

Legendary Coach Ed Penn Announces his Retirement

January 2013

On Thursday night the Randolph Oiler family was saddened to announce that Coach Ed Penn has decided to retire from his position of head coach of the Randolph Oilers.



Plain and simple, Coach Penn is an EFL legend and is representative of everything the Randolph Oilers stand for. He is one of the classiest and most respected men in EFL history. The decision to retire was 100% Coach Penn's, who stated he just felt a bit burnt out after 26 straight years with the Oilers as a player and coach. Coach Penn has been offered the position of GM, and the organization hopes that he will agree to stay involved with the team because he is and always be will be an Oiler.



Left: At the ceremony to retire Ed Penn's number: From L to R: Ed Penn, Jerome Penn, Sam Penn, Peter O'Kane (partially blocked), Jonathon Gates, and Jack Mitchell.

The Oiler organization is incredibly thankful for Coach Penn's 26 years of giving to the Randolph team and community. Coach Penn began his playing career with the Oilers in the 1980's, as one of the most devastating left tackles the EFL has ever seen. He was a team captain for numerous years, and was a perennial All-League selection. The high point of his playing career was in 1990, when Ed helped lead the Oilers to an undefeated season and their first and only (so far) EFL Championship. He would have surely led the Oilers to more championships, except he played at a time when the Marlboro Shamrocks were at their peak and were not only winning EFL championships, but also national championships.



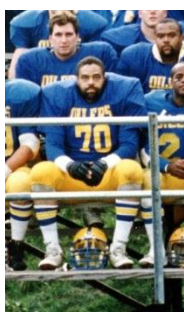
From L to R: Peter O'Kane, Sam Penn, Ed Penn, Al Lockhart, and Jonathon Gates



Coach Penn leading his team into battle in 2012.

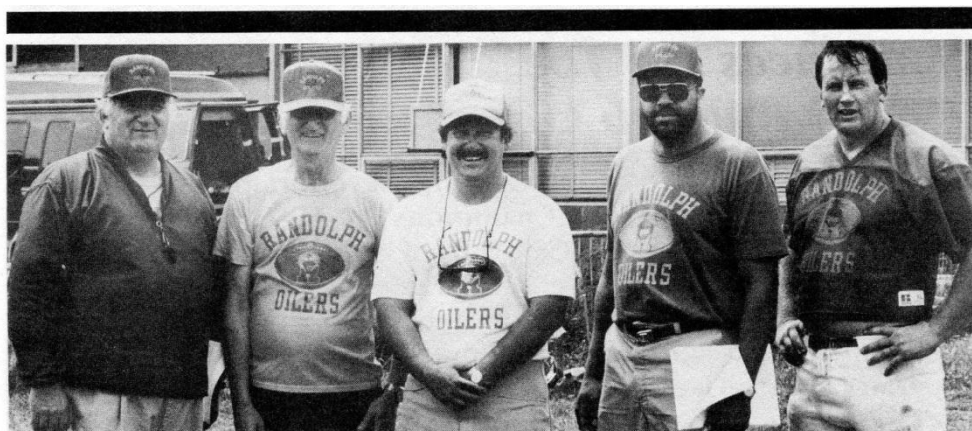
Randolph Oilers owner Peter O’Kane reflects on first meeting Ed, his contributions and professionalism over the years, and his hope for Ed to stay involved with the organization and EFL going forward:

“I remember the first time Eddie and I met and he was playing with the Taunton Raiders and how impressed I was. I especially remember the day we met in 1986 and he committed to playing with the Randolph Oilers We have had a lot of great people involved with the Oilers on and off the field through the years but I can never stress enough how proud I was of Eddie on and off the field and the way he treated everyone involved with the Oilers - staff, volunteers and players. No one ever cared more and was prouder to be an Oiler. I was proud to have Eddie represent the Oilers at the League level for as long as I can remember and never felt I had to second guess any vote or decision he made, it was always for the benefit of the Oilers and the League. Eddie Penn will always be a big part of my family and the Oiler family. I was especially proud of the staff that Eddie assembled and I am very happy and proud that they will stay a part of the team.”



Some pictures of Ed as a player. Notice in the picture on the far right that is Ed absolutely pancaking an opponent.

After wrapping up his playing career, Ed was hired as an assistant coach for then Oiler head coach Bob Turner. (although it took Ed a while to get playing out of his system, as he first transitioned into the role of player-coach).



From L to R: Bob Tuner, Fred Turner, Paul Killinger, Ed Penn, and Billy Turner

In 1998 Ed was named the head coach of the Randolph Oilers, and continued in that role until his deciding to retire last week. Along the way he was named EFL Coach of the Year on numerous occasions (click here for the following article: "[Coach Penn named EFL Coach of the Year for second straight season](#)"). December 1, 2008).



Coach Penn in 1999 as head Coach.

During his tenure the Oilers did not always have the most talented players or the deepest rosters, but as a testament to Coach Penn when opponents came in to play the Oilers they knew they were always facing a well-prepared, well-coached, hungry, determined, hard-hitting, and dedicated team. All of which are qualities that embody what Coach Penn is all about. The Oilers didn't win all of their games, but opponents facing the Oilers ALWAYS knew they were in for a dogfight and that there would be no quit in the Oilers and that they would battle you until the final whistle. Coach Penn led teams were feisty and had as much heart and perseverance as a coach could ever inspire.



Left: Ed with longtime friend, teammate, and defensive coordinator Jon Gates.

Above: Ed with one of the more gifted players he coached Larry Tagger.

One thing that set Coach Penn teams apart, was the sense of family that he instilled in his squads. That tradition goes back to 1974 when Peter and Marge O'Kane started the team, and Coach Penn has kept the tradition going. Coach Penn helped foster a sense of family amongst his players and coaches, and the team genuinely loved one another- and they loved no one more than their leader and rock- Coach Ed Penn. When there is that kind of bond and respect a team inevitably plays harder and sticks together during any challenge, and that's what you get when your team is led by a man with the character and heart like Ed Penn.



Above: Celebrating an Oiler victory with the players, coaches, and the O'Kanes back at the V.

Ed is all about family, and while the Oilers were Ed's "adopted family", he was able to bring in his own extended family into the Oiler family. To this day the Penn family's contributions to the Oilers are unrivaled by any (except of course Peter & Marge O'Kane, the founders and heart & soul of the team). The first additional Penn to join the Oiler family was Ed's younger brother Jerome. Jerome was a dominant player in his own right, being named a multi-year EFL All Star at numerous positions- offensive tackle, tight end, and defensive lineman. To this day Jerome is still a huge supporter of the Oilers, frequently patrolling the sideline with the team.



Some of the extended Penn family at the ceremony to retire Coach Penn's jersey #.

Ed's older brother Sam also joined the Oilers, spending numerous years with the team as a coach. Sam retired from playing before Ed joined the Oilers, so they did not wear the blue and gold together, although all 3 brothers did play together on the Taunton Raiders before Ed and later Jerome suited up for the Oilers and never looked back. Like Jerome and Ed- Sam was also a very accomplished offensive lineman and to this day is generous in sharing his time and passing on his football knowledge to Oiler players. (click here for the following article: "[An EFL Brother Act - Ed, Jerome, & Sam Penn](#)") (Brockton Enterprise. August 18, 2000)

"Growing up in Roxbury, the street right in front of our house was where all the football games in the neighborhood were played," Sam Penn said. "It got so our neighbors would see us heading out there, come out and move their cars off the street to give us room and then sit outside and watch us play."

Ed also has 3 nephews who have proudly taken the field in Oiler uniforms for their uncle- brothers Jesse and Andrea Barboza-Penn, and their cousin Sam Penn. Similar to their uncles, Jesse, Andre, and Sam were talented players who played with incredible heart and passion. Jesse is still regarded as one of the most ferocious-hitting linebackers/defensive ends the EFL has seen in recent years (and is now a professional heavyweight boxer). Andre is an explosive wide receiver at Youngstown State, and is now a who just completed a successful playing career...



Above left: Sam Penn, nephew Jesse Barboza-Penn, and Ed Penn
 Above Center: Ed's nephew Sam Penn (#62) along with fellow Oilers Pete Hogan (#75) and T.D. Thompson (#77)
 Above right: Ed's nephew Andre Barboza-Penn

...college coach (although we hope he will suit up for the Oilers again at some point in the future). Sam as an offensive lineman was an excellent technician with great strength, technique, and heart, who played with the Oilers until moving to Minnesota. It's pretty easy to see in Ed, Jerome, Sam, Jesse, Andre, and Sam, that the Penn family eat, breath, and sleep football. The Penn family LIVES for football, and it all starts with Ed.

Despite all the accomplishments as a player and coach, perhaps what Coach Penn will be best remembered for is his class and integrity. He conducted himself with honor and dignity, and always displaying the passion for the sport he loved. And his teams did their best to follow the example he set.

Summing up how Coach Penn conducted himself is his longtime rival and owner/player for the Middleboro Cobras Garrett Perry:

“Ed Penn has always had something VERY rare as a semi-pro football player & coach ... and that something is class. Classy man I've enjoyed knowing for 26 years.”



Coach Penn, along with his brother Sam and QB Ryan Myers

Ed's accomplishments haven't been noticed in just Randolph- he is widely respected throughout football. Ed has been inducted into the AFA and USFA Hall of Fames. It's only fitting that Ed's accomplishments be recognized on not just a regional but also on a national level, because he has been the ultimate ambassador for the game of football. He has played and coached the game the right way, and excelled at every level, and at every step acted with total class.

“This is the level of football I've come to know” Ed told the Patriot Ledger back in 1999 shortly after being inducted into the Hall of Fame. “I didn't play pro or college ball, but amateur football has provided me with a clean, hard-nosed brand of football that's kept me off the streets. This is a workingman's league I hope I'm involved in the rest of my life. I don't have a wife. The way I look at it I'm married to the EFL and the Randolph Oilers. There are no multi-millionaires here. The people here play football for the L-O-V-E of the game in capital letters.”

Well, Coach Penn may have retired as head coach of the Oilers, but the “marriage” will never end---- the entire extended Oiler family L-O-V-E Coach Penn, and vice versa, and that will never change. Coach Penn will ALWAYS be an Oiler and part of the Oiler family.

We love you Coach Penn.

Sincerely,
The Entire Randolph Oiler Family