some quality upperclassmen. Stoneham, winner of last year's Super Bowl, came into the league as a team to beat and Melrose did that on Oct. 4 by a score of 28-21. Stoneham represented Melrose's toughest opponent among all the games leading to the Super Bowl, which says a lot about Bob Almeida's program.

Wakefield emerged as the third-best team in the league, an improvement over the last two seasons. They qualified for playoffs but were eliminated by Wayland in the opening round. However, they just finished their season at 6-4, their best record since 2012. Burlington, Watertown and Wilmington finished with disappointing seasons after consecutive years of competitive ones, which only proves that things can happen fast in the Middlesex League. Next year's winners could be anyone's guess.

Stay tuned.



Two of the best values in Senior Living.



MELROSE



WAKEFIELD

Oosterman's Rest Homes offer quality care at \$30,000 less per year than other area Senior Living options.

Call Kate Oosterman at 781-665-3188.



Oosterman's Rest Homes

Our family caring for your family since 1946

www.oostermanresthomes.com

Happy Thanksgiving!



Tarpey Insurance Group

781-246-2677

www.tarpeyinsurance.com



Lexington & Newton locations too

GO RED RAIDERS!



Quality Service For Over 25 Years

WAKEFIELD
422 Water St.
781-246-2677

MELROSE
109 W. Foster St.
781-665-1034

SAUGUS
38 Main St.
617-527-6070

Out of this world



THE MELROSE High Marching Band enjoyed “universal” praise for their halftime performance, “Reach for the Stars.” Here, one lucky band member got to represent a space traveler, and kept warm on a frosty football night. (Steve Karampalas photo)

Waving the flag



MEMBERS OF the MHS Marching Band and Color Guard weren't just a Friday Night staple at Fred Green Field, they also competed—and won—a gold medal during their fall competitive season. (Steve Karampalas photo)



THE FITCH

Senior Living on Ell Pond



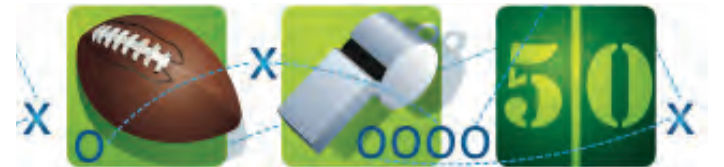
Happy Thanksgiving

from our home to yours

Learn about our bed & breakfast style community at fitchhome.org or call to schedule a tour today!

75 Lake Ave, Melrose MA 02176 • 781-665-0521

The Fitch Home, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.



2019 Red Raider football scores

9/13 Malden,	47-6, W
9/21 Lin-Sud,	41-7, W
9/27 Wilmington,	48-14, W
10/4 Stoneham,	28-21, W
10/11 Woburn,	35-6, W
10/18 Burlington,	49-14, W
10/25 Watertown,	47-0 W
11/1 Burlington*	48-9 W
11/8 Marblehead*	26-14 W
11/15 Revere*	41-7 W
Total Scoring	410-98 (41% PF 9.8% PA)

*denotes playoffs

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Celebrating

1869
150
2019

Years

The Savings Bank

Local. Innovative. Trusted.



800-246-2009 | www.tsbawake24.com



Since 1869



Member FDIC | Member DIF

Double trouble



MUCH OF Melrose's success this season has come of the broad shoulders of brothers Mical Duntin (#52) and Micye Duntin (#53). The linemen have been downright hazardous to league rivals and are no doubt attracting college scouts. But first, they will play on the greatest high school stage of all: Gillette Stadium. Here, they are pictured with their family on Senior Night. (Steve Karampalas photo)

FOOTBALL Continued from Page 2

in on Sweeney but could also find wide receiver Wesley Pierre, running back Tucker Stickman and fullback/linebacker Dan Hurley tricky. Hurley is also a lights-out kicker so expect Wakefield to utilize options during the game.

Overall, Wakefield coach John Rafferty, now in his second year, has helped turn around a Warrior team whose record now represents their best since 2012. Says Morris, "I've known Rafferty forever, I've coached with him here. No question, his coaching Wakefield was going to improve the program. Overall, it makes the league better."

As to what to expect on the field? "As always, Wakefield is big up front, and they run a power offense," says Morris. "Obviously, their #22 [Sweeney] is quite strong. Wakefield is putting things together right now and playing

good football. They had some quality wins over some tough competition."

But Melrose has already made it clear they are loaded with weapons. Chris Cusolito leads the division with 25 touchdowns this season and quarterback Brendan Fennell gets better each game, throwing for over 300 yards in his last two games. Even if they target Cusolito that only opens up Fennell, Jack Hickey and Billy Pesce on a running game. Wakefield will have to contend with a loaded defense in the form of Billy Pesce, Mical and Micye Duntin, Jared Karelak, playmaker king Sean Herbert, great receivers in Matt Dussault and Brendan Maher and a game-changing Charlie Haggerty, who makes life miserable for rival quarterbacks.

What is clear that these two neighbors are playing peak foot-


ball and will leave it all on the field on Thanksgiving Day. Expect a

competitive and enjoyable match between two longtime rivals start-


ing at 10:15 at Fred Green Field.



Good Luck to the Melrose Red Raiders! Happy Thanksgiving!



Christopher C Cinella
Financial Advisor
502 Main St
Melrose, MA 02176
781-665-0135



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



QUICK DISPOSAL

**Need a dumpster?
Call us today:
781-246-2090**

Dumpster Rentals • Cleanouts
www.quickdisposal.com



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Hometown support



THERE WERE no empty bleachers this season during the Melrose Red Raider's home games. A Thanksgiving-size, capacity crowd watched as the Melrose Red Raiders slaughtered Revere 40-7 last Friday to punch their ticket to Gillette Stadium. These devoted fans are sure to be among those who will make their way to Foxboro on Dec. 7. (Steve Karampalas photo)



Hartshorne & Curley Insurance
Professionals Since 1870

Happy Thanksgiving!



Go Red Raiders!

35 Albion St. Wakefield
781-245-0033 or 781-245-4300

Visit our web site at:
www.curleyins.com or www.hartshorneins.com

Banging the drum



MEMBERS OF the MHS Marching Band Drum Line are in formation prior to the start of the Melrose Red Raider football game against Marblehead on Nov. 8. It was a frigid night but nothing was going to stop this squad from offering a winning soundtrack. Melrose won the game to advance to North finals. (Steve Karampalas photo)



LUCEY'S SERVICE STATION

- Gas & Diesel
- Brakes
- Oil Changes
- Air Conditioners
- Tires
- A/C
- Roadside Service
- Towing
- Check Engine Light
- Scheduled Dealer Maintenance

Happy Thanksgiving
Go Red Raiders!

Celebrating Over 50 Years!

(781) 665-9891
www.LuceysServiceStation.com

889 Main St. Melrose



Happy Thanksgiving!



Established in 1889

GATELY FUNERAL HOME

130 Years of Continuous Service



Go Red Raiders!

John W. Gately
781-665-1949
79 W. Foster St., Melrose
www.gatelyfh.com