

COACH PENN NAMED EASTERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE COACH OF THE YEAR FOR SECOND STRAIGHT SEASON

October 2008

Press Release

Congratulations to Coach Ed Penn for being named EFL Coach of the Year for the second straight season...He took an 0-10 team and turned them into co-division champions with a record of 7-2...Aside from the well-deserved award, he finished with his best record as a coach, an achievement nobody expected after the challenging and short staffed 2007 season.



Coach Penn with QB Ryan Myers in a 2008 game vs Clinton

The 2007 season was a testament to Coach Penn's character and leadership- how despite significant roster turnover, and constantly being short on players, he fielded a team each week that battled to the final whistle. Despite the record in 2007, opponents knew they would have their hands full and were in for a battle when they faced the Oilers. Despite having to play both sides of the ball and often times not in their natural positions, the players never gave up- which is a tribute to Coach Penn and the type of character he helps develop in his players. For several games the Oilers took the field with only 20 players, squaring off with teams with 40-50 players on their rosters. In 6 of the 10 losses the Oilers had the lead in the 2nd half, but just didn't have quite enough talent and depth to put away teams.

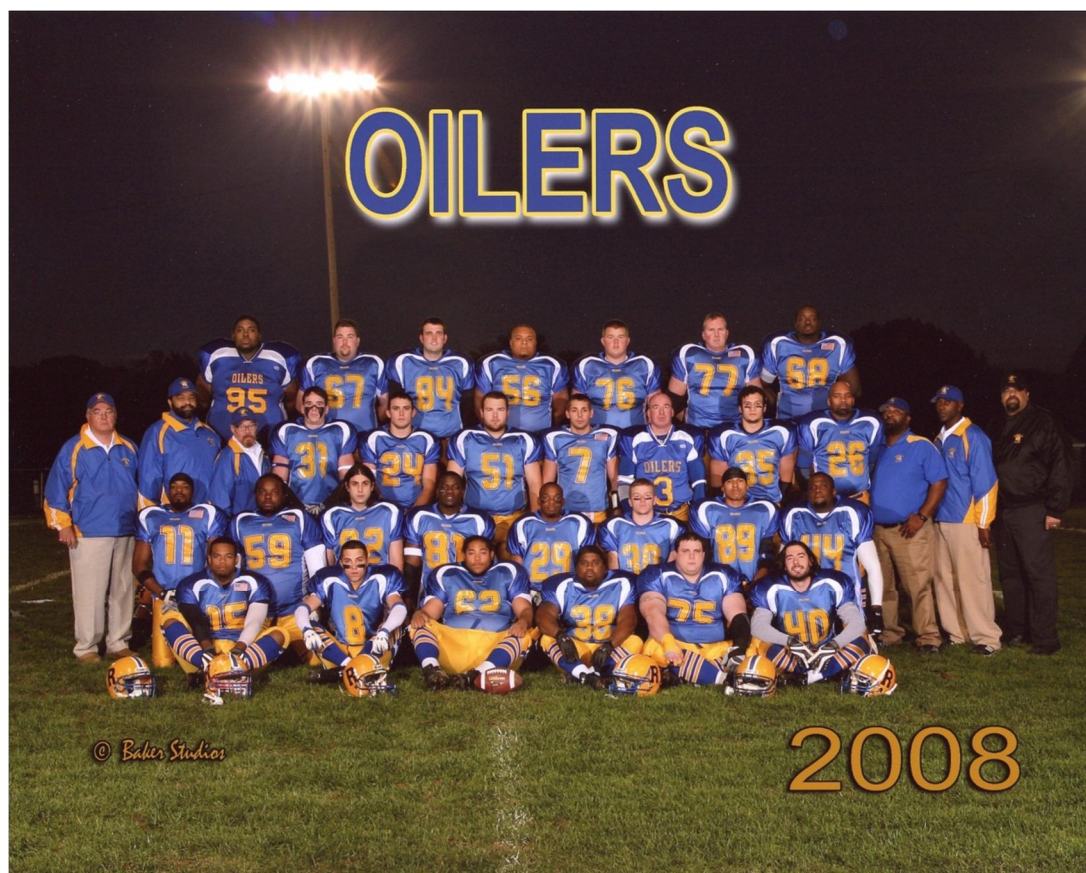
While the players knew 2007 was going to be a rebuilding year, it's a tribute to Coach Penn that some of his core players from 2006 refused to leave his side and were willing to stick with the Coach through thick and thin. Some of those players included: QB Ryan Myers, RB Charles Thomas, CB Mark Royster, OT/DE T.D. Thompson, DE/LB Jesse Barboza, WR Andre Barboza, LB Melvin Rivera, TE Jimmy Flaherty, RB Brooks Payne, DE Billy Mallory,

DB Eric Brown, and OL Sam Penn. All of these players could have left and started for other teams in the EFL and NEFL, but their love and commitment to Coach Penn and the Oiler family kept them in Randolph.

In 2008, with an offseason to somewhat reload the roster, and with a full season under the belts of many of the players who were rookies in 2007, Coach Penn showed what he can do as a coach when he has anything close to approaching a full squad. In 2007 he built a foundation with players who were committed to the game and were willing to do anything their coach asked. Players with tenacity, that played as hard on the final snap as they did on the first snap. Players that understood the importance of practice, and would not complain or quit even when they were running sprints in 95 degree heat, or squaring off in Oklahoma drills in the rain and mud when they were still sore from the previous game. The players that stuck with Coach Penn and the Oilers would help form the nucleus of a team that is sure to keep the Oilers competitive for years to come. Some of the new players that showed what it takes to be successful in the EFL included: OT Pete Hogan, WR/DB Dan Carroll, WR Matt Trainor, C Rhode Island John, DE Anthony Goodwyn, DT/OL Marcus Barrow, RB J.T. Nickley, DE John Marquadt, and OL Mike Davidson.

They say integrity and character is displayed during the hardest and most challenging of times. 2007 was such a year for the Oilers, but thanks to the leadership of Coach Penn, as well as the veteran staff he has assembled- Jon Gates, Al Lockhart, Ron Myers, and Jack Mitchell, as well as the owner and rock of the organization Peter O'Kane, the Oilers stayed on track and were able to bounce back in a huge way in 2008.

On behalf of the team, the players, the city of Randolph, the coaching staff, the O'Kanes, and the entire EFL: Congratulations Coach Penn!!!



Coach Penn and his 2008 Randolph Oilers