



THE NEDLAM NEWS

Volume II No. 11 November 19, 2018



Malden High students take part in historic Veterans Day Parade

By Steve Freker
For the Malden Public Schools

A patriotic contingent of Malden High School students participated in the Annual Malden Veterans Day Parade on November 11. This year's parade was particularly noteworthy considering it came on the 100th Anniversary of the ending of World War I, known as "The Great War" until World War II erupted 21 years later. In addition, the city unveiled a new, complete memorial of the nearly 3,000 Malden residents *See Page 4*

MHS BAND MEMBERS PERFORM TAPS:

Above, from left, Malden High freshman Shai Cohen and sophomore Wilson Chau perform the military standard, Taps, at the unveiling ceremony of a new World War I Memorial at Devir Park. Below, the new memorial is dedicated. *Above, Courtesy/Malden Advocate and Below, Courtesy/Malden Public Schools*



MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT



The Malden High School community believes in the potential of all students to learn, to grow and to become active, conscientious participants in the 21st century global society. We believe that students learn most effectively in a safe, respectful environment that encourages diverse viewpoints, promotes critical thinking and perseverance and establishes vigorous standards for all. We honor the diverse nature of our Malden community, promote social awareness and community involvement and strive to meet the needs of all students through innovative methods and continued continued professional development. We are committed to ensuring that Malden High School graduates are thoughtful, independent, purpose-driven, lifelong learners. We seek to equip all students with the skills and habits necessary to successfully navigate and contribute to our ever-changing world.



***COME & HELP
'NEDLAM' cheer
on the Tornado
Football Team on
Thanksgiving Day***

The Malden High School Football Team is hosting holiday rival Medford High this Thursday, November 22 @ 10:00 a.m at Macdonald Stadium, Pearl Street, Malden in Game #131 of this ancient series. This is the **SECOND-OLDEST Continuous High School Football Rivalry in the **NATION!!!****

Tickets to the game are \$7.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Students and may be purchased in the Athletic Office, H101 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. ALL TICKETS WILL BE \$7.00 GENERAL ADMISSION on the DAY of the GAME! See you there!!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Plenty to be thankful for
when it comes to Malden
High School, its staff and
our wonderful students**

**To All Malden High School Educators, Staff,
Students and Administrators:**

First, to everyone who celebrates the holiday here at Malden High School, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! In addition to the traditional trappings and festivities surrounding the holiday, which harkens back nearly 400 years to the Pilgrims, Thanksgiving also brings with a spirit of kinship and camaraderie among our family and friends. In a nod to history, while many will celebrate Thanksgiving this Thursday, the third one of November, the First Thanksgiving is believed to have taken place right here in Plymouth, Mass. somewhere between September and November, 1621.



Mr. Mastrangelo

There is much to be thankful for as we begin to celebrate Thanksgiving 2018 this week. Marking the first Thanksgiving I personally will be celebrating as Malden High School Principal, I have to express what great pleasure it brings me to have the honor of coming into our school day and working with such an amazing staff of professional, talented, compassionate and driven educators, administrators and support members. Our students are so extremely fortunate to be educated, guided and nurtured by our MHS staff — every day. Please let me tell you how thankful I am while acknowledging how much our staff appreciates one another. Also, we are thankful — every day — for the truly unique, energetic, talented, inquisitive student body we are blessed with here at Malden High School. At MHS we possess the most diverse high school population in Massachusetts and over diversity IS our strength. We continue to excel in and out of the classroom and it is an honor to work with you every day! *Continued Next Page*

MHS Speech & Debate Team

Members have an impressive showing in first outing



Nearly 80 members of the Malden High School Senior Class of 2019 who achieved the honor of qualifying for a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship gathered this past week for a group photo where they were acknowledged and recognized for their achievement. The Adams Scholarship provides up to eight semesters of Free Tuition to any state college or university for students who achieve “Advanced” or “Proficient” levels in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment (MCAS) Tests in ELA (English Language Arts) and Mathematics. This scholarship has a total value of between \$12,000 and \$20,000 for the families of Malden students. Above, MHS Principal Mr. Mastrangelo (shown above, back row, center) and other administrators and educators were on hand at a special breakfast held to congratulate and acknowledge this impressive achievement. *Courtesy Photo/MHS staff*

MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

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As we know, Thanksgiving also brings “Spirit Week” to Malden High School and I would like to give a special ‘shout out” to Mr. Marques, the members of the National Honor Society (which he advises) and our Class Advisors for the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 classes, for all the time they have spent planning for what is one of the most highly-anticipated weeks of the school year. It should be a lot of fun and may the best class win! Speaking of winning I hope everyone is planning on attending Thursday’s 131st Thanksgiving Day (10 a.m. at home versus Medford) and “Senior Day” for the MHS Football Team. I have attended most of the games this year and the team has improved dramatically since the season started and they are poised of a big win! Finally, another big thank you to all who combined for a very successful Parent-Teacher Conference Night this past Wednesday. This is a very valuable way to establish educator-parent relationships. It was easy to see lot of those relationships being formed at Parent-Teacher Night. Well done.

Mr. Mastrangelo— Principal

Malden High School Band & MHS YMCA Leaders participate in historic Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11

Historic 100th anniversary of World War I Armistice

Continued from Page One

who served in World War I at a special monument at Devir Park on the Fellsway in Malden. At the special dedication of the new monument, which drew hundreds of Malden and area residents, city and state leaders and many veterans. Three Malden High Band members, senior Jesaias Benitez, sophomore Wilson Chau and freshman Shai Cohen had the honor of performing the military instrumental standard, "Taps" at the well-attended ceremony. See Photo, Page One



Some senior members of the Malden High School Band before the parade. From left to right Sebastian Romani Mendoza, Renet Chan, Salma Bezzat, Libby Taylor, and Dijana Masic. *Courtesy Photo/Nefira Masi/Blue and Gold*

Members of the Malden YMCA Leaders group, most of whom are MHS students, assisted the MHS Band at the historic Veterans Day Parade



The Malden High School Alumni Association, Inc's purpose is to establish a non-profit organization to enhance and preserve the image, prestige, and traditions of the Malden High School; to reconnect with the graduates of Malden High School; to create awareness of the history of the high school, the activities, location and achievements of its graduates; to protect, preserve and display the school's artifacts, papers and photographs; to develop programs, publications, newsletters, public speakers bureau, and any and every type of communication network and outreach activity www.maldenhighalumni.com

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO
'THE NEDLAM NEWS'!
LET'S SHARE THE GOOD
NEWS ABOUT MHS!**

Do you have some good news to share about students, teachers, administrators and other staff members? An extracurricular activity, club or sports team? There is LOTS of Good News @ Malden High School! Let's share it with EVERYONE! Mr. Mastrangelo encourages everyone to email Steve Freker @ sfreker@maldenps.org with any news you like to share: stories, snippets, photos, announcement of meetings, events coming... and ones held. **THE NEDLAM NEWS** appears every Monday in your Inbox and is then shared on the District website www.maldenps.org

HERE'S the Rundown on Thanksgiving Week @ MHS:

Monday, 11/18- Full day of classes
 Tuesday, 11/19- Full day of classes
 Wednesday, 11/20- SPIRIT DAY... Students to gym @ 920am
 Thursday, 11/21- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving
 Fri., 11/22- NO SCHOOL



THIS WEEK'S Notes & Calendar

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19—It's "PAJAMA DAY" for Spirit Week Today... Time to Relaxxxxx and "Rep Those PJs"!!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20—Get funky today and wear your WORST! It's WACKY TACKY DAY and you are expected to stun and shock your classmates and peers with the most outrageous costume/apparel you can dream up... it's Spirit Week! ,,,,, NO Peer Tutoring TUESDAY at Malden HS Library

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21—SPIRIT DAY! (and also also half day of school, released 11:10

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22—HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Go cheer on the Golden Tornado football team, hosting Medford @ 10:00 in Game #131

Malden Public Schools Calendar for 2018-2019

MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2018 (2 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
27*	28*	29	30	X

8/27* First Day for Teachers
 8/28* Prof Dev Day - All Grds
 8/29 First Day of School for Grades PreK, 1-12
 8/29-9/4 Kindergarten Orientation/Screening
 8/31 No School

SEPTEMBER 2018 (19 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
X	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

9/3 Labor Day
 9/5 First Day of School for Kindergarten

OCTOBER 2018 (22 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
X	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

10/5 Early Dismissal PreK-12
 10/8 Columbus Day
 10/15 Late Entry Day MHS

NOVEMBER 2018 (18 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6*	7	8	9
X	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	X	X
26	27	28	29	30

11/5 Late Day Entry MHS
 11/6* Prof Dev Day-All Grds
 11/12 Veterans Day
 11/21 11:00 Dismissal
 11/22-23 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2018 (15 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
X	X	X	X	X
X				

12/10 Late Entry MHS
 12/21 11:00 Dismissal
 12/24-1/1 Winter Vacation

JANUARY 2019 (21 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
	X	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
X	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

1/2 School Resumes
 1/11 Early Dismissal PreK-12
 1/7 Late Entry MHS
 1/21 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2019 (14 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15*
X	X	X	X	X
25	26	27	28	

2/4 Late Entry MHS
 2/15* Prof Dev Day-All Grds
 2/18-22 February Vacation

MARCH 2019 (21 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

3/4 Late Entry MHS
 3/8 Early Dismissal PreK-12

APRIL 2019 (17 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
X	X	X	X	X
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

4/1 Late Entry MHS
 4/5 Early Dismissal PreK-12
 4/15-19 Spring Vacation

MAY 2019 (22 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
X	28	29	30	31

5/3 Early Dismissal PreK-12
 5/6 Late Entry MHS
 5/27 Memorial Day

JUNE 2019 (9 Days)				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	

6/13 Last day w/o snow days - 11:00 Dismissal
 6/20 Last day w/five snow days - 11:00 Dismissal

First Day for Teachers – Monday, August 27, 2018

Please note that five (5) additional days are built into the calendar in case of inclement weather

Happy Education Support
Professionals Day!



#WeLoveOurESP

This was on Nov. 14... Still not too late for a Belated 'Shout out' Thank You!



Malden HS crew represents @ the 54th Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston



Malden High School crew members and crew coach competed in the recent Head of the Charles regatta held on the Charles River in Boston. Included were Libby Taylor, Jamie Parker, Paige Pimental, Vicky Pham and Crew coach Shauna Campbell. *Courtesy Photo/MHS Crew*



Looking for a job? The job coach will be at MHS every Monday to assist you with the process! See Ms. Belowsky in the Brunelli house office or Mrs. Collomb in H204 to schedule an appointment. Looking for assistance with Interview Skills? Stop by B340 on Monday, October 15 at 2:45.

DID YOU KNOW?

That according to state financial records, **SEVEN** Malden residents out of **60,837** were millionaires last year.... that is, they earned \$1 million or more for the year. Taking a look around: **Medford** had **20** millionaire earners in **2017**. **Everett** had zero in that category. **Melrose** had the most in the area with **43**. **Revere** had nine.

Malden-Medford Game #131 Thursday!



The 2018 Malden High Football Team includes, back row, from left, Max Mitchie, David Jean Pierre, Joshua Pierre, Yafiet Weldai, Paccini Louis, Justin Desimone, Sammy Solzarano, Matt Bessey, Darrens Roc, Muneer Odally, MacKenley Anasthal, Jude Alphonse, Bethony Joseph, Saul Lemus Aguilar, Devonte Joseph, Edmond Rhiess, JJ Perez. Fourth Row, from left, Carolina Cuevas, Lynsky Georges, Ivan Tao, JJ Costa, Caleb Wright, Justin Nortelis, Khali Hardmond, Ray Duggan, Dantevius Garcia and Gabriel Barbosa. Third row, from left, Georges Guillaume, Sam Ortega, Eliezer Beato, Maciel Beato, Eliezer Santiago and Nicholas Cardoso. Second row, from left, Leon MacFarlane, Amilcar Ferreira, Evan Heon, Ishmael Sylus, Peterson Maxis, Makai Patterson, Sebastien Blanc, Wootchy Pierre Rene and Sean Stout, Front row, from left, junior Captain Jerry Mervil and senior Captains Matthew Figuerido, Raushad Moore and Tyler Martineau. *Courtesy/Mr. Valente*



The MALDEN HIGH CHEERLEADER, led by Coach Melanie Philbrook have had a great season, placing Second in the Northeast and competing the in the State Championships yesterday.

MHS ATHLETICS:

Time's flying! If you intend on trying out for WINTER basketball, hockey, indoor track, swim or wrestling... you need to have all your **PAPERWORK Set!!**



At left, members of the Malden High coed swim team compete in a meet. Above, the Tornado girls basketball team and Coach Marino.

If you are interested in playing a WINTER Sport start filling out your paperwork now. If you played a FALL Sport you need to fill out a new Concussion Form. If you did not play a FALL Sport you need to fill out Appendix A, B, C, D and Concussion Form.

You can find the required paperwork outside the Athletic Office - Room H101. If you do not have an Appendix D Form signed off by Ms. Marquardo or Mr. Conefrey for a WINTER Sport you will not be allowed to tryout starting on Monday, November 26, 2018.

Annual 'Don't Be Alone on Thanksgiving' Dinner once again will be hosted in Cafe 'A' @ Malden H.S. on Thursday, November 22 *Full-Course, Free Community Dinner offered 12 noon-200 pm*

The annual "Don't Be Alone On Thanksgiving" free community turkey dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018, noon - 2pm, at the Malden High School cafeteria, 77 Salem Street (enter from the rear entrance off of Ferry Street or from Salem Street near the Ferry Street intersection.)

The dinner is free and open to anyone who would like to enjoy a wonderful holiday meal in good company. No reservations are needed. The site is handicap accessible. The event is sponsored by Bread of Life, Anthony's of Malden, Forestdale Community Church in Malden, Hoff's Bakery, Knights of Columbus IC Council 13966, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson, Malden High School, Tim Rufo & Friends, and the staff of Salemwood School in Malden.

Donations of roasted turkeys (preferably de-boned) are much-needed and would be appreciated. They may be brought to the Malden High School cafeteria, rear entrance off of Ferry Street, on Wednesday, November 21 from 4 - 7:30 pm.

About one hundred volunteers pitch in each year to prepare about 900 meals for a sitdown feast and delivery to senior

citizens who are home-bound. To volunteer in the kitchen or dining hall on Thanksgiving Day, between 8am and 4pm, or on the evening before from 4-7pm, call Bread of Life, 781-397-0404 or email: info@breadoflifemalden.org.

To volunteer delivering meals on Thanksgiving Day to elderly

residents in Malden, Medford, Everett, Winthrop, Chelsea, Revere, Melrose, Wakefield, Stoneham, Reading or North Reading, please call Gene Pinkham at 781-321-0994 (eve) or email: pinkhamgene@gmail.com.

DON'T BE ALONE
on Thanksgiving Day

Join us for a **FREE**
Community Turkey Dinner

Thursday, November 22, 2018
12 Noon - 2 PM
Malden High School, 77 Salem Street
(enter from Ferry St. entrance)

Sponsored by:
Bread of Life
Anthony's of Malden
Forestdale Community Church, Malden
Knights of Columbus IC Council #13966
Marty's Caterers, Stoneham
Malden High School
Malden Mayor Gary Christenson
Tim Rufo & Friends
Salemwood School Staff, Malden

Donations of baked goods
& roasted turkeys
would be appreciated!

Volunteers are needed to
help set up, serve, &
clean up

To volunteer to deliver meals:
contact Gene Pinkham
email:
pinkhamgene@gmail.com
phone:
781-321-0994

For information on
dinner, donating food,
or volunteering:
email:
info@breadoflifemalden.org
phone:
781-397-0404

All dinner guests must provide their own transportation. This site is handicap-accessible.

'SPIRIT DAY' is COMING!: Wednesday, November 21

Spirit Day Schedule

(NOTE: Times are approximate and may vary.)

Preliminary rounds of just the teams:

- 7:55 All Spirit Day Team Members and NHS Members go to the Gym.
- 8:00 to 8:15 Weigh in for the Tug-of-War if not already done. Weight of team \leq 1234 lbs
Team must be made up of as an equal number of boys & girls as possible.
- 8:15 to 8:25 Volleyball preliminary games: (8 players per team 4 girls and 4 boys)
#1 senior against freshman
Juniors and Sophomores Practice Basketball Free Throws
- 8:25 to 8:35 Volleyball preliminary games: (8 players per team 4 girls and 4 boys)
#2 juniors against sophomores
Seniors and freshman practice Basketball Free Throws
- 8:35 to 8:45 Volleyball consolation game (played between the 2 teams who lost the 1st round)
- 8:45 to 8:55 Volleyball Finals (Played between the 2 teams who won 1st round)
- 8:55 to 9:00 Tug of War: Sr. vs. Fr.
- 9:00 to 9:05 Tug of War: Jr. vs. Soph.
- 9:05 to 9:10 Preliminary Tug of War (team consists of as many players as possible whose weight adds up to 1,234 pounds)
#1 Jr. Vs. So
#2 Sr. Vs. Fr
- 9:10 to 9:20 Practice Human Pyramid (All teams)

Whole School enters the gym:

- 9:20 to 9:30 All school enters gym to band playing music
- 9:30 to 9:40 Principal speaks / Chorus does National Anthem / Moment of Silence
- 9:40 – 9:45 Dance Group Performs: MHS Step Team
- 9:45 to 9:50 Dance Group Performs: MHS Break Dance Team
- 9:50 to 10:00 Cheerleaders Perform
- 10:00 to 10:05 Senior Football players/ cheerleaders introduced Team
- 10:05 to 10:10 Basketball free throw (all team)
- 10:10 to 10:20 Pull Ups OR Push Ups (1 girl and 1 boy each team)
- 10:20 to 10:30 Human Pyramid (10 students 5 girls 5 guys)
- 10:30 to 10:35 Under-Over game
- 10:40 to 10:45 If needed to fill time: Gut Buster run (1 boy and 1 girl) and/or Obstacle Course
- 10:45 to 10:50 Tug of War (Consolations and Finals)
- 10:50 to 11:00 Official Tally of Points – Announce Results – Dismissal

Which Class will win SPIRIT WEEK????

Today: Pajama Day... Tues.: Wacky-Tacky
Wed.: Spirit Week Competition Events....



Fundraiser

Thursday, January 17, 2019
at Kowloon

Comedy
LIVE



6:00-6:30 - Cocktails
6:30-7:30 - Food Served
7:30-8:30 - Comedy Hour
8:30-10:00 - Our Time
Ticket Price \$45.00



MHSAA Pasta Supper Saturday November 24, 2018 following the City of Malden Parade & Tree Lighting

Anthony's of
Malden
105 Canal Street
Malden



Time:
5-7 PM

Price:
Adults-\$15
All Students
K-12-\$10
Children under
5 yrs are
FREE



Bring the family for dinner, dancing,
games, prizes, raffles and a visit from Santa.

For questions contact: Carol Scally at 781-438-0864



Sponsored by: Malden High School Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 47 Malden, MA. 02148 Tel: 781-397-6051

All proceeds go to help MHS students in need.

Malden Rising Leaders held a well-attended public forum on the evening of November 15 to discuss their drive to lower the voting age to 16! Many were on hand at the Malden Senior Center auditorium, 7 Washington St., Malden that night to support them!

MALDEN HIGH SENIORS looking for college financial aid assistance.. come and talk to some experienced uAspire advisors!

Angela Wright, a College Affordability Advisor at uAspire for Malden High School will be in B337 on Tuesdays & Thursdays, Please sign up to see Angela at malden-uaspire.youcanbook.me. This year, she will advise students and families through the college affordability and financial aid process. She is discussing financial safety schools, creating FSA IDs, filling out FAFSAs and CSS Profiles, comparing award letters, and much more!

MALDEN UNIFIED BASKETBALL SHINES!

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU To Coach Joe Taglieri, Director of Athletics Charlie Conefrey, all the team's players, MHS Boys Basketball team members who helped, the Malden Public Schools administration & all those who supported and cheered for Malden High's **FIRST EVER** Unified Basketball Team, which was a **HUGE SUCCESS** in its Inaugural Season! Can't wait 'til next year!!



THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL IS TRADITION in MALDEN!

By Steve Freker

Of all the holidays out there, and all the trappings of tradition that accompany them, Thanksgiving and tradition are one and the same, especially if you are involved in sports and particularly if football is one of those sports.

Thanksgiving IS tradition if you live in Massachusetts and you follow high school football. There is nothing else that dominates the conversation, that triggers the anticipation and builds up to such a crescendo of emotion, mixed with anxiety, elation and sometimes, ending in sadness. It's tough to say, but even if the team you back on Thanksgiving morning (or in some cases Thanksgiving Eve) comes out on the wrong end of the score, you still got something to talk about and something to look forward to for next year. I can proudly say that my Thanksgiving high school football "pedigree" hits the 45-year mark last Thanksgiving morning, when Malden High traveled to Hormel Stadium to play Medford in Game #130 of the ancient series. I was there for Game #84 at Hormel when my older brother, Jack, was a sophomore at Malden High playing under the legendary Bill Tighe, a historic year, since this was the final season Tighe would coach at Malden before heading off to Lexington, where he coached 39 seasons before retiring after Thanksgiving 2010, as the oldest active high school coach in America. At 93, Coach Tighe is still around surveying the local high school football scene as a loyal fan.

I'm lucky that I've been to nearly every game since 1972 as either a fan, a reporter, a player or a coach, and now, a coach again. I was privileged to wear the Blue and Gold for Game #86, #87 and #88 (I actually played one play in 1974, the highlight of my life to that point; saw some action in 1975; and played most of the game in 1976). Over 30 years later, I can still remember most plays, if not all of them. Recently I have been able to give the induction speech to several of the players I idolized that played on that 1974 Malden GBL champion team, including John "Pops" Ruelle or coached in the game, like Paul Miller, a fantastic wide receiver and second baseball for baseball in the spring.

I remember well the Medford players of that era. The toughest of them all was none other than Harry Marchetti. He's the former Medford High coach and now an assistant principal at Somerville High and the hardest-hitting and most relentless defensive player wearing that Mustang uniform I can remember to this day. What an animal he was out there. The legendary Armand Caraviello was the coach and guys like Richie Tenaglia and John DiMare were some standouts that I recall. Franz Eberth and Dickie Adie were some other former Mustangs I recall from those days.

We lost my senior year, 12-6. Medford came in winless at 0-9 but they didn't leave that way. Not a tasty Turkey Day dinner that day, folks. In 1979 I was in the end zone watching my second brother (and team captain) Gary play against Medford his senior year at Hormel in Medford. A lot of fireworks that day, in a 48-24 loss.

I was fortunate to be able to spend the better part of the next two-and-a-half decades as a Malden High coach, from the early 1980s to 1998 and those were great years, being able to coach alongside of my own high school head coach Paul Finn for 17 seasons, what a great experience. We always capped the year with the Thanksgiving Game and while we didn't win them all, it was a memorable time of the year. Coaching in the 100th game in 1988 was a highlight I will never forget, nationally-televised with Bob Costas in studio interviewing former Malden great Carmine Cappuccio on national TV. You never forget that stuff. The next year my youngest brother Michael captained Malden to another Thanksgiving win, this one a cliffhanger, in 1988. I made some great friends with lots of folks from Medford through the years and my association with the game, present Medford High athletic director Bobby Maloney, former Mustang coaches Bud Kelley, Mark Smith, Bill Buldini, all great guys. I even remember when another good friend, present head baseball coach Mike Nestor, scored a TD against us when I coached in Malden in 1994. He was a baseball player, but he still threw on the Blue and White during football season.

I started coaching football at Malden Catholic for the 1999 season and went right through to the 2007 season, but still made it to the Malden-Medford game most years. And as fate would have it, I will be back on the sidelines this Thursday at Macdonald Stadium for Game #131... as Malden High head football coach. Always new chapters to be written! Oh, almost forgot... from 1984-2016, I wrote a story or two (or 500!) about "The Game" working for the former *Malden Evening News* and *Medford Daily Mercury*.

It's true what they say, too. This year there's no clear "favorite" in The Game, as you really can say "throw out the records," as it's a true, new season in itself on Thanksgiving morning. I hope all the kids who play, the coaches who guide them and everyone associated with the game, parents, school faculty and administrators and fans, have as good and as memorable an experience as I've had these many decades. Happy Thanksgiving!

Steve Freker is now head football coach and head baseball coach at Malden High School and a former player and longtime assistant coach there. For nearly 40 years he also chronicled Malden High football as the editor of the former Malden Evening News