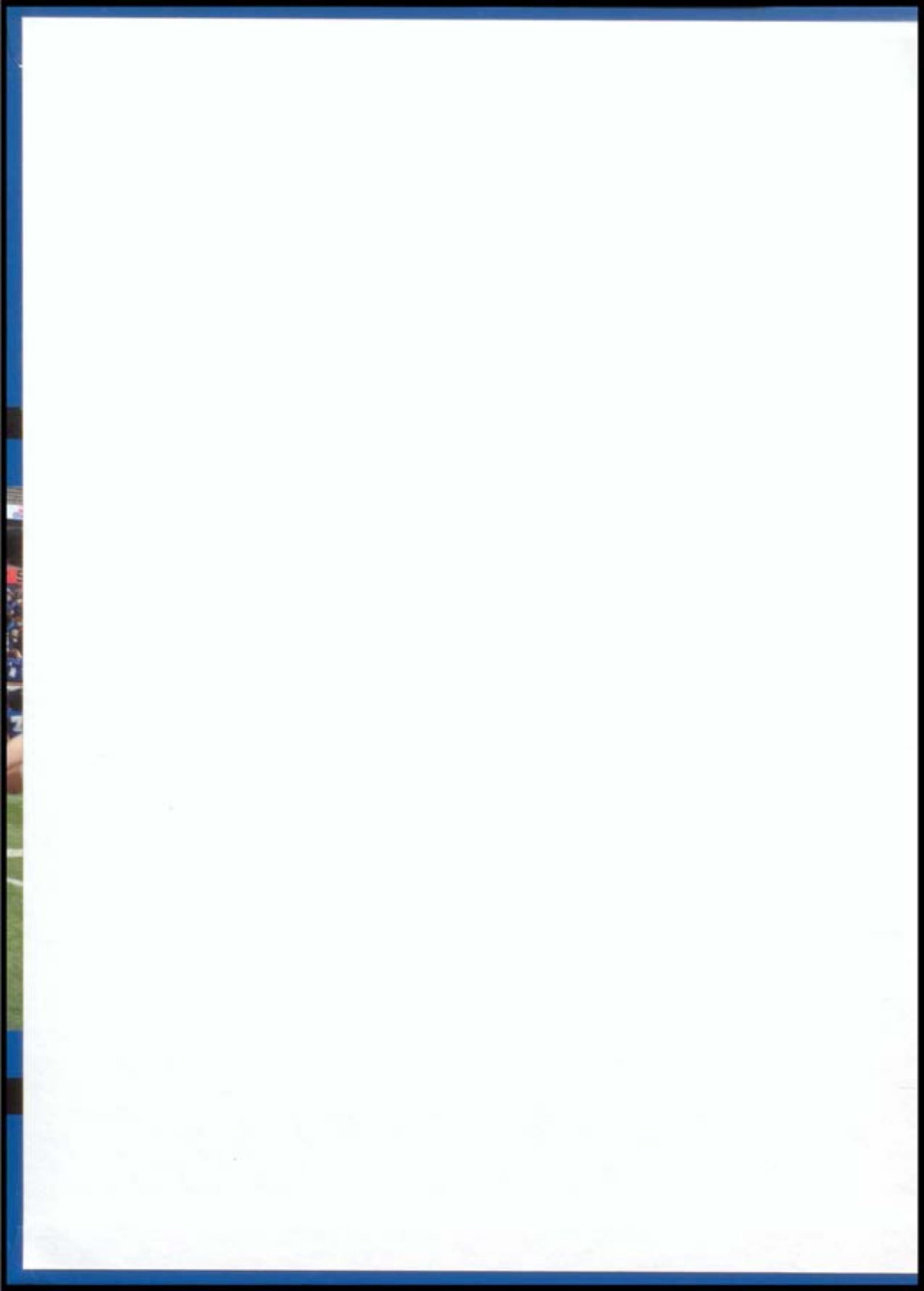
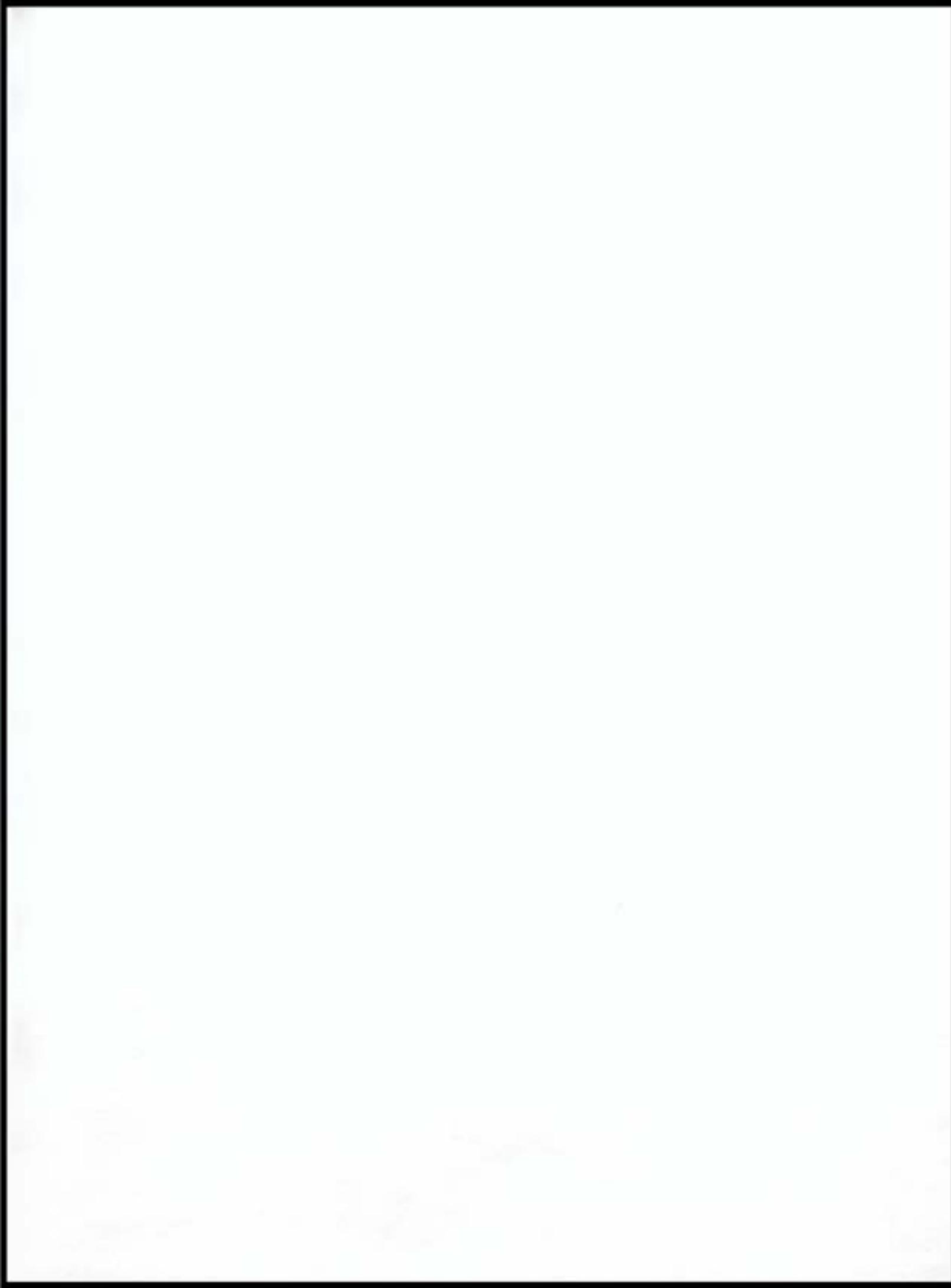


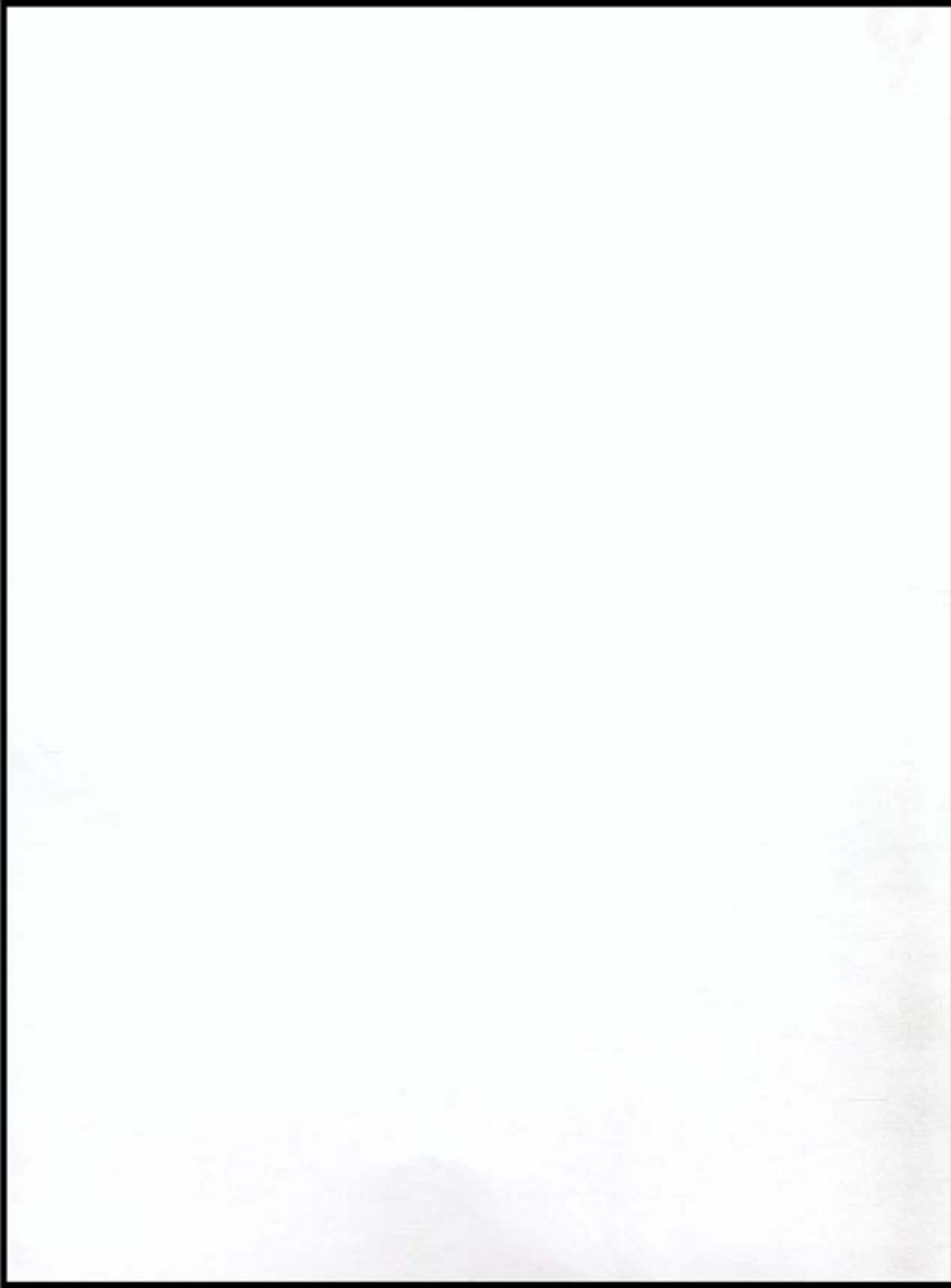
HOOSICK FALLS PANTHERS 2012 STATE CHAMPS



Tradition







Hoosick Falls Panthers 2012



#	Name	HT	WT	Grade	Offense	Defense	#	Name	HT	WT	Grade	Offense	Defense
2	Brett Bacon	6'1"	170	11	WR	DB	44	Mike Matall	5'7"	155	11	RB/OL	LB
4	Billy Pine	5'11"	180	12	QB	DB	51	Jake Bakalis	5'10"	155	10	OL	DL
5	Josh Brogan	5'9"	160	12	WR	DB	52	Chris Schieldeq	5'7"	170	10	OL	DL
7	Randy Tutunjan	6'0"	165	12	WR	LB	53	Mike Matall	5'7"	155	11	OLRB	LB
8	Willy Bradley	6'0"	160	10	WR	DB	54	Brandon Hodges	5'11"	180	11	OLRB	DL
9	Alex Mendez	5'8"	125	9	QB	DB	55	Hardey Yavanski	5'10"	165	11	OL	DL
10	Cody Humphrey	5'8"	123	9	WR	DB	56	Bryan Sherman	6'0"	160	12	OL	DL
12	Troy Costantino	6'0"	140	11	QB	DB	58	Mark Hackett	5'10"	160	10	OL	DL
13	Wyatt Cushman	5'9"	150	9	QB	DB	59	Christian Nolet	5'10"	145	10	OL	DL
14	Levi Brewster	6'3"	160	11	WR	DB	60	Logan Hoyt	6'2"	200	10	OL	DL
15	Austin Pitt	5'11"	165	10	WR	LB	61	Lance Pice-Wilder	6'1"	240	12	OL	DL
18	Garnett Wright	6'0"	160	10	QB	DB	63	Evan Hand	5'10"	170	9	OL	DL
20	Cobby Davendonis	5'9"	140	10	WR	LB	65	Devon Lockow	5'9"	200	9	OL	DL
21	Brad Foster	5'7"	115	11	WR	DB	70	Kellan Stolt	5'8"	145	9	OL	DL
22	Noah LaBarge	5'6"	140	9	RB	LB	75	Grady Beck	5'10"	180	12	OL	LB
24	David Hardesty	5'11"	157	11	WR	LB	76	Pascal Wilkins	5'9"	190	9	OL	DL
25	Ryan Perkins	5'11"	160	11	WR	LB	77	Derek Bird	6'1"	170	11	OL	DL
27	Matt Sprague	5'9"	155	12	WR	LB	78	Shane Bars	5'11"	180	10	OL	DL
31	Shayne Richard	5'8"	136	10	WR	LB	79	Charles Hodge	6'0"	180	11	OL	LB
34	Brandon Hodges	5'11"	180	11	RB/OL	DL	81	Eric Kaufmann	5'8"	140	11	WR	DB
35	Brad Burns	5'10"	195	12	RB	LB	82	Josh Wood	5'11"	140	10	WR	DB
36	Thomas Peabody	5'8"	140	11	WR	DB	83	Matt Brewster	6'2"	180	12	WR	DB
38	Cody Longe	5'3"	116	10	WR	DB	85	Jacob Marle-Yorkie	5'10"	138	10	WR	DB
40	Connor McCart	6'1"	155	9	RB	LB	87	Damon Dubois	5'8"	150	10	WR	DB
42	C.J. Yavanski	5'8"	130	9	RB	LB							

Coaches

Ron Jones
Chris Fleming
Eamonn Degraaf

Andrew Morin
Mark Folgert

HFCS athlete dies of game injuries

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. — John W. Hayden, 16, president of the varsity Club at the Hoosick Falls Central School and one of its top athletes, died Friday night at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady from injuries received in a varsity football game the Saturday before at Greenwich.

Hayden, a junior, played offensive center and defensive middle linebacker and was playing the latter position when he received head and neck injuries while making a tackle. He was taken to Ellis Hospital by the Greenwich Rescue Squad, where he remained in a coma until his death. Little hope had been held for his recovery and prayers were offered in churches throughout the community and a special Mass for him last Monday at the church of the Immaculate Conception was attended by the ball players, coaches and members of his family.

The sermon at all the Sunday Masses at the Church of the Immaculate Conception were devoted to the youth's death and the congregations were told not to question his death at this young age but to accept it as the will of God.

He was born Jan. 6, 1955, the only son of John W. and Kathleen Crawford Hayden of 5 School St., Hoosick Falls.

Jack, as he was known, was especially well liked and respected by his classmates, neighbors, teachers and school officials. He had a large circle of young friends and the tragedy has been deeply felt throughout the community. According to coaches at the school, he was an "outstanding kid all the way around." In addition to football, he was a member of the varsity wrestling team and number one pitcher for the varsity baseball team. His parents shared his enthusiasm for the sports and patronized all the school games.

Because of his death, Saturday's football game with



JOHN W. HAYDEN

Schuylerville was postponed by the school and will be rescheduled later.

Sunday night all the members of the Greenwich Central School football team and a delegation of each team in the Washington Tri-County League, of which the local school is a participant, attended the funeral home to pay their respects.

Surviving besides his parents are his twin sister, Jill; another sister, Diane; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayden; his maternal grandfather, Robert Crawford, all of Hoosick Falls; aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral will be held Tuesday at 9 a.m. from the John A. Haussler Funeral Home and at 9:30 a.m. from the Church of the Immaculate Conception where the Liturgy of Christian Death and Burial will be celebrated. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Friends may call this afternoon and evening at the funeral home. The family requests that instead of flowers, memorial donations be made to the Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad.

Dedication

The 2012 NYS Champion Hoosick Falls Panthers would like to proudly dedicate this book to the late John "Jack" Hayden.

Over the last 40 years the name "Jack Hayden" has been synonymous with Hoosick Falls football. In the fall of 1971, Jack's junior year, he died from injuries sustained while playing in a football game and he has never been forgotten. His spirit and the values he stood for remain a big part of "Panther" football to this day. In addition to being a great teammate and a fun loving good friend to many, Jack was a hard worker, a fierce competitor and a winner. These qualities have been instilled in hundreds of HFCS football players over the years - the legacy of what Jack stood for has not been forgotten and in fact has become a big part of what Hoosick Falls football is about.





The year after Jack passed away, in what would have been his senior year, his teammates and friends dedicated their 1972 season to Jack's memory and rolled to an undefeated season. Now, forty years after that perfect season, the 2012 Panthers have rewritten history with another perfect season and the coveted state championship. This yearbook, highlighting the outstanding accomplishments of the 2012 NYS Champion Panthers, celebrates and remembers the strong tradition and history of Hoosick Falls football - and it is with pride that we dedicate this book to one of our own - Jack Hayden - forever with us...



Members of the 2012 team when in youth league gather by the scoreboard, emulating the varsity squads tradition of tapping the board as they ran by before each game.



JACK HAYDEN MEMO

PANTHERS

12

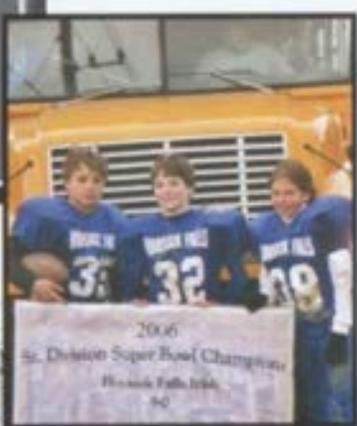
6

DOWN



AL SCOREBOARD

GUEST





GREY BOWALE, TIMES UNION

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW: CLASS C

Hoosick Falls tops again

Coaches point to Panthers as the top team in the North

By James Allen

You know your program is in top form when the other coaches in the classification universally anoint you the team to beat.

And so it goes for the Hoosick Falls football team. Winners of three straight Section II

Inside

CS ■ **Breaking down Class C.**

Class C titles and 20 consecutive seasons in one play, the Panthers are the equal the rest point to at least — even though Hoosick Falls was hit hard by graduation.

"You will have to say they are the team to beat. Look at what they've done," Tamarac coach Eric Goodcap said.

Hoosick Falls, led by quarterback Billy Pine and running back/linebacker Brad Burns, looks to win the North Division once again. This season, there are only

12 teams in Class C (after Cayuga-Darwin said it could not field a varsity squad) — meaning each school will play two out-of-division games.

Tamarac, coming off a 7-2 season in 2011, and Mechanicville appear to be the top challengers in the North besides Hoosick Falls. The division race should shake out quickly as Hoosick Falls hosts Mechanicville Friday and Tamarac travels to take on the Blue Raiders in Week 2.

In the South, Fonda seeks another title and a return trip to the Super Bowl.

Chatham, Taconic Hills, Vauxhallville and Waterford all believe a playoff spot can be scored.



3 KEYS TO THE SEASON

1. Get the young guys ready. The Panthers return just six on offense and four on defense, with plenty of first-year varsity players.
2. Another solid offensive line. If Hoosick falls wants another solid season on offense, they'll need another dominant line.
3. Leadership. Senior returnees Brad Burns and Billy Pine will be under a bit of pressure to lead the team. How they react to that pressure could dictate the fate of the Panthers.

2011 RESULTS

Sept. 2	at Corinth	W 54-13
Sept. 9	vs. Stillwater	W 41-6
Sept. 16	at Mechanicville	W 53-7
Sept. 23	vs. Tamarac	W 53-16
Oct. 1	vs. Hoosic Valley	W 54-7
Oct. 7	at Greenwich	W 54-14
Oct. 14	vs. Granville	W 53-6
Oct. 21	vs. Taconic Hills	W 54-12
Oct. 29	vs. Watervliet	W 34-8
Nov. 5	vs. Fonda	W 32-7
Nov. 11	vs. Saratoga Lake	W 47-13
Nov. 19	vs. Dobbs Ferry	L 13-12

COACH'S CORNER



Ron Jones
15th year

Career Record
84-51

To see video of your school's team, go to www.saratogian.com or www.troytrois.com.

HUDDLE UP

Nickname: Panthers
2011 Record: 11-1
Offense: Spread
Defense: 3-3
Starters Returning: 10
Last playoff game: 2011
Last Section II Title: 2011
Division: Class C, North

One is the loneliest number

After losing all-state back Williams, Burns the focus of Hoosick Falls' offense

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — For most football teams, losing a first-team all-state player to graduation can be a real concern heading into the following season.

Not for Hoosick Falls.

The Panthers lose one of the best players in program history in Tanner Williams, but they don't expect to miss a beat with third-team all-state player Brad Burns lurking in the backfield.

The senior Burns was the thunder to Williams' lightning in 2011, rushing for

1,141 yards (nearly 10 yards per carry) and 25 touchdowns. It was part of an awe-striking offensive attack that averaged more than 48 points per game and reached the state semifinal.

HS FOOTBALL

"When we lose really good players, the ones that are considered the best, everyone says they're irreplaceable," said coach Ron Jones. "They aren't, but you can't replace them with [just] one person."

Burns will get the bulk of the time at running back, but others like juniors Brandon Hodges and Mike Mattat will also get a share of the carries.

"Brad's better too. We had two elite speed guys last year, we have one now," said Jones, heading into his 16th season leading the Panthers. "Other guys move well, but not [with] the pop that Tanner and Brad had combined. It was tough to defend both, but we need to move forward and we can't look back."

Burns will run behind a somewhat experienced line up front. Three of the five

starters return, including seniors Lance Rice-Wilder and Grady Beck and junior Derek Bird.

"We're looking for another guard and tackle [to shore up the line]," Jones said.

To that end, junior Mark Hackett, who played sparingly as a freshman, has been rotating in on the line and expects some time. Hodges and Mattat could also get some action up front.

"They've been under the lights," Jones said. "They might be a step away right off

PANTHERS, continued on 2B

Hoosick Falls aiming for 4th straight C title

PANTHERS, continued from 1B

the bat, but they're closer than last year."

"There's a lot of competition between everyone," said Beck, who will start at center. "A year of experience makes things a lot easier."

Under center for the second year in a row is senior Billy Pine. The 5-foot-11 signal caller has taken to running the Panthers' offense and Jones said it's made him a better quarterback.

"Billy looks excellent. In the middle of practice one day, he said it's so much easier this year," Jones said. "It's slowed down for him. He's with our system and he has experience. When he makes a mistake he corrects himself, usually on the next snap, not after the series when he's coming off the field."

Most of the losses come from the front seven as the Panthers only return four defensive starters. All-star defensive linemen Jeremy Burns and David Couch graduated. Jones also has to replace Williams and Ryan Hyde in the

linebacking corps. In the defensive backfield, Pine moves from cornerback to safety after leading the team with five interceptions last year. But Jones has confidence in more than a couple of players to fill those spots.

"We have a tremendous amount of competition at key positions," said Jones, who is nearing 100 wins in his career. "At corner, we have four or five that could start. Matt and Levi Brewster, Josh Brogue, Tom Peabody ... all of those guys are competing for a spot. If someone went down I have faith the next guy could step in and do the job."

In the end, the goal is to win a fourth consecutive Class C Super Bowl and then go as far as they can en route toward the Carrier Dome.

"Our goal is to work together, get everything together and go a game at a time," Rice-Wilder said. "We have high goals, hopefully we can get to the Dome."

Hoosick Falls begins their season at Ken Baker Field on Aug. 31 against Mechanicville.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Junior Brandon Hodges, who saw a good amount of time in the later part of last season, will be doing a lot more in 2012.

LINEBACKERS

Brad Burns, who admittedly loves hitting people when he runs, will play both ways at linebacker on defense. Lance Wilder will also bounce back between LB and the line.

SECONDARY

QB Billy Pine had more interceptions as a defensive back than he threw in all of 2011. He'll line up in the secondary again in 2012, as will Tuturjian.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Damon Dubois will be back as the team's kicker in his sophomore season. Burns will most likely replace Tanner Williams as returner.

www.saratogian.com

QUARTERBACKS

Billy Pine returns after his first-ever football season at Hoosick Falls. The senior QB passed for over 1300 yards in 2011 and he's been working on his arm all off-season.

RUNNING BACKS

The Panthers lost perennial all-star and top rusher Tanner Williams to graduation but do return the other half of the dynamic duo in Brad Burns. Burns recorded 1132 yards and 25 touchdowns last season.

RECEIVERS

Randy Tuturjian and Logan Brogue return as the top senior receivers for the Panthers. As Hoosick Falls tries to expand their passing game, expect these guys to get plenty of looks.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Grady Beck returns as center for the Panthers and it's a very welcome return. "He's bright and great at communicating," said coach Ron Jones.



OPENING DAY 2012

Pine - 171 passing yds

HOOSICK FALLS 43

Hodges - 10 tackles

MECHANICVILLE 0



Page 8

The Eastwick Press

Panthers Roar Out Of The Gate

by Steve Bradley and Paul Hand

The Hoosick Falls Panther football team got the season off to a roaring start with a dominating win over the Mechanicville Red Raiders. The action took place under the HFCS lights last Friday.

Brad Burns scored on a two yard run in the first quarter to open the scoring. The team then turned it on in the second quarter, scoring 22 points on three pass plays. Quarterback Billy Pine's TD passes were caught by Levi Brewster (7 yards), Randy Tutun-



Brad Burns, center, follows blocker Lance Rice-Wilder (61) as he rolls up yards in early action against Mechanicville. Photo by Steve Bradley.

jian (68 yards) and Matt Brewster (10 yards). A touchdown was recorded in each of last two quarters, with Burns on the receiving end of a 26 yard throw from Pine in the third and Brandon Hodges scoring on a five yard run in the fourth. Eric Kaufman made all five of his kicked Point After Touchdown (PAT) attempts.

The punt return team had

their moment in the lights, providing some nice blocking to enable Billy Pine to record a 68 yard punt return. Jake Bakaitis blocked one of Mechanicville's punt attempts.

On the defensive side of the ball Brandon Hodges had 10 tackles, Brad Burns 8 tackles and Derek Bird had 7 tackles. Randy Tutunjian also had one intercep-

tion for the Panthers.

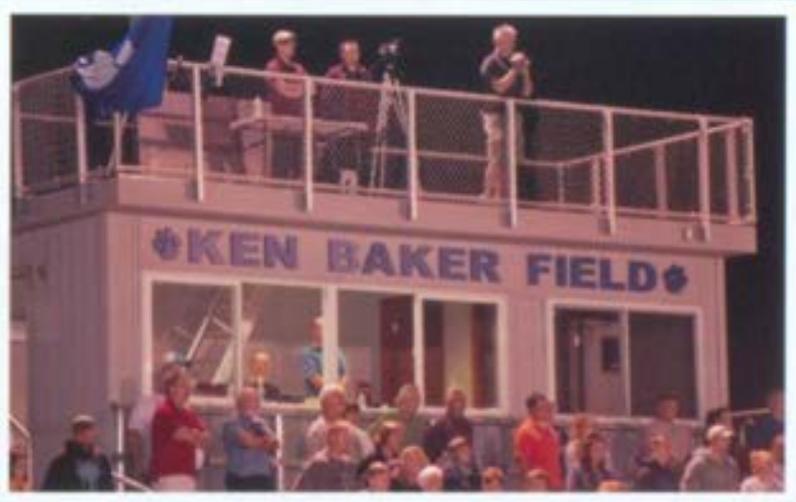
With the game under control, Coach Jones began subbing JV players late in the third quarter, giving these players valuable on field experience.

Brad Burns ended the night with 117 yards on 11 carries. Billy Pine had a 4 TD performance, completing 7 of 12 passes for 170 yards. Randy Tutunjian led the receivers with 2 catches for 83 yards. The defense, often overshadowed by the offense, was tremendous, giving up a total of 102 yards, 93 rushing and 9 passing.

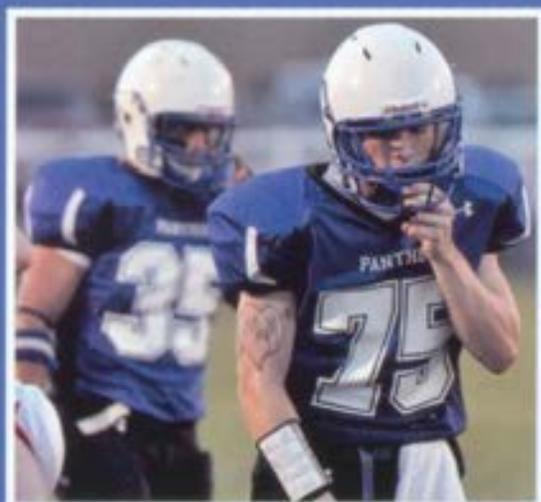
On Saturday, September 8, the team travels to Granville (0 - 1) to take on the Golden Horde. Kickoff is at 1 pm. This is the only afternoon game of the regular season for the Panthers. The Golden Horde mascot is Genghis Khan, who occasionally rides horseback at the games.

DENIM & DEEDS
Real Estate

KEN BAKER FIELD



On The Prowl



HOOSICK FALLS @ GRANVILLE

9-13-12

The Eastwick Press

Panthers Conquer Golden Horde



Panther linebacker Grady Beck (75) goes up to haul in an interception against Granville last Friday. Photo by Steve Bradley.

All It Took Was 20 Seconds

by Steve Bradley

Eric Kaufman's game opening kickoff was received by a Granville player who started upfield and was hit by a Panther tackler. The ball came flying out and hit the ground where Brad Burns pounced on it. The offense took to the field, and on the Panthers first play from scrimmage, quarterback Billy Pine threw to Levi Brewster, who fought his way over the goal line. Twenty seconds after kicking off, HF = 6, Granville = stunned. Granville went on to turn the ball over three more times in the first half, negating any opportunities for scoring. The Golden Horde didn't put any points on the board until they were 42 points behind. The final score was HF - 42, Granville - 10.

Billy Pine threw 6 for 10 with 2 TDs and no interceptions. Brad Burns ran for 152 yards on 12 carries. Wide receiver Josh Brogue had an exciting afternoon, receiving a team high 3 catches (33 yards, 1 TD), along with an interception on defense. Eric Kaufman continued to impress kicking

PATs, adding 6 more to his total. He hasn't missed one yet. Randy Tutunjian led the defense with 8 tackles, followed by sophomore Mark Hackett with 7. Senior Grady Beck also chipped in with a nice interception.

HF	21	14	7	0	42
G-ville	0	0	0	10	10

The Panther squad takes on Philmont's Taconic Hills Central School (1-1) on Friday night, September 14, under the HFCS lights. Game time is 7 pm. Taconic Hills' nickname is the Titans. Oliver North, a famous Marine, TV commentator and best selling author, is a 1961 graduate of Taconic Hills.





Burns - 152 rushing yds

Brogue - 3 receptions

Tutunjian - 8 tackles

6 total team sacks



SACRIFICE



Panthers 42

Golden Horde 12



Panthers improve to 3-0 with rout of Taconic Hills

HOOSICK, N.Y. — Brad Burns and Billy Pine combined for five touchdowns on the ground as the Hoosick Falls Central School football team beat Taconic Hills, 47-8.

Burns carried 15 times for 154 yards and

LOCAL ROUNDUP

three scores while Pine added two. Brandon Hodges ran 12 times for 94 yards and a touchdown as the Panthers (3-0) led 47-0 in the fourth quarter.

Pine was also 6-of-9 throwing for 98 yards. Burns had two catches for 58 yards.



PANTHERS 47

TACONIC HILLS 8

DOMINATE

Panthers Clobber Taconic Hills 47 - 8



Brad Burns leaps over a Taconic Hills defender at the goal line. Burns would touch down in the end zone for a TD. Photo by Steve Bradley.

by Steve Bradley

It didn't take long to realize the visiting Taconic Hills Titans were in over their helmets. The Hoosick Falls Panther football team scored 27 unanswered points in the first quarter. The Panthers scored 5 offensive touchdowns and a defensive TD to run out to a 41 - 0 halftime lead.

The Titans, who scored 52 points the previous week, would play as tough as they could throughout the game, but they

were no match for the Panthers. Coach Jones had many JV players start the second half, offering a long look at what the future holds. The future looks pretty good for Panther football.

Brad Burns again led the rushing attack, romping 155 yards on 14 carries. Brandon Hodges, who starts games as a lineman (number 54) then changes into a running back with number 34, chipped in 86 yards and a TD. The offensive line does a great job creating

openings for these running backs.

The always tough defense came up with 4 interceptions, including one Randy Tutunjian returned for a TD. Quarterback Billy Pine went 6 for 9, totaling 107 passing yards.

The Panthers will travel to Stillwater on Friday, September 21, to face the Warriors (1 - 2) on their beautiful turf field. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 pm.



Hoosick Falls @ Stillwater



Page 8

Panthers Win 40 - 0 Over Stillwater



Sophomore Eric Kaufman puts another one through the uprights in last Friday's game against Stillwater. Kaufman has made 17 of 18 PATs so far this season. Photo by Steve Bradley.

by Steve Bradley

The HFCS Panthers took on the Stillwater Warriors last Friday night, September 21, on the turf in Stillwater. The Panthers jumped out to a 14 - 0 first quarter lead and never looked back. Brad Burns scored both touchdowns, one a 51 yard pass and another for 8 yards on the ground. The Panthers led 27 - 0 at the half.

By the end of the game, Brad Burns had scored 5 touchdowns, 4 on the ground and one in the air. Billy Pine had thrown 9 passes, completing 6 for 159 yards, including a beautiful, on the money, 49 yard TD pass to Randy Tutunjan. Tutunjan had a nice game, catching 4 passes for 103 yards. On the defensive side, Grady Beck and Brad Burns, with 9 tackles, and Bryan Shorman with 8, kept Stillwater reeling throughout the game.

The Kicking Game

Eric Kaufman, along with fellow sophomore Damon Dubois, give the Panthers a potent kicking game. Kaufman has made 17 of 18 PATs. Brad Burns as the snapper, along with Randy Tutunjan as the holder, make this a lethal point producing combination. If you've followed Panther football over the past few seasons, you know how important these points can be. Dubois, handling the kickoff duties, regularly puts the ball into the end zone for touchbacks. This weapon consistently forces opposing teams' offenses to start deep in their own territory.

Next Up - A Real Test

This Friday, September 28, the Panthers face their first real test of the season. They will be traveling up Routes 372/29 to face the Schuylerville Black Horses (2 - 2) on their turf field. The game will be under the lights with a 7 pm start time. Schuylerville is now a Class B football school. Playing a team that may actually lift their fists and punch back will be good for the Panthers. It's an opportunity to toughen up and get ready to play teams of the caliber they will face in the later part of the season.

Schuylerville was originally named Saratoga. The name change occurred in 1831 when Schuylerville incorporated. In Mohawk Indian tongue, it is believed "Sa-tagh-to-ga" means "hillside country of the quiet river."



Hoosick Falls too powerful for Stillwater

By Laura Amato
lamato@trojrecord.com
Twitter.com/LauraAmato

STILLWATER — It's a little strange for the visiting team to have a better record than the home team does on their own football field.

Then again, Hoosick Falls is not a normal football team.

The Panthers improved to 4-0 on the season, and 5-0 on the Stillwater High football field, topping the Warriors 40-0 on Friday night.

"We know it," senior running back Brad Burns said of the field. "We play here a lot and we kind of say it's our second field. We like it here."

Hoosick Falls, because of its success, often competes at the Stillwater facility in Section II finals and state regional games.

As has been their gameplan all season, the Panthers offense struck early and quick on their opening drive, moving 79 yards down the field on five plays, capped by a 52 yard touchdown pass from Billy Pine to Burns.

Burns, who would go on to finish the game with 141 yards on eight carries, and five touchdowns, was the driving force behind the overpowering Hoosick Falls offense.

The senior running back found rushing lanes on the field nearly every time he was handed the football, pushing past a Warriors defense that was camping out on the line of scrimmage.

"He was incredibly physical here," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said of Burns. "He just ran over a couple of tacklers, which was amazing."

Despite minimal overall possession time throughout the game, due to quick snaps and long-yard plays, the Panthers used their time wisely, going into halftime with a 27 point lead.

Billy Pine was practically pitch perfect in his time on the field, throwing two touchdown passes, including a 51 yard toss to senior wideout Randy Tutunjanian early in the second quarter.

"Billy is very, very tough," Jones said. "He stayed composed, made some guys

miss him and then he could just look for a guy outside and make some big plays."

While the offense continued to light up the scoreboard, finishing the Class C matchup with 179 total rushing yards and 154 total passing yards, the Panthers defense quietly stifled the Warriors' offensive attempts to move up and down the field.

Stillwater's Liam Kane faced the brunt of the tough Panthers defense, sacking up 28 carries on the night as he tried to pound his way through a practically immovable line.

"He loves to run the ball," Stillwater coach Vince Barber said of his top offensive performer. "We did what we wanted to do, but we just couldn't continue down the field."

Although they were on offense for the majority of the game on Friday night, Stillwater was never able to find the endzone and thanks to long possessions, the Warriors ate up their own valuable clock time.

The Hoosick Falls defense not only blocked the Warriors from the endzone, but also forced three turnovers, stopping

Stillwater drives in their tracks.

"I saw the receiver cut across the zone and it hit his hands," defensive back Randy Tutunjanian said of his third quarter interception. "I just ran over and kind of popped it up for myself."

Despite all of the miscues, Kane was, however the bright spot in the Warriors' lopsided loss, recording 109 yards in his second straight high performance game.

The victory gives the Panthers their fourth consecutive 4-0 start in four years and as all sides of the ball continue to perform well, this year's Hoosick Falls squad is primed for another Class C Super Bowl run.

HOOSICK FALLS vs. STILLWATER 9

Hoosick Falls	14	12	2	—	48
Stillwater	0	0	0	—	0
First Quarter					
HF	52	yd pass from Billy Pine to Brad Burns (Jim Kaufman kick)			
Second Quarter					
HF	51	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
HF	52	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
HF	51	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
HF	52	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
HF	51	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
HF	52	yd pass from Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjanian (Jim Kaufman kick)			
Records: Hoosick Falls 5-0, Stillwater 1-2					



RESPECT FOR
AUTHORITY

Hoosick Falls @ Schuylerville

Burns - 225 rush yds, 3 TDs, 1 Hurdle

Pine - 186 pass yds

Sherman - 16 tackles

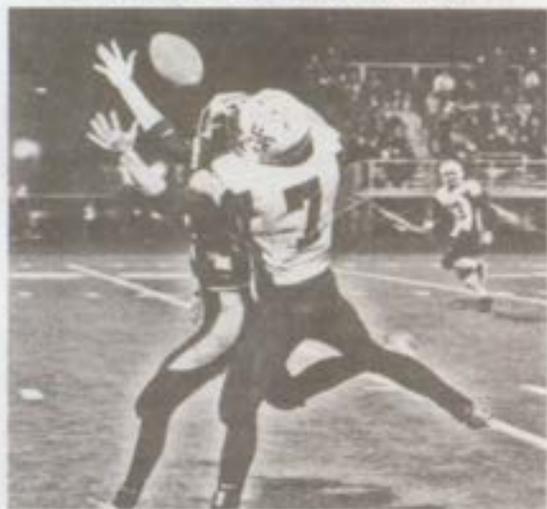
Dubois - 30 yd FG



Page 8

10-4-12

Panthers Outrun Black Horses



Randy Tutunjan (#7) in the early stages of a bobbled, circus-type catch that soon for a nice gain for the Panthers last Friday. Photo by Steve Bradley

by Steve Bradley

Last Friday, the visiting Panthers took on the Schuylerville Black Horses on the Horses' home field. The Panthers flew out of the gate, taking a 20 - 0 first quarter lead. A 24 yard pass from quarterback Billy Pine to Randy Tutunjan along with two Brad Burns running plays (17 and 67 yards) gave the Panthers all the points they would need to bring home the victory. Schuylerville scored twice for 12 points early in the second quarter, but the Panthers scored the final 23 points of the game to win going away. The Panthers' record now stands at 5-0.

Brad Burns led the rushing attack, leaving cleat marks and shoulder pad impressions all over the Black Horses, romping for 220 yards on 17 carries. Quarterback Pine had 7 completions for 186 passing yards. Randy Tutunjan led the receivers with 4 catches for 99 yards, and Josh Brogan snagged two passes for 73 yards, one for a TD.

The defense was at the top of its game, with Bryan Sherman wrapping up 16 tackles and Brandon Hodges adding 15. Sherman also received the MaxPreps Over-



Coach Ron Jones reached 100 career wins with the victory last Friday, and he couldn't have been happier with the way his team played at all facets of the game. The victory over Schuylerville also gave Jones 33 straight Section II wins. Photo by Steve Bradley.



all Player of the Game Award. Special mention should also be made of the pass defense, which held Schuylerville to 6 yards through the air. The Black Horses completed only 4 passes, two to Schuylerville receivers and two to Panther defenders for interceptions (Pine and Levi Brewster). Defensive tackle Derek Bird recovered a fumble. Damon Dubois kicked a 30 yard field goal to close out the scoring for the game.

On Friday, October 5, the Panthers will host the Corinth Tomahawks (2-3) on the HFCS field. Start time is 7 pm.

Correction

In last weeks article it stated Eric Kaufman was a sophomore. Eric is a junior.

Panthers 43

Black Horses 12



STICK WITH THE PROGRAM



Hoosick Falls v. Corinth

HFCs FOOTBALL

Hoosick Falls Panthers

HOMECOMING

20



12



www.troyrecord.com **The Record**

Burns sets school record

HOOSICK FALLS — Senior running back Brad Burns set the Hoosick Falls High school rushing record after rushing for 128 yards on seven carries, giving him the school record of 5,263 career rushing yards in the Panthers' 47-0 victory over Corinth in a Section V Class C football game on Friday night. Burns accomplished the milestone on his second carry of the game, passing his brother John Burns, who played for the Panthers from 2003 to 2006.

Burns, who scored four times, started the scoring with a 16-yard run, followed by a 23-yard run and then took a handoff 84 yards and in to finish off the Panthers scoring with 11:25 left in the third quarter. He also caught a 47-yard touchdown pass from Billy Pine that put Hoosick Falls in front 34-0.

Randy Tulajany added a pair of receiving touchdowns of his own. He hauled in two Pine passes from 40 yards and 37 yards just three minutes apart in the second quarter as Hoosick Falls cruised to victory. Pine was 7-of-11 for 206 yards with three touchdowns.

Watervliet 26, Ticonderoga 14; Taylor Dockstader threw for four touchdowns on 8-for-20 passes and 311 yards and



Hoosick Falls Central School
ALMA MATER

By Beverly Griswold, Class of 1950

All hail to thee Hoosick Falls,
So dear to our hearts,

Forever our praises to thee we impart.

We sing of thy glory and honor so high,

Now as the colors of blue and white do wave on high.

And when all our high school days a mem'ry shall be,

Dear Alma Mater, we'll sing unto thee.

Rushing mark is torch passed

10-9-10

Little brother sure is doing some big things.

Brad Burns, the youngest of three brothers who all have starred at Hoosick Falls, became the Panthers' all-time leading rusher Friday in a 47-0 Class C North Division victory over Cortich.

Burns, a four-year varsity performer, carried the ball just six times for 118 yards and two touchdowns. He added a 46-yard reception from Billy Pine for a third touchdown as the Panthers improved 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the North Division.



JAMES ALLEN
HIGH SCHOOLS

Burns said, "We have a little rivalry. He has all the football records, and

The record Burns eclipsed was previously held by older brother Jon, who helped lead Hoosick Falls to the state Class C final in 2003.

"It was great that my brother was there,"

my other brother (Jeremy, now competing at Springfield College) has all the wrestling records. So I will try to be one up on them. I'm trying to get to the Dome this year. That is the one thing Jon has over me."

"He was beat up his whole life by his older brothers, so (the rushing record) is something Brad wanted," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "He has goals, but he never talks about them. I spoke with Jon Friday night. I think he is proud of him."

Burns is a 5-foot-10, 195-pound

Please see ALLEN C6 P



BRAD BURNS, leaping over a Tamarac defender, on Friday night broke the career rushing record at Hoosick Falls, a mark previously held by Burns' older brother Jon.

HANS PENNING/TIMES UNION ARCHIVE

▼ CONTINUED FROM C1

battering ram who has rushed for 927 yards on 75 attempts (12.4 yards per carry). He enters Friday's North Division final against Tamarac with 3,331 yards.

"The school record is great, but the main focus every week is going out there and winning," Burns said. "Our goal is getting to the (Syracuse Carrier) Dome and winning a state championship, something that has never been done at our school."



Burns - 4 TDs

Pine - 200 pass yds

Tutunjian - 5 recps, 3 sacks, 2 INTs



IN HONOR OF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS FOR THEIR YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO HOOSICK FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL AND WISH THEM LUCK IN THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS:

Grady Beck, Matt Brewster, Josh Brogue, Brad Burns, Billy Pine, Lance Rice-Wilder, Bryan Sherman, Matt Sprauge, Randy Tutunjian, Bethany Bakaitis, Elizabeth Leva, Chelsea Sarsfield, and Ashley Vascherault

10-13-12

Panthers clinch North with rout of Tamarac

CLUMS CORNERS, N.Y. — The Hoosick Falls Central School football team clinched the Class C North Division in dominating fashion on Friday night, routing Tamarac 44-0 and improving to 7-0.

Senior Brad Burns led the offensive charge, carrying the ball 22



LOCAL ROUNDUP

times for 200 yards and three scores. Senior quarterback Billy Pine added 91 yards and two rushing touchdowns while also throwing a touchdown pass to Josh Brogue.

The Panthers are guaranteed a home playoff game next Friday night against an opponent to be determined.



www.troyrecord.com | **troyrecord**

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

1995, 2009-12, 2012-13

Hoosick Falls' potent 1-2 punch

By Laura Amato
lamato@troyrecord.com
Twitter.com/LauraAmato

HOOSICK FALLS — From time to time Billy Pine likes to go online and see where he stands among his fellow Section II athletes.

Through six games, Pine, who is in his second season as Hoosick Falls' starting quarterback, led the area in passing touchdowns with 14 on the season, while also racking up 900 yards through the air and just one interception.

Earlier this week the Panthers' senior captain saw those numbers and, just like anybody else, he acknowledged that they were pretty good. Then, unlike anybody else, he decided he didn't really care about them.

"I read the stories and I look at it," Pine said of his area-leading stats. "But it doesn't really matter. I could be last place, as long as we're undefeated."

"It's obviously a great accomplishment to have but as long as we're number one as far as the wins, that's all I care about."

Hoosick Falls has the chance to be number one again tonight when they face off against Class C rival Tamarac in a game that will, ultimately, decide the 2012 North Division champion.

With six dominant victories under their belt, including three shutouts, the Panthers are well on their way to another undefeated



J.S. Carriso — The Record
Brad Burns (45) and Billy Pine have helped Hoosick Falls get off to a 6-0 start this season. The Panthers visit Tamarac tonight in a game that will decide the Class C North Division champion.

regular season, thanks, in large part, to an offense that has been averaging over 43 points per game.

Led by Pine and fellow senior Brad Burns as running back, Hoosick Falls has simply obliterated the competition with a balanced attack that consistently keeps opponents on their toes.

"We've got the spread offense and it's just so easy to run,"

against a Tamarac team that has recorded four consecutive victories in their most recent games.

"It's going to be possibly one of their last home games, so we've got to go in there ready to go like we do every week," he said. "That's what we want to keep up."

As the Panthers prep for tonight's matchup, they realize that their biggest strength lies in their offense and their ability to make big plays, as well as their constant knack to go into halftime with dominant leads.

"In years past, we haven't always been able to do the big plays," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "Now we have a good quarterback, running back and receivers, so that makes life pretty easy."

For the most part, the Panthers approach every game with the intention of running a balanced offense of passing and rushing, with only 454 more yards on the ground than in the air.

When they take the field tonight, Hoosick Falls is simply anxious to find the end zone as often as they possibly can and, frankly, they aren't overly concerned how they get there.

"We'll talk about it all week, what plays we want to come out with," Pine said. "But we're just in a hurry to offense all game long. It really doesn't matter, pass or run, whatever is called, we're going to execute."

week 7 schedule

- Tuesday**
Class AA
Saratoga at Bolton Spgs., 7 p.m.
Shenandoah at CGA, 7 p.m.
Shenandoah at Millington, 7 p.m.
LaSalle at Spauld., 7 p.m.
Corning at Rotterdam, 7 p.m.
- Class AA-A Crossover**
North Hills at Columbia, 7 p.m.
- Class A**
Queensbury at Glensville, 7 p.m.
Troy at Minerva, 7 p.m.
- Class A-B Crossover**
Oswego Falls at Avond Park, 7 p.m.
- Class B**
Green Tech at Ravenna, 7 p.m.
Corning at Schuylkill Crane, 7 p.m.
Brookfield at Catskill, 7 p.m.
- Class B-C Crossover**
Hudson at Mechanicville, 7 p.m.
- Class C**
Hoosick Falls at Tamarac, 7 p.m.
Saratoga at Greenville, 7 p.m.
Catskill at Corning, 7 p.m.
- Class D**
Cambridge at Carletonville, 7 p.m.
Pittsford at CCHS, 7 p.m.
Warrenburg at Whitestown, 7 p.m.
- Saturday**
Class AA
Guthrie at Albany, 1 p.m.
- Class A**
Stirling Major at Scotia, 1:30 p.m.
Andover at S. Green Falls, 1:30 p.m.
- Class B**
L'Chugh at Albany Area, 1:30 p.m.
Shenandoah at Hudson Falls, 1 p.m.
- Class C**
Fonda at Westerloville, 1:30 p.m.
Taconic Hills at Chatham, 7 p.m.
- Class D**
Lake George at Saratoga, 1 p.m.
Greenwich at North Glensville, 1 p.m.
- Non-League**
Watervliet vs. Clyde Saratoga at New Hartford High School, 4:30 p.m.

Hoosick Falls @ Tamarac



**LACE
UP**



Panthers Rip Bengals 44 - 0



After going up and over a Bengal defender, Brad Burns prepares to land. The result was a touchdown. That's Randy Tutunjian providing the escort. Photo by Steve Bradley.

by Steve Bradley

The Hoosick Falls Central School Panthers traveled down Route 7 to Brunswick last Friday to take on the Tamarac Bengals. It didn't take long for the Panthers to determine who was the dominant species in this matchup. By the end of the first quarter, with the score at 24-0, the Panthers had the Bengals on the run and just trying to minimize the wounds. Damon Dubois opened the scoring with a 20 yard field goal. The Panthers then scored three TDs, two on the ground and one through the air, before the first quarter ended. The Panthers scored once in the second and once in the third quarter to put the game away. Tamarac never threatened before the Panthers were out of reach. This game was the end of regular season play.

The Panther defense shut down the Bengals in every way. Tamarac had 37 total rushing yards on 19 carries for less than a 2 yard per carry average. Because forward progress was so hard to come by on the ground, the Ben-

gals took to the air, throwing 26 passes, completing 11 for 111 yards. Bryan Sherman got the Max Preps defensive player of the game. Brad Burns also had a notable outing, recording six tackles and giving the Bengals fits all over the field. The offense was running on all cylinders, with Burns putting another 200 yards in the record book. Quarterback Billy Pine chipped in 91 rushing yards. Receiver Josh Brogue hauled in five passes, one for a touchdown, and sophomore Austin Pitt caught three passes for 29 yards.

Due to unplayable field conditions at HFCS, the Panthers (7-0) will play the Voorhesville Blackbirds (2-4) at Stillwater High School, Saturday, October 20, in quarterfinal Section II playoff action. This is a change of day and place from the originally scheduled Friday night at HFCS. Hoosick Falls will be on the home side of the field. Admission will be \$3. The game will begin at 7 pm.

Section 2 Quarter Finals



Burns fumbles in the open field. The ball hit the turf and bounced right back into his hands, and he proceeded to run for the TD.

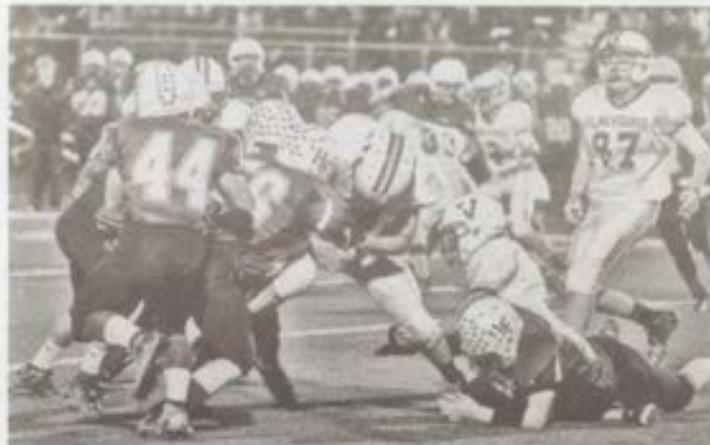
School record for most points scored in a game

HF 69

Voorheesville 14

Page 8

Panthers Ground Blackbirds 69 - 14 In First Round Sectional Play



The defense wasn't about to let the offense have all the fun. In this mugging, a couple of Panthers keep the runner from advancing while others try to steal the ball. Photo by Steve Bradley.

by Steve Bradley

The Panther football team traveled Route 67 to Stillwater last Saturday evening to take on the Voorheesville Blackbirds. This was a first round Section II playoff game. The game began with the Panthers kicking off to the 'Birds, which they fumbled on the return. Thirty seconds later Josh Brogue received a pass from Billy Pine and took it seven yards into the end zone. This was the opening act of what turned out to be a tremendous offensive outburst by the Panthers.

In the first 17 minutes of play, the Panthers scored eight touchdowns. The halftime score was 62 - 0. Quarterback/punt returner Billy Pine was a part of five TDs; 3 passes and 2 punt returns. Brad Burns carried seven times for 133 yards and scored 3 TDs. Burns had so much room to run he was able to do a dribbling exhibition in the middle of one TD run. Randy Tutunjian and Josh Brogue each hauled in a TD pass. Tutunjian's went for 58 yards. Eric Kaufmann kicked 8 PATs, making 7 of them. Brandon Hodges and Mike Mattat also scored on running plays. Billy Pine was named the MaxPreps Offensive and Overall Player of the Game.

The defense did their part, keeping the Blackbirds from making much progress regardless of what they tried. Mark Hackett had a nice outing, recovering two fumbles to go along with six tackles. Hackett was named the recipient of the Max Preps Defensive Player of the Game. Austin Pitt and Dave Hardesty had five tackles each.

The Blackbirds deserve credit for playing the entire game like they were six points down. When they scored in the fourth quarter, with the outcome long known, their fans cheered for them like they had just taken the lead.

Next Saturday evening, October 27, the Panthers (8 - 0, Class C State rank - 6) will return to Stillwater to face the Fonda Braves (5 - 2) in Class C semi-final action. Hoosick Falls will be wearing white, away jerseys, but will be seated on the home side of the field. Game time is 7 pm.

10-21-12

Hoosick Falls steamrolls another foe

Panthers top Blackbirds to reach Class C semis

By James Allen

STILLWATER — No matter where the Hoosick Falls football team performs, it sure seems like home to the Panthers. Saturday night at Stillwater High, the Panthers authored their latest installment of "how

Hoosick Falls	69
Voorheesville	14

to dominate and do so in a respectful manner."

Hoosick Falls has captured three straight Section II Class C titles and is now two wins away from a fourth consecutive championship after posting a 69-14 victory over Voorheesville. The scoring output is a school record, and it was achieved in the third quarter.

Veteran Hoosick Falls head coach Ron Jones possesses three

of the area's most prolific small-school weapons in senior quarterback Billy Pine, senior running back Brad Burns and senior wide receiver Randy Tutanjian. The Blackbirds were the latest Class C squad to display no ability of remotely curtailing those three stars.

Pine threw three first-quarter touchdown passes, rushed for a 15-yard touchdown and returned two punts for touchdowns in the first half. Burns, the school's all-time leading rusher, carried the ball seven times for 133 yards and two touchdowns, plus hauled in a 41-yard TD strike from Pine. Tutanjian only caught one ball Saturday, but it was for a 58-yard touchdown.

The Panthers led 55-0 with 7:44 remaining in the second quarter, which marked the end of the evening for the Hoosick Falls' starters.

"It is unbelievable the level that

they play at," Voorheesville coach Joe Sapienza said. "They are quick. They are physical. They are disciplined. They execute. There is not a weak link. Their program is in a great, great place and they are setting the bar for everyone else in Class C and Section II."

"Coach Jones says, 'Be the classy guys, be intense, be physical and come out ready to play.' We came ready to play," Pine said.

"Randy is so dominant 1-on-1, teams put two kids on him and Brad is so tough, teams load the box. That makes it easier to pass. Teams says they don't know what to stop. All I know is our lineman don't get enough credit."

Saturday's triumph is the 10th straight Section II playoff victory for the Panthers and 38th consecutive win Section II competition. Hoosick Falls last tasted defeat in a 22-19 Class C quarterfinal contest against Watervliet in 2008.

Jones and his coaching staff continue to do an impeccable job of not allowing the Panthers to be content with success.

"That is a major focus. It starts on Day 1. Did we get better today? That is always the question afterwards," Jones said. "When we can say no, that just isn't good enough. In the locker room before the game, we talked about Schuylerville upsetting the No. 1 seed (Lansingburgh 20-19 Friday night in the Class B quarterfinals). It is important to match the emotion of the team you are playing. To their credit, this is one of the best groups we've ever had of just staying focused on themselves."

Hoosick Falls (8-0), the No. 2 team in the state, returns to Stillwater Oct. 27 for a semifinal showdown against Fonda (5-2).

▶ jallen@timesunion.com • 518-454-5062 • @TUSidelines



SET THE STANDARD



Section 2 Semi Finals

Hoosick Falls reflects on near-perfect quarterfinal win

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — Two plays, touchdown. One play, touchdown. Punt return, touchdown. One play, touchdown. One play, touchdown.

Score: Hoosick Falls 34, Voorheesville 0. And that was just the first quarter. Six plays, five touchdowns. Football isn't played much more efficiently than that.

"Coach Jones told us to physically overwhelm them in the first quarter," said Panthers senior quarterback Billy Pine.

Hoosick Falls succeeded in doing that from the opening whistle of their Section II

quarterfinal last Friday.

The Blackbirds received the opening kickoff, but fumbled, giving the Panthers a short field. Two plays later, Josh Brogue hauled in a 7-yard touchdown from Pine.

"We got that first fumble, went down and scored and that took the life out of them," Pine said. "We keep adding touchdowns and they crumble."

Later in the quarter, the Panthers got the ball back and Pine tossed a 41-yard touchdown to Brad Burns to make it 13-0. But Hoosick Falls wasn't

done by a long-shot. Voorheesville went 3-and-out and punted to Pine, who returned it 45 yards for his first of two punt return scores on the night.

Class C

(at Stillwater)

HFCS (8-0)

vs.

Fonda (0-2)

7 p.m.

all we all had a great game." After another short drive by the Black-

birds, the Panthers got the ball again and took all of one play — a 50-yard scamper from Burns — to make it 27-0.

"We need to finish them right here," Pine said. "Coach Jones is an aggressive play caller, we're looking to score right away. The other team gets frustrated and yelling at each other and we know we've got them at that point."

Burns carried the ball seven times for 133 yards and three touchdowns.

"Once we get the first one, we feel like every play we get more yards," Burns said.

PERFECT, continued on 2B



Unbeaten Hoosick Falls meets Fonda

PERFECT, continued from 1B

"When it comes on the beginning and you're getting 30 yards on every play you start to get the feeling ... they get down, we want to pour it on. We want them to quit."

Pine completed five passes overall — three for scores, as Hoosick Falls, hunting a fourth consecutive sectional Super Bowl title, set a school record for points scored in the 69-14 rout.

"They were on fire when they came out," said Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones. "We had a good week of

practice, a good warmup. They looked sharp. They really executed so well, across the board and you have to be pleased with that."

The second quarter was much of the same for the Panthers.

Pine scored 80 seconds into the period, then returned his second punt 51 yards for another score 1:12 later.

Less than 90 seconds later, Burns ran in his third score of the night from 32 yards out to make it 62-0.

"We've had a few similar games where we've started fast, but five minutes in [to the second quarter]

it was 62-0 and I had to sub out the starters," Jones said. "I don't think we've returned two kicks for touchdowns."

The Panthers (8-0) look to keep up the high-powered attack against Fonda on Saturday night at Stillwater in the Class C semifinal. A win there would send Hoosick Falls back to the Super Bowl.

"The offense just has to keep doing what we've been doing," Burns said. "The [sectional] title means a lot to come out and get there four straight [times], the seniors want that really bad."

Hoosick Falls vs. Fonda-Fultonville



QB Billy Pine runs through the entire Fonda defense for a TD



SUPER BOWL BOUND

Hoosick Falls advanced to its fourth consecutive Section II Class C Super Bowl with a 47-0 victory over Fonda

Page 46



N.Y. CLASS-C SEMIFINALS

Panthers roll into title tilt

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

STILLWATER, N.Y. — One of Hoosick Falls Central School football coach Ron Jones' objectives for their game against Fonda-Fultonville was stressing the importance of a fast start.

HS Football

>HOOSICK FALLS 47
FONDA-FULTONVILLE 0

523 Total yards

Pine - 222 passing yds

Burns - 194 rush yds

Tutunjian - 5 recp / 102 yds





Panthers advance to Class C Super Bowl

By Laura Amato
lamato@troyrecord.com
Twitter.com/LauraAmato

STILLWATER - Billy Pine walked up to the line of scrimmage for Hoosick Falls' first offensive play in Saturday's Class C semi-final matchup against Fonda totally confident in what he was about to do.

The Panthers senior quarterback took the snap, dropped back, waited and saw exactly what he wanted, hitting wideout Josh Brugler for a 64-yard touchdown pass.

One play and 13 seconds after Pine left the original huddle, Hoosick Falls (9-0) was already on the scoreboard with a lead they would never surrender.

That one throw essentially set the tone for the entire game, as the Panthers, currently ranked second in all of New York state, cruised to a 47-0 victory and secured a trip to their fourth straight Class C Super Bowl.

"I saw the blitz and I knew that Josh was my hot route," Pine said. "So I gave it off to him and he just made a guy miss. It was just our night, I guess."

For the second straight week, Pine paced a Hoosick Falls offense that practically obliterated their competition. The Panthers racked up 523 total offensive yards as Pine threw a season-high 222 passing yards with two touchdown passes.

The key to Hoosick Falls dominance though, as it's been all season, has been the team's ability to simply run the ball over and over again, pounding yards straight into the end zone.

Fonda's (5-3) defense opened up strong against the Panthers rushing attempts, holding Hoosick Falls all-time leading rusher Brad Burns to just 56 yards in the first half.

"They had a really good defensive plan



Hoosick Falls' Bryan Sherman (56) tackles Fonda-Fultonville quarterback Russ Williams (14) during Saturday's Section B Class C semifinal in Stillwater.

for us," Panthers coach Ben Jones said. "We didn't just get to break runs out every time."

By the second half though, Burns decided to take things into his own hands, altering the Panthers run to the outside, allowing him to break into open field and, in some cases, straight over the top of Fonda defenders.

"They kept pinching the nose and so I said let's try to work the outside," Burns, who finished with 190 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries, said. "It's nice to have players that are smart enough to do that. They all get it right away and go out and execute."

Between Burns and Pine, who also rushed for two touchdowns, the Panthers rushed for over 300 yards, slowly but surely picking apart the Fonda defense from all angles.

As the Hoosick Falls offense, which has now racked up 422 points this season, once again posted big numbers, the defense recorded their 11th shutout of the season.

The Panthers defensive line allowed only 112 total yards by the final whistle and held Fonda to just six yards on their longest run of the night by sophomore running back Pat Hart.

"You have to go to fundamentals,"

defensive lineman Lance Wilder said. "You've got to keep in your gap and you can't get pushed back. Then they can't do anything."

Fonda's Russ Williams, who averaged over 130 yards per game before Saturday night, finished 8-19-2 for only 88 yards, thanks to a Hoosick Falls line that was in his face as soon as he snapped the ball.

Wilder, who blocked a Williams pass early in the fourth quarter, led the charge in the defensive shutdown.

"It scares the quarterback, so you know the next play they're going to be scared to throw it," the senior said of his shutdown. "Of course, the next play he throw right to Grady Beck for an interception. It's definitely great for us a defense."

The Panthers' victory sends them to another Class C Super Bowl appearance, when they'll take on fellow undefeated squad Chatham on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Stillwater High School.

Although the Hoosick Falls squad is confident going into next week's matchup, the semi-final game was not without mistake, and the Panthers know that there's still plenty of room for improvement.

In fact, they're determined to get better, because it only gets more difficult from here on out.

"This has been our best group that realizes to get to where we want to get to you have to work," Jones said. "They understand that next week is going to be even harder. We're not going to get too far ahead of ourselves."

HOOSICK FALLS AT FONDA 2

Fonda 0 0 0 0 - 0

Hoosick Falls 7 17 17 14 - 47

First Quarter

1st - 64 yd pass from Billy Pine to Josh Brugler (kick)

Second Quarter

1st - 1 yd run by B. Pine (pass failed)

2nd - 37 yd pass from B. Pine to Patrick Coleman (kick)

Third Quarter

1st - 20 yd run by B. Pine (kick)

2nd - 67 yd run by Brad Burns (kick failed)

Fourth Quarter

1st - 8 yd run by B. Burns (kick)

2nd - 1 yd run by B. Pine (kick)

Section 2
Class C
SUPERBOWL



Chatham Panthers

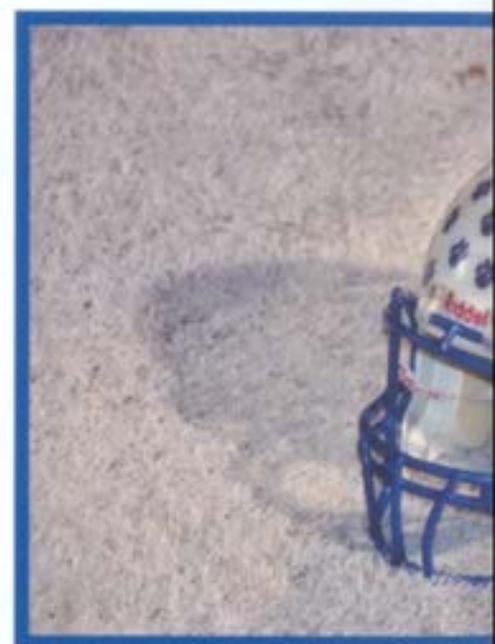


vs.

Hoosick Falls Panthers



Friday— November 2, 2012 7p.m.



— N.Y. CLASS C FOOTBALL SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP —

H.F. on prowl for No. 4

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — It happened in 2006, 2009 and 2010. Each time Hoosick Falls and Chatham have met in the Class C Super Bowl, the Panthers have come out on the winning side.

Tonight, the two 9-0 teams meet on the turf at Stillwater for the fourth time in six years, each seeking a sectional title.

If the Panthers, ranked No. 2 in the state, can beat Chatham again, it'll be their fourth straight Class C title, a reign with few peers in Section II history.

Only four other schools have accomplished the feat since 1978, but Hoosick would be the first in Class C.

Tonight

HFCS (9-0)

Chatham (9-0)

"We've been together since sixth grade and we've always talked about winning the Super Bowl and states," said senior wide receiver Randy Tutunjan, who leads the team with eight touchdown catches. "But now that it's here, it's like wow, it's in that can do it, [we're] not just looking up to anyone."

In 2006 and 2009, Hoosick Falls beat Chatham by a field goal. In 2010, they rolled 61-20, scoring 33 points in the

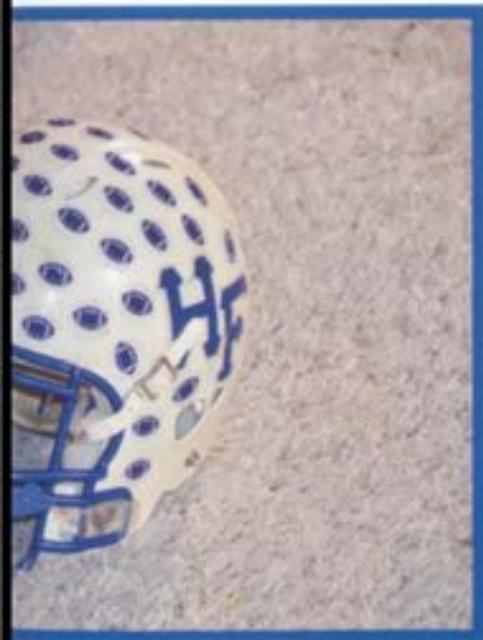
second half. "Super Bowl week is a great week and it's a great rivalry," said Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones. "All the games have been close, even the 61-20 game we tied at the half."

Hoosick Falls' high-flying offense is led by the school's all-time leading rusher, Brad Burns and quarterback Billy Pace. Burns is sixth in the section with 1,472 rushing yards and fourth with 26 total touchdowns. Pace has accumulated 32 touchdowns — a Section II best 20 passing, 10 rushing and two punt returns.

PANTHERS, continued on 2B



The Hoosick Falls Central School defense chases down school team quarterback Garrett Wright, left, during practice on Thursday at the SportsDowns.



2B

BENNINGTON BANNER • WWW.BENNINGTON

Panthers battle for 4th Super Bowl tonight

PANTHERS, continued from 1B

Hoosick Falls reached the final after a 47-0 win over Fonda-Fultonville last Saturday. The Panthers led 20-0 at the half, then scored twice in the third and fourth quarters to pull away. Unlike most games this season, starters had to play almost a full 48 minutes.

"It's definitely good reassurance; [some] question if we can play a full game," said senior center Grady Beck. "We always condition to play a full game, but playing one against Fonda was good."

Chatham reached the final after a 23-20 overtime thriller against Mechanicville.

As in past years, Chatham is a strong running team, using a double wing offense that has propelled them to outscore their opponents, 393-87.

Three running backs have eight or more scores and wingback R.J. Sando leads in yards with 720 and nine touchdowns. By yardage, they have the top rushing offense in Section II.

"Their offense is heavy run, but they have a quarterback that is competent passing," Jones

said. "They like to put guys in motion, run a sweep or reverse and counters. That means everyone needs to be in their gap, they have to believe the guy heading their way has the ball. They can't be looking in the backfield or they're toast."

Chatham quarterback Tyler Van Brunt is second on the team with 452 rushing yards but can throw the ball just as well, tossing for 684 yards and eight touchdowns.

"Their quarterback is shifty and good at working through tackles," Jones said. "They have a good misdirection offense and are happy to get 3-and-a-half yards a carry. We have to be disciplined and physical at the point of attack."

On the other side of the ball, Chatham runs a 3-3-5 defense with a big defensive line and athletic linebackers.

"They have a big line like Fonda," Beck said. "We have to work on our footsteps. Communication is the key against big linemen. They like to blitz so as long as everyone knows [their] responsibility, everything will take care of itself."

Setting the Standard For Classy in Class C

Section 2 Superbowl

25 - Friday, November 2, 2012

local sports

The Record www.troyrecord.com

Hoosick Falls success starts up front

By Laura Amato
lamato@troyrecord.com
Twitter.com/LauraAmato

HOOSICK FALLS - Sometimes in sports it isn't about padding your own stat sheet or getting all the glory for yourself. Sometimes, it's simply about doing whatever it takes to help your team win.

The Hoosick Falls football team, perennial Class C champion and the No. 2 team in the state, knows this better than just about anyone, boasting an offensive line made up of players who were willing to do anything to help their team keep that win column clogged full.

Now, with a fourth straight Super Bowl championship in sight, the Panthers line is more than ready to keep that win streak alive as they line up tonight against Chatham.

"Without them none of it happens," coach Ron Jones said. "They're a group that, at the beginning of the year, was our question mark. They work harder than anyone and they've definitely gotten better."

The Panthers line are a ragtag group of players, some in their first year of varsity and others who were moved out of position and onto the line so they could get time on the field instead of the sidelines.

Brandon Hodges, who will take over for Brad Burns at running back next season, stepped into a lineman position this season and found himself as one of the building blocks of a Hoosick Falls team that

has outscored opponents 422 to 44 this season.

"We like to take good steps,"



the junior said. "We want to take our man in the blocks. That tends to be a big point of our offense."

For the Panthers' offensive line, the numbers are simply a point of pride.

Although it isn't anything new for Hoosick Falls, this year's squad has posted impressive num-

bers through the air and on the ground thanks to seniors Billy Pine and Brad Burns.

The two alone have combined for an incredible 3,148 total offensive yards, but none of that happens unless that line makes their blocks.

"Being able to say you block for those guys is pretty great," senior center Grady Beck. "Every week we work hard and it's awesome to be able to be a part of something so great."

"Tonight the Panthers' line faces one of their greatest challenges of the year, against an opposing Chatham defense that has allowed only 87 points this year.

But don't expect the Hoosick Falls line to take it without fighting. They might not be the biggest players on the field, but they're planning on being the strongest.

"We know we aren't the biggest," Hodges said. "But we know we have to be the strongest. That's always going to be the key to our success."

J.S. Caruso - The Record
Hoosick Falls QB Billy Pine has had another outstanding season throwing the ball, getting outstanding protection from the Panthers' offensive line.

How they got here

CHATHAM	CHATHAM
Vs. Mechanicville . . . 45-0, W	At Coxsack-Athens . . . 64-6, W
At Granville . . . 42-10, W	Vs. Stillwater . . . 28-0, W
Vs. Taconic Hills . . . 47-8, W	At Voorheesville . . . 52-0, W
At Stillwater . . . 40-0, W	At Fonda . . . 34-0, W
At Schoharieville . . . 43-12, W	At Waterford . . . 28-3, W
Vs. Corinth . . . 47-0, W	Vs. Lyons . . . 49-38, W
At Tamarac . . . 44-0, W	Vs. Taconic Hills . . . 56-5, W
Vs. Voorheesville . . . 59-14, W	Vs. Stillwater . . . 59-14, W
Vs. Fonda . . . 47-0, W	Vs. Mechanicville . . . 23-20, OT, W

AMATO'S PREDICTION: Chatham has put up some impressive numbers this season. Chatham is motivated for this game because Hoosick Falls has ended its season the past few seasons in the Class C Super Bowl. However, I cannot pick against Hoosick Falls. Brad Burns, Billy Pine and the Hoosick Falls offensive line will get it done again this season.

TOP PLAYERS

HOOSICK FALLS

Brad Burns - The senior running back is the all-time school rushing record holder at a month ago. Sometimes a player's performance will drop off once they've reached a goal like that, but Burns, since breaking the record he's rushed for 525 yards and five touchdowns. He's also handled a few defenders in the process.

Billy Pine - The second-year starter leads Section II with 20 TD passes on the season and has passed for 1260 passing yards while being intercepted twice. Pine is quick enough to run the ball and he frequently finds the end zone that way. He's got 10 rushing touchdowns and 200 yards to his name.

CHATHAM

RJ Berda - The senior hasn't had an incredible amount of carries this season, but he's managed to make the most of it, leading the Panthers with nine touchdowns and averaging over nine yards every time he takes the hand-off. Berda's biggest strength is that he's incredibly quick.

Ryan Kist - The defensive back ranks among the top secondary players in all of Section II with three interceptions on the season, including a key pick performance in the victory against Stillwater earlier this year. Going up against a Hoosick Falls team that is dominant through the air with a quarterback who has thrown just two interceptions all season, Kist's best friends would have a major impact.

KEYS FOR WINNING

HOOSICK FALLS - The Panthers consistently make the highlight reel thanks to somewhat obvious plays. Fall move the ball down the field in the blink of an eye. Case in point, last week's opening offensive play for Hoosick Falls. Billy Pine took the snap, scanned the field and found Josh Brogan for a 64 yard touchdown. This week they'll need some sustained scoring drives.

CHATHAM - The biggest thing Chatham is going to have to do tonight is play defense and play it very, very well. The Chatham defense line is going to have to play the game of their life if they plan to get ahead. The Hoosick Falls offensive line has been the key to their success.



Hoosick Falls vs. Chatham



Chatham back for another try

Hoosick Falls has won their three previous title meetings

By James Allen

Can the fourth time finally be the charm for the Chatham football team?

Since 2006, the Panthers have dropped all three of their Section II Class C Super Bowl appearances. All three of those defeats came against the same foe: Hoosick Falls.

Chatham (9-0) looks to end its title-less run against Hoosick Falls (6-3) at 7 o'clock on Saturday.

The third edition of the "Panther Bowl" — it's Panthers vs. Panthers — in its past four years also is the only 2012 title game in which the opponents did not meet during the regular season.

It appeared "Panther Bowl IV" wouldn't materialize when Chatham struggled in the semifinals, but the Chatham Panthers emerged with a 21-20 overtime win over Mechanicville thanks to a 12-yard field goal from Tyler VanDusen.

"We had some adversity, and we were able to get through it," Chatham coach Shawn Caldwell said. "There are a lot of people that are looking at us as a big underdog. We're going to use that as motivation. Hoosick Falls has a great program and is a very good team, but we will be ready for that game. We have to come out and do the things we want to do."

What Chatham will look to do — and must do — against Hoosick Falls is grind out drives with its running game and conclude those series with touchdowns.

Chatham leads Section II with 5,127 yards rushing, led by R.J. Sardo (729 yards, nine touchdowns). VanDusen (412 yards, eight touchdowns), Al Kelly (166 yards, six touchdowns), Tyler Rivers (141 yards, four touchdowns) and James

Whitman (204 yards, six touchdowns).

"We don't have any superstars, but what we do have are a lot of very good and hard-working players who work well together and want to win," Caldwell said.

All Hoosick Falls has done is win games in Section II, pushing the streak to 29 in a row with its 47-0 semifinal triumph over Falls in a rematch of the 2011 Super Bowl.

"They've done a really good job of not getting ahead of themselves and focusing," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "There is daily maintenance, but I've got really good guys. They know how hard they have to battle to get what they want to get."

Jones has what so many other Class C coaches crave: three exceptional athletes in quarterback Billy Pine (1,330 yards passing and 20 touchdowns, plus 324 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns), running back Brad Burns (1,472 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns) and wide receiver Randy Tannousian (24 catches for 621 yards and eight touchdowns).

Jones watched a young offensive line — featuring tackles Bryan Sherman, Lucas Rice-Wilder as well as guards Derek Eiv, Brandon Hodges, Mark Hackett and center Gusty Berk — bring a haul at the University at Albany team camp. That unit has helped Hoosick Falls generate 3,746 yards offense and outscore opponents 422-44.

"I've been real pleased with how they've come along, and their effort is fantastic," Jones said.

"They have three very good players, a great line that blocks for them and a coaching staff that puts them in great positions to succeed," Caldwell said.

• jamesallen@timesunion.com • 210-654-3002 • @JTFallout



BRAD BURNS has Hoosick Falls bringing high heating into the Super Bowl. Burns has run for 1,472 yards and 22 TDs for the Panthers, who have outscored their foes 422-44.



CHATHAM'S R.J. SARDO leads a ground attack that piled up a Section II-high 5,127 yards. Sardo accounted for 83 yards and six TDs in the semifinal win over Mechanicville.

Class C Super Bowl

CHATHAM (9-0) VS. HOOSICK FALLS (9-0)

• Where: Stillwater
• When: 7 p.m. Friday

• **Players to watch:** Chatham — Nick Shaw (G/LB), Tyler VanDusen (QB/DB), Al Kelly (RB/LB), Jesse Whitman (RB/LB), Steven Murray (G/DL), R.J. Sardo (RB), Peter Hawkins (G/DL), Hoosick Falls — Brad Burns (RB/LB), Billy Pine (QB/DB), Randy Tannousian (WR/DB), Brandon Hodges (DT), Gusty Berk (OL/DL), Bryan Sherman (OL/DL).

• **Things to know:** Chatham advanced with a 23-20 overtime victory over Mechanicville. VanDusen connected on a 20-yard field goal to win it. Chatham leads Section II with 5,127 yards rushing. Sardo leads the way with 729 yards, followed by VanDusen (402), Kelly (266), Sam Stone (243) and Whitman (204). Chatham has seven players that have scored at least five touchdowns. This is the third Super Bowl appearance in four years for the South Division champions and fourth since 2006. Burns, the school's all-time leading rusher, has carried a 127 times for 1,472 yards and 22 touchdowns in his senior season. Hoosick Falls extended its Section II playoff winning streak to 11 games by beating Falls 47-0. Hoosick Falls has outscored opponents 175-0 in the first quarter, 80-0 in the first quarter and 422-44 overall. Pine has completed 63 of 99 passes for 1,330 yards and 20 touchdowns, plus rushed for 324 yards and 10 touchdowns. Tannousian has caught 24 passes for 621 yards and eight touchdowns.

• **Section II playoff history:** Chatham (14-10); Hoosick Falls (22-6).

• **Section II titles:** Chatham — none; Hoosick Falls — six (2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2003, 1993).

• **Other Class C coaches' series:** Hoosick Falls 10, Chatham 0.

SECTION II SUPER MEN

Shaker, Hoosick Falls win football titles, headed to state regionals



4 Time Section 2 Champions



— N.Y. CLASS C SECTIONAL SUPER BOWL —

Relentless. Repeat. Rout.

Burns' five touchdowns power Hoosick to 4-peat



J.B. Cannon/Tony Record

Hoosick Falls Central School running back Brad Burns (35) eludes a Chatham defender on a first-half run Friday night in the Class C sectional Super Bowl at Stillwater.

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

STILLWATER, N.Y. — The quad is complete.

Brad Burns rushed for four first-half touchdowns, five overall, and 172 yards as the Hoosick Falls Central School football team won its fourth straight Class C Super Bowl, 40-0, over Chatham on Friday night.

"Every year — freshman, sophomore, junior and senior," Burns said. "The seniors on this team haven't lost a Section II game, we're 40-0."

Hoosick Falls (10-0) started the game right away, scoring on its first offensive play for the second

straight game. Quarterback Billy Pine tossed a 25-yard touchdown pass to Josh Brogue, a play set up by a 35-yard punt return by Pine.

HS Football

>HOOSICK FALLS	40
CHATHAM	0

On the next possession, Hoosick Falls took advantage of an RJ Sandoz fumble and four plays later, Burns had his first touchdown of the night, a 15-yarder down the right side into the end zone.

Another quick drive and short field after a Chatham (9-1) three-and-out made it 20-0 when Burns glowed in from five yards away.

Chatham punted six times, five in the first half as Hoosick Falls took the big lead. The Panthers plucked their sixth shutout of the season.

"Coach [Chris] Fleming and

"I got a good punt return, and right away, everyone's amped up," Pine said. "Coach Jones called our big play to the post, but [receiver] Randy [Tutunjian] drew so much attention they didn't cover Josh. From there, we put the pedal to the metal. We knew the game was ours."

4-PEAT, continued on 1B



H.F runs Super Bowl rout of Chatham

4-PEAT, continued from 1B

Coach [Eamonn] DeGraaf always put in an awesome gameplan, and we have some tough kids, that combo is tough to beat," said Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones. "The [defense] give us short fields. I think our fast pace tired them out at first, they weren't ready for our speed."

Burns finished the first quarter with another touchdown, this one from three yards out, set up by passes to Tom Peabody and Brogue. The leading rusher in Hoosick Falls history scored three touchdowns on six touches in the

opening quarter.

On the next drive, Hoosick Falls was stopped on a fourth-and-1 in Chatham territory, but the defense came up huge again as Tutunjian intercepted Chatham quarterback Tyler Van Brunt on the ensuing play.

"It's my senior year, the last shot," Burns said. "I got so close as a junior. We came out intense in the first half, put 34 on them and tried to make them quit. And I think they did."

Chatham struggled all night on offense and on their one sustained drive of the night, Chatham drove

33 yards in 12 plays but Hoosick Falls forced a turnover on downs.

Burns then finished off the rout with his fifth touchdown, his 27th of the year, to make it 40-0.

"The line really stepped up and made great holes for me and Billy," Burns said. "It makes things so much easier when a guy's not right in your face."

Hoosick Falls will play the winner of Saturday night's Section X matchup between Saranac Lake and Ogdensburg.

"We're part of a special group and we want to live up to the hype," Pine said. "We're not going to stop till we get to 13-0 and the Dome."

11-3-12

Hoosick Falls records four-bagger

By Laura Amato
lamato@troyrecord.com
Twitter.com/LauraAmato

STILLWATER — Brad Burns has been here before.

The Hoosick Falls senior running back has played in a Class C Super Bowl before. In fact, he and his fellow Panthers have won four consecutive Section II championships.

But Friday night's 40-0 victory over Chatham was perhaps the sweetest victory of his entire record-making career with the Panthers.

"Senior year, we knew this was our last shot," Burns said, who finished the game with five touchdowns and 175 yards, said. "This year we wanted to come in with intensity."

"We just really wanted to make Chatham quit and I think we did."

As has been the norm for Hoosick Falls all seasons, the Panthers simply cruised through the matchup, taking control earlier, setting the tone and never once giving the previously undefeated Chatham squad the chance to find its footing.

For the second straight week, Billy Pine threw a first-play touchdown pass, finding Josh Bougie for a 25 yard completion in the end zone.

"We talked before the game," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "Billy was feeling it, so we said let's take a shot. I like starting out that way."

It was smooth sailing from there on out for Hoosick Falls.

The Panthers, ranked No. 2 among all Class C teams in the state, racked up 244 total offensive yards, taking down a Chatham defensive front that had previously allowed 87 points all season.



J.J. Carras — The Record
Hoosick Falls running back Brad Burns picks up several of 175 yards, to go along with 5 TDs as the Panthers beat Chatham, 40-0, to win the Section II Class C championship for a fourth consecutive season.

Burns found the end zone four different times in the first half alone as the Hoosick Falls offensive line continued to dominate in their performance at the line of scrimmage.

"Our line really stepped up tonight, all of them," Burns said. "They made huge holes for us and they let us see that open field. That makes it all so much easier."

For one of the first times this season, Hoosick Falls faced a solid defensive line that consistently tried to rush Pine, but the Panthers stood their ground, allow-

ing just one sack in 48 minutes of play.

"The other team was big, they were hitting a lot, but our guys hold up so well," Pine, who threw for 154 yards and one touchdown in the air, said. "They're kind of like one unit out there. They don't get enough credit."

For as well as the Hoosick Falls offense played, the defense was just as dominant, posting its sixth shutout in 10 games and allowing just 180 yards of total offense from Chatham by the final whistle.

Chatham went three and out on three

of its first four possessions of the game. The other one ended in a fumble and recovery by Hoosick Falls' Randy Tutunjian.

"They're really disciplined and we've got some really tough kids," Jones said of his defense. "Our coaches put these guys in an awesome spot every week and they give them a great gameplan."

The closest the Chatham offense came to the end zone was a fourth and goal attempt on their opening drive of the second quarter. But a six-yard run from quarterback Tyler Vanbrunt was six feet too short.

By the time the clock wound down at the end of the fourth quarter, the Hoosick Falls players were already rushing the field, every single player trying to get their hands on that Section II plaque.

This is nothing new for the Panthers, who will face off against the Section X winner next week, but with another Class C Super Bowl to their name, the Hoosick Falls squad is already setting their sights on that final goal: the Carrier Dome.

"I think every week we come in thinking about that feeling that we had in our stomach last year after the Dobbs Ferry game," Burns said. "We come in thinking we don't want that again. We're going to win."

HOOSICK FALLS vs. CHATHAM II

Chatham	0	0	0	0	0
Hoosick Falls	27	7	6	6	40

First Quarter

HF — 25 yard pass to Josh Bougie from Billy Pine (kick)

HF — Brad Burns, 15 yard run (kick)

HF — B. Burns, 3 yard run (kick)

HF — B. Burns, 3 yard run (kick)

Second Quarter

HF — B. Burns, 7 yard run (kick)

Fourth Quarter

HF — B. Burns, 9 yard run (kick)





Section 2 Record 2009-2012
40-0



NYS Quarter Finals



Leave It

On

The Field



For the third straight year, the NYS Class C quarter final found the Panthers facing their foe from up north, Saranac Lake Red Storm.

It is becoming somewhat of a rivalry between the teams, with SL defeating the Panthers in 2010 15-12 in overtime, while the Panthers prevailed in 2011.

This game was the Panthers toughest test of the 2012 season to date...

Students from Saranac tweeted the week before the game "Who's Brad Burns?" #35 showed them

Coach Folgert working his magic on Grady Beck. Almost looks as if he is stitching him up on the field! Coach did everything to keep them in the game.

Hoosick Falls vs. Saranac Lake

11/11/12 www.troyrecord.com

Panthers rally to take down Saranac Lake

By Adam Samrov
For The Record

CLINTONVILLE — At halftime against Saranac Lake on Saturday afternoon, the Hoosick Falls Central School football team was in a position they aren't used to: Trailing.

Senior Brad Burns made sure it wouldn't end that way.

Burns rushed 28 times for 144 yards and three touchdowns as the Panthers earned a bid into the Class C state semifinals with a 20-12 win over Saranac Lake at AuSable Valley High School.

"We came out in the first half, they had a good game plan; we couldn't do much on offense," Burns said. "We had one good drive and we fumbled. In the locker room, we said that we've had a goal for so long, we need to step it up. We came out fired up and ready to go, and really drove it to them in the second half."

A miscue on a fourth quarter kick return by the Red Storm gave the Panthers the momentum they needed. Down 12-6, Burns' 35-yard kickoff return set up a 6-play, 56-yard drive that he ended with a 15-yard touchdown run. Eric Kaufmann hit the extra point and Hoosick finally had the lead, 13-12, with 7:57 left.

"At halftime, we talked about keeping composure," said Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones. "We didn't make plays in the first half and they did. I told the kids, 'We'll be fine, we're one play from being ahead.'"

On the kickoff after Burns' score, Saranac Lake's Kevin Morgan, who caught 10 passes for 101 yards, was hit on the return and fumbled.

Brandon Hodges recovered for Hoosick Falls.

"I went in looking for the big hit and he duped me out," Hodges said.

"I was completely lost, so I started trailing him and I saw the ball pop out and I just fell on it."

Now, with a slim lead and a short field, the Panthers took

advantage of the turnover. Quarterback Billy Pine kept two drives alive with his legs, converting third downs, including a third-and-8 where Pine got about eight yards and three inches. In total, Pine rushed for 100 yards.

"Getting a turnover on special teams can jumpstart you," Jones said.

"We've done that a number of times this year, guys like Brandon and Derek (Bird) put so much pressure on the kickoff. Getting two possessions in a row in the second half is a big deal."

On the seventh play of the drive, Burns plowed in from five yards out to give the Panthers some breathing room, 20-12 with 4:35 to go.

With one final drive, Saranac Lake got as far as their 44, but a halfback pass on fourth-and-1 fell into the waiting arms of defensive back Josh Brogue.

Then Burns sealed the game with two first downs in the final two minutes.

"We kept calling the same play because it was working," Burns said.

"The line stepped up, opening holes, sealing the edge. The receivers were blocking, it was a real team effort."

114 of Burns' rushing total came in the second half when they were needed most.

"It was hard to get him the ball in the first half, we were behind the sticks quite a bit," Jones said. "When we got it to him, he was a bull, so strong and quick."

Saranac Lake got on the board in the beginning of the second quarter.

Pine threw his fourth interception of the season which gave the Red Storm the ball at their own 43. On the first play of the second, Phelan hooked up with Morgan on a 37-yard pass play to give them a first down at the Hoosick 11. Three plays later, Phelan sneaked for a 1-yard TD.

Phelan completed 19-of-31 for 173 yards, no touchdowns or interceptions.



Panthers Blow Past Red Storm 20 - 12 In Battle Of Undefeateds; Move To State Semi-Finals



Brad Burns tosses a Red Storm player up the field for a nice gain. Burns, running behind a solid offensive line, rushed for three touchdowns on the day. Photo by Steve Bradley.

by Steve Bradley

What a game - two 10-0, evenly matched Section champions meeting to determine who would be the Northeast region winner and continue into the State semifinals - two bleachers full of great fans loudly cheering their team - cool air and a warm sun - Hoosick Falls native Doug McCabe up in the booth announcing the game for the opposing team - Hoosick Falls linebacker Mike Mattat playing against his cousin Jonathan McCabe. Late fall football doesn't get any better than this.

The Panthers hopped on an early morning bus and made their way up to Ausable Valley High School, in the Plattsburg area, to take on the Section VII-X champion Saranac Lake Red Storm. There was a healthy respect for each other's programs and some familiarity through recent championship games.

Saranac Lake kicked off to the Panthers to start the game. The Panthers ripped off about 60 yards of offense on their first two plays, getting deep into SL territory. These two plays would be first half offensive highlights for the Panthers. On the next play, a fumble turned the ball over to SL. SL began moving the ball slowly but surely, and at the 10:30 mark of the second quarter, they pushed the ball across the goal line for a six point lead. It stayed at six

after the PAT kick was missed. At halftime, the Panthers, for the first time all year, were scoreless, and worse, trailing. Brad Burns gained just 31 first half yards.

Halftime was the best thing that happened to the Panthers. At the half, they made adjustments. They kept their quiet confidence. There was no panic. After the half, things changed. They got down to business. The defense started stopping SL running plays for losses. The offensive line started pushing people backwards, and Burns started seeing larger holes in front of him. Going with a use what got you here philosophy, Burns became a workhorse. You could feel the momentum drift from the red side to the blue side of the field.

Burns crossed the goal line on a 4 yard run with just over a minute left in the third quarter. After the PAT kick was missed, the score was tied at 6. Panther history shows that missed PATs can be haunting.

The Red Storm came right back with a nice 75 yard drive of their own, ending with the quarterback scoring on a 18 yard run up the middle. After a missed PAT try, the scoreboard read SL 12 - HF 6. The Panthers trailed again.

HF got the ball on the kick-off and moved down to the SL 15 yard line. The crowd, with each side encouraging their team, was so loud that on-field players had trouble hearing plays being

called from the sideline. From the 15, Burns took it to pay dirt. The score, 12-12. Eric Kaufmann, who misfired on his first attempt, kicked the ball between the posts for a Panther lead of 13-12. About this time, news came through that boys and girls soccer had won. There was great joy throughout Pantherland.

The Panthers kicked off to SL. A Red Storm player gathered the kick in and started upfield. He got to the SL 18 where he was hit and fumbled the ball. Brandon Hodges was in the right place at the right time and pulled it in for a HF possession. First down at the SL 20 yard line. Eight plays and a good chunk of time off the clock later, Burns went in from 5 yards out giving the Panthers a 19-12 lead. Damon Dubois topped it off with a PAT kick for a 20-12 lead. The Red Storm never threatened from there, giving the Panthers a hard fought victory.

The Panthers held SL to 36 second half rushing yards, while Burns ran for 114. HF threw three passes in the last 24 minutes. It was a come from behind, twice, victory. A good confidence builder. Brad Burns (offense) and Austin Pitt (defense) received the Max Preps Players of the Game.

Panther opponents aren't going to get any easier. This Saturday, November 17, at 11 am, the Panthers (11-0, Max Preps NYS Class C rank - 3) will head down the Thruway to play the O'Neill High School Raiders (9-2). The Raiders defeated Woodlands High School 35-18 in an upset last Saturday. The game will be held at Dietz Stadium in Kingston. This State semi-final game will determine the eastern representative for the Syracuse Dome State Championship game. Max Preps NYS Class C number 1 ranked Hornell and number 2 ranked Chenango Forks play each other Saturday to determine the western representative.

To reach Dietz Stadium, take 787 south to (Route 87) Thruway Exit 23. Go south on the Thruway and exit at Exit 19 (50.6 miles, toll \$2.40). After the toll booth, continue straight, then across the traffic circle onto Washington Avenue. Once on Washington Avenue, go across a bridge, past the Holiday Inn, then past the Bank of America building on the corner of Washington and Hurley Avenue. After the intersection there is a TD Bank. The stadium is behind the TD Bank building.



Second-half surge sends H.F. back to semis

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

11-12-12

CLINTONVILLE, N.Y. — At halftime against Saranac Lake, the Hoosick Falls Central School football team was in a position it had not been yet this year: Trailing.

Senior tailback Brad Burns made sure it wouldn't end that way.

HS Football

>HOOSICK FALLS	20
SARANAC LAKE	12

Burns rushed 28 times for 144 yards and three second-half touchdowns as the Panthers earned a bid into the Class C state semifinals with a 20-12 win over the Red Storm at AuSable Valley High School on Saturday.

"We came out in the first half, they had a good game plan; we couldn't do much on offense," Burns said. "We had one good drive and we fumbled. In the locker room, we said that we've had a goal for so long, we need to step it up."

"We came out fired up and ready to go, and really drove it to them in the second half."

A Saranac Lake (10-1) miscue on a fourth-quarter kick return gave the Panthers (11-0) the momentum they needed. Down 12-6, Burns' 35-yard kickoff return set up a six-play, 56-yard drive that he capped with a 15-yard TD scamper. Eric Kaufmann hit the extra point to finally give Hoosick the lead, 13-12, with 7:57 left.

"At halftime, we talked about keeping composure," said Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones. "We didn't make plays in the first half and they did. I told the kids, 'We'll be fine, we're one play from being ahead.'"

On the kickoff after Burns' score, Saranac Lake's Kevin Morgan, who caught 10 passes for 101 yards, was hit on the return and fumbled. Brandon Hodges recovered for Hoosick Falls.

"I went in looking for the big hit and he duped me out," Hodges said. "I was completely lost, so I started trailing him and I saw the ball pop out and I just fell on it."

With a slim lead and a short field, the Panthers capitalized on the turnover. Quarterback Billy Pine, who rushed for 100 yards, kept the drive alive with his legs, converting two third downs.

On the seventh play of the drive, Burns



Hoosick Falls Central School running back Brad Burns (35) cuts back past a defender on his way to the end zone in the second half on Saturday.

FOOTBALL, continued on 1B

SPORTS

BENNINGTON BANNER • WWW.BENNINGTONBANNER.COM

MO

Who's

Brad

Burns?

11-12-12 Burns scores 3 TDs in second half to key victory

FOOTBALL, continued from 1B

plowed in from five yards out to give the Panthers some breathing room, 20-12, with 4:35 to go.

With one final drive, Saranac Lake got as far as their 44, but a halfback pass on fourth-and-1 fell into the waiting arms of defensive back Josh Brogue. Then Burns sealed the game with two first downs in the final two minutes.

"We kept calling the same play because it was working," Burns said. "The line stepped up, opening holes, sealing the edge. The receivers were blocking, it was a real team effort."

Burns rushed for 114 yards in the second half — when they were needed most.

"It was hard to get him the ball in the first half, we were behind the sticks quite a bit," Jones said. "When we got it to him, he was a bull, so strong and quick."

Saranac Lake got on the board in the beginning of the second quarter.

Pine threw his fourth interception of the season which gave the

On the first play of the second quarter, Red Storm quarterback Mike Phelan booked up with Morgan on a 37-yard pass play to reach the Hoosick 11-yard line.

Three plays later, Phelan struck in for a 1-yard TD, the only score of the first half. He also went 19-of-31 passing for 173 yards, with no touchdowns or interceptions.

The Panthers put together their first sustained drive of the game near the end of the third quarter.

Two 15-yard runs by Pine, sandwiching a Red Storm facemask penalty, set up the Panthers at the Saranac Lake 25. Later, Burns plowed in from three yards out, diving into the end zone to tie the game 6-6.

Saranac Lake marched down the field on the next possession, going 75 yards in 10 plays, highlighted by a great leaping catch on a 30-yard bomb to Morgan. Phelan finished with an 18-yard touchdown run to put Saranac Lake back out in front.

On the two-point play, Grady Beck got his hands up to deflect the ball to make it 12-6. Burns scored on the next possession and



Hoosick Falls linebacker Austin Pitt, right, makes a tackle on spe-





Mike Mattat and his cousin from SL Jonathan McCabe.



Panthers	20
Red Storm	12

Panthers survive tough test

Burns lifts Hoosick Falls to Class C state semis

By James Allen

CLINTONVILLE — Brad Burns found no gaping holes to exploit. Quarterback Billy Pine missed some open receivers. There were missed tackles, too,

Saturday for the Hoosick Falls football team.

The normally dominant Panthers trailed for the first time at halftime, yet there was no panic.

Burns rushed for 121 of his game-high 154 yards and three touchdowns in the second half as Hoosick Falls registered a gritty 20-12 victory over Saranac Lake at AuSable Valley High School.

Hoosick Falls had entered the state Class C quarterfinal game having outscored its first 10 opponents 346-12 in the first half.

"I told them, 'They have made plays. We haven't.' We were playing hard, so we were OK," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said.

"We were getting frustrated, but we had to take that energy and make it positive," Hoosick Falls senior two-way lineman Brandon Hodges said. "We figured it was our turn to make the big plays."

The Red Storm showed throughout 48 minutes it is a tremendous small-school football team. But when things were dicey, the steely resolve and clutch execution belonged to the Panthers.

The teams met for the third straight year; Hoosick Falls prevailed 47-12 in 2011.

"They are an excellent ballclub," Jones said of the Red Storm. "They are clearly the best people we've seen so far. I sure hope they're the second-best (Class C) team in New York State, that is for sure. They have every little last ounce of my respect. They have a lot of really tough kids."

The respect was mutual. After the teams lined up for the awards ceremony, Saranac Lake coach Eric Bennett looked across at the Panthers and said, "Go get it. Take it home."

"We watched them on film and said, 'Wow, this is going to be a pretty close game,'" Burns said. "It (was). After the game, they rooted for us. They were sad, and you would be when your season ends, but they were really classy when they said, 'Take it all the way.' That is our goal."

The Panthers (11-0) return to the state semifinals for the second straight year. Next up is Section IX champion James I. O'Neil

next Saturday at Dietz Stadium in Kingston.

The Panthers ran the ball 28 times and passed it just three after intermission, working the ball to the right side often behind the blocking of Hodges and Lance Rice-Wilder.

Saranac Lake grabbed a 12-6 lead when senior quarterback Matt Phelan (20-for-32 passing for 200 yards, 96 yards rushing) scored on an 18-yard run with 10:00 left.

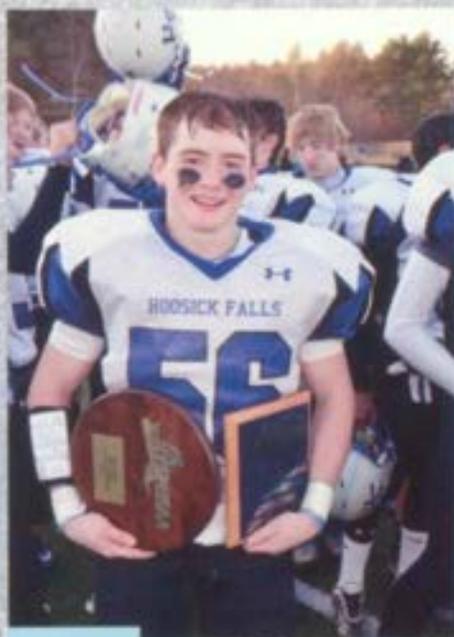
Hoosick Falls needed just six plays to respond as Burns scored from 15 yards out, and Eric Kaufmann's extra-point kick made it 13-12.

Kevin Morgan fumbled the ensuing kickoff, and Hodges recovered it at the Red Storm 30. Eight plays later, Burns completed his touchdown trifecta on a five-yard plunge with 4:35 left.

"We've done this deal before. If they trust us and trust each other, we'll be fine," Jones said. "Until it says 0:00 on the clock, we are never going to give up. We went with what was working: No. 35 (Burns) following some big fellas and then changing it up running it with Billy. I am very, very proud of my guys."

► jallen@timesunion.com • 518-454-5062 • @TUSidelines





NYS CLASS C SEMI FINAL DIETZ STADIUM, KINGSTON, NY

11-12-12
TU

Burns leaping team to the top

Senior leads Hoosick Falls to state semifinals

By James Allen

HOOSICK FALLS — Brad Burns' best Saturday actually proved to be too good, and it drew a penalty flag.

Late in the fourth quarter of the Hoosick Falls football team's state Class C quarterfinal against Saranac Lake, Burns completely hurdled 6-foot junior safety Dustin Fischer before he had engaged in his tackling attempt. By rule, Burns' play — which saw him hit the ground, then do a 360 spin move before reaching the end zone on a 31-yard run — instead netted a 15-yard penalty.

"I looked at the play on film (Sunday) and honestly, I think they had the right call. The kid was stiff on his feet," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "How do you tell a guy where 75 to 80 percent of the tackles on him are low or at his knees not to do (leap like that)? What he is doing is problem-solving: 'You want to attack my knees, fine, here is my answer.' I don't blame him."

"It just comes to me," Burns said. "Most people have been going at my ankles. I just figure it is another way to get by them, so I might as well do it."

Despite his latest highlight being negated, Burns still managed to rush for 154 yards and three touchdowns Saturday to lead the Panthers to a 20-12 victory over the Red Storm. Hoosick Falls (11-0), ranked No. 2 in the state, will compete next in the state semifinals Saturday vs. Section IX cham-

Please see **BURNS C9** ▶

11-12-12 TU

BURNS

▼ CONTINUED FROM C1

peon James L. O'Neill (9-2).

"I think this game was really good for us. It was a great team effort and I think this helped make us a stronger team," Burns said.

"The guy to stop right now is Brad," Jones said. "He is a great leader and is very unflappable. He is key to our team in keeping composure. (Saturday), we hadn't gotten him the ball much (in the first half). Brad is someone we need to make plays for us, and he did."

Burns, who is 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, has made a ton of significant plays at running back and

linebacker throughout his four-year varsity career.

Saturday's performance pushed Burns past Amsterdam's Justice Smith for the No. 8 slot all-time in Section II career rushing history with 4,188 yards.

Earlier in the season, Burns surpassed older brother Jon to become the all-time rusher at Hoosick Falls. Jon Burns helped lead the Panthers to the 2003 state Class C title game at the Syracuse Carrier Dome.

"We want to personally achieve, obviously, because he has very high expectations for himself and he wants to live up and surpass what his brother was able to do," Jones said. "The thing is, if we had to throw it 50 times the next game,

Brad wouldn't care as long as we won."

Brad Burns, who averages 95 in the classroom, wants to hurdle over his brother Jon once more and win a state Class C title. He watched most of the games during the 2003 season, including the Panthers' 30-26 championship game loss to Caledonia-Mumford.

"At such a young age, it put a picture in our minds of where we wanted to be," Burns said. "Coming so close the last three years and not getting there, and now having it within reach again, makes us really want to get there and win it."

▶ jallen@timesunion.com • 518-454-5062 • @TUSideLines



— N.Y. FOOTBALL FINAL FOUR —



Hoosick Falls Central School junior Mike Mahan, right, rushes the quarterback during practice on Thursday at the school. The Panthers will be playing in the state semi-final for the third time in four years.

Sports do not build character



They reveal it.



THE "GLOVE"



sopomore
team.
sacks."
never been a
Panther.

WHY NOT US?

Hoosick Falls looks to return to Syracuse

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — Most people wouldn't think a bid in the state semifinal wouldn't be old hat, but for the Hoosick Falls Central School football team, Saturday's game against James I. O'Neill marks the third time in four seasons reaching Kingston's Dietz Stadium, site of the semifinal.

But coach Ron Jones is borrowing a line from the 2004 Red Sox regarding his team and their chances.

"Why not us?" said Jones dur-

ing a practice on Thursday. "That's really the attitude and I can't think of any reasons why not. Let's just go out and see how well we can play."

Hoosick Falls comes into the contest 11-0, squeaking out a 20-12 victory over Section VII champion Saranac Lake in the regional championship last week.

But for O'Neill, reaching this level is uncharted territory. With their victory in the quarterfinals against Woodlands, they became the first Section IX,

Class C team to win a state playoff game since 1996.

So, in short, experience favors the Panthers.

"For some of these kids, it's the third time in that game," Jones said. "They get the atmosphere. It was loud last week, it'll be louder [this week]. Playing at 11 [a.m.] will be different, [O'Neill hasn't] done it and we have three of the last four years."

Senior quarterback Billy Fine and senior running back Brad Burns lead the Panthers into the

HOOSICK, continued on 38

TALE OF THE TAPE

HOOSICK FALLS

- Season record: 11-0
- How they got here: Beat Section VII champ Saranac Lake 20-12 in the regional title game
- Key players: Senior quarterback Billy Fine; Senior running back Brad Burns; Senior receiver Ransly Tutunjian
- History: Hoosick Falls has reached the state semifinal three of the last four years, but lost the last two by a point — 2009 to Brexville (28-27) and last season to Dobbs Ferry (13-12). They last won at this stage in 2003.

JAMES I. O'NEILL

- Season record: 9-2
- How they got here: Beat Woodlands (Section I) 35-18 in the regional championship, the first Section IX team to win a state playoff game since 1996.
- Key players: Senior running back Jerry Nait; Quarterback Keegan West; Receivers Derrike Shrieve and Malik Chambers.
- History: Since 2001, O'Neill has reached the state playoffs four times — twice in Class B and twice in Class C, falling each time.



Perserverance

Dome Sweet Dome

Panthers Prevail, 43-21, to Reach State Title Game



At the end of the first quarter the Panthers trailed by the score of 21-7, their largest deficit of the season. As a team, they rallied to stop the O'Neil offense and began putting points on the board.

A fumble in the Panthers red zone was recovered by Mark Hackett, and they proceeded to drive down the field to score.

It was momentum swing O'Neil could not recover from, and the Panthers took advantage to advance to the state championship in Syracuse.

Hoosick Falls	43
O'Neil	21



Going To The Dome!



A herd of Panthers greets the O'Neill running back at the line of scrimmage. Once the Panthers got their bearings, scenes like this were common during the Class C State semi-final game last Saturday. Photo by Steve Bradley.

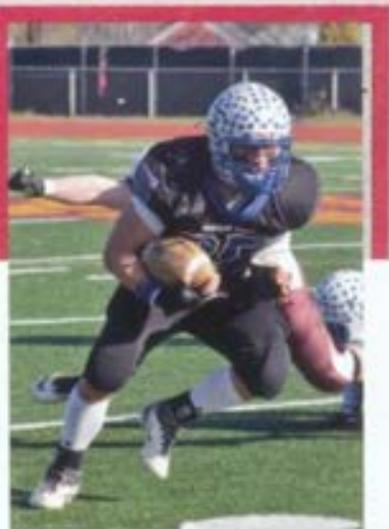
Panthers Outduel O'Neill Raiders And Go To State Title Game In Syracuse

by Steve Bradley

To say the Hoosick Falls Panthers played poorly in the first quarter of last Saturday's semi-final game would be an understatement. To say they kicked some butt for the final two and one-half quarters would be the same.

The O'Neill Raiders kicked off to the Panthers to start the game. The Panthers ran three plays, losing 7 yards, then punted the ball to the Raiders. With the ball at their 37 yard line, the

Continued on page 10



Going To The Dome!... Continued from page 1



Quarterback Billy Pine winds his way through the defense. Pine's running and passing skills are valuable weapons for the Panthers. He had 176 yards running against James I. O'Neill High School at Dietz Stadium and completed 9 for 14 passes for 81 yards and 1 TD. Photo by Steve Bradley

Raider offense came on the field and took over, literally. On their first play from scrimmage their star running back ran through the Panther defense for a 63 yard TD. Some Panthers got in a wave to him as he ran by, but for the most part he was unchallenged. The PAT was good, and O'Neill was up by 7 less than a minute into the game.

The Panther offense wasn't exactly clicking to make up for it - missed passes, short gains and punts. The Panthers did manage to get 7 on the board on a Brad Burns 2 yard run. Otherwise, nothing went well in the first quarter. O'Neill was leading 21 - 7. Their star running back, along with their passing game, was gaining yards at an alarming clip. The Panther defense was staggering. O'Neill never scored another point.

the field, quarterback Bill came roaring out of the back and took off for a 69 yard. Burns ended this 96 yard run with a 16 yard run. This series of events seemed to suck the life out of the Raiders suits. So things were going so well even a botched PAT kick turned into a two point conversion on smart play by placekicker turned quarterback Randy Tjian and snapper turned receiver Brad Burns. This miscue to good fortune gave the Panthers a 22 - 21 lead.

At this point the contest became downright mean. Forward progress became difficult for O'Neill. What was so easy for the Raiders to do in the first quarter became impossible. When star running back ran into the line now, instead of seeing college defenders waving him by, he was met by six or seven black jerseys full of mean Panthers clamping on him. After a Levi Brewster interception, the Panthers moved the field and took a 29 - 21 lead into halftime.

On the second half kick Damon Dubois blasted a punt intended to reach the goal line right into the Raider front blocker, standing about 12 yards away. The Raider, who was wearing a knee cap that wasn't shatterproof, was unable to handle it, and the Panthers pounced on the loose ball. A quick 55 yard drive, including a 22 yard Billy Pine and 20 yard TD scamper by put the Panthers out of reach of the Raiders. The Panthers scored one more TD in the fourth quarter on a 7 yard Burns run.

After the first quarter Panther defense was a force. Raiders star running back ran for 131 yards and three TDs in the first quarter. Then the Panther defense regrouped and added making him a non-factor in the remainder of the contest. In an interview after the game O'Neill quarterback said that they figured out what they were doing, adjusted to it, then "advantage" of the Raiders was the truth. The Panther three interceptions, one by Brewster, Josh Brogu Tutunjian. They recovered fumbles. Pine ran for 176 yards and passed for 81 yards and passed more. Burns rushed for 181 yards.

Although the names



Self Denial



Two/defensive lineman senior Lance Rice-Wilder is ready on the live side of the ball in Saturday's win. He had 5 tackles in the game. Photo by Paul Hand.

ECSTASY

Hoosick Falls rallies way to state final



Dream...Goal...Reality...The Dome

Pine ready to take final step

11-29-12

Hoosick Falls QB close to realizing goal of state title

By James Allen

HOOSICK FALLS — The evolution of a quarterback is something Hoosick Falls football coach Ron Jones takes very seriously, since it was his position when he played at the school for coach Ken Baker.

The lessons Jones has imparted to senior quarterback Billy Pine

Class C State Final

■ **Who:** II-Hoosick Falls (12-0) vs. V-Hornell (12-0)

■ **When, where:** Noon Saturday, Carrier Dome, Syracuse

■ **TV:** Time Warner Cable (Ch. 50)

have taken firm hold and the Panthers' signal-caller has enjoyed a fabulous senior season.

"When my sophomore year started, I was a little guy. Last year, I grew up a little and developed some more. This year, it is a maturity thing," Pine said. "I worked on my footsteps a lot over the summer. I worked with Coach Jones on making quicker decisions, reading guys a little faster and understanding defenses better. Basically, I am making my reads quicker and things are so much easier this year. I'm seeing the field."

Please see **PINE CS** ▶



STEVE BRADLEY/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES UNION
QUARTERBACK BILLY PINE has been thinking about a state title since Hoosick Falls last won one in 2003.



PINE

▶ CONTINUED FROM C1

"Last year, he was coming around but most of it was mostly athletic ability," Jones said. "He was born with a good arm. Billy is pretty accurate anyway, but he understands defenses better. ... He is making better reads and getting to his second progression, and sometimes the third if he has time. It is pretty good stuff out of high school quarterback and he is a threat to run the ball, too."

The numbers certainly bear out Pine's growth: 88-for-148 passing for 1,650 yards, 22 touchdowns and three interceptions, plus 606 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns.

The number Pine most wants to achieve Saturday is 13 — as in win No. 13 because it would signify a state Class C championship.

Hoosick Falls (12-0) takes on Section V champion Hornell (12-0), and its 33-game winning streak, Saturday at the Syracuse Carrier Dome. Game time is noon.

"I'm so excited. This was our goal since we were little guys," Pine said, "when we were in third or fourth grade and the 2003 team went to the Dome. We heard as we grew up that we were the team that was going to go."

The 2012 Panthers are the second team in school history to advance to the Carrier Dome and Pine has been a vital part of the team's run.

Last week, he rushed for a season-high 177 yards and also threw for 81 yards and one touchdown.

One of Pine's bigger throws in the 43-21 semifinal triumph over James I. O'Neill came on a sideline pass to senior receiver Randy Tomjanjan. The ball was tipped in the air and snared by Tomjanjan for a crucial first down.

"I was going for the back-shoulder thing and the (defender) made a great play on the ball. Randy tipped and made a tremendous play on it. He is the real-deal receiver," Pine said. "He can turn a short pass into a touchdown and is a great athlete."

College football is something Pine wants to play. Two of his older sisters attended Hartwick and played soccer there. Tanner Williams, the 2011 Times Union Small School Offensive Player of the Year, plays football at Hartwick.

Jones says several colleges have inquired about the 5-foot-11, 165-pound senior quarterback.

Class C Final Capsule

HOOSICK FALLS (12-0) VS. HORNELL (12-0)

- **Time:** Noon Saturday
- **Location:** Syracuse Carrier Dome
- **Where is Hornell?** Hornell (Steuben County, Section V)
- **Coach:** Eric Werner
- **History:** Hornell won three straight state Class C titles in 2000, 2010 and 2011.
- **Things to know:** The Red Raiders advanced to the championship game with 20-7 semifinal win over Chenango Forks. The defense has been stingy throughout the playoffs as Hornell has allowed 33 points over five postseason victories. ... Werner is in his first season as head coach after serving as an assistant when Gene Mastin guided the program to those three state championships. Mastin compiled a career record of 240 wins, 75 losses and five ties — including a stellar 225-56-3 mark at Hornell. ... The Red Raiders have outscored their opponents 427-122. ... Leading the way on both sides of the football for Hornell is fullback/linebacker Zach Bacon. ... In the state quarterfinal against Cleveland Hill, senior receiver/defensive back Julian Renhart scored three touchdowns and recorded three interceptions in a 27-6 triumph. ... Some of the other top standouts for the Red Raiders include quarterback/linebacker Richie Harkness, senior defensive end Pat Deebis and tight end/defensive end Zach Oyer.
- **Coach Werner** (from New York State SportsPartners website) on the team's winning streak: "Everybody who's been involved, the players and coaches, is proud of what they've done and the history that we've built."
- **Prediction:** Hornell 20, Hoosick Falls 24.

Before a decision is made about college, Pine and the Panthers have one final game together — a contest they have all dreamed about since many of them sat in the stands at the Carrier Dome and watched the 2003 squad drop a 30-26 decision to Caladonia-Macedon.

"We are staying overnight (Friday) and Saturday, it will be the last time we play together — guys you have played with all of our lives," Pine said. "During the course, you'll

An O-line that is playing big

Small size no hindrance
to Hoosick Falls' success

By James Allen

HOOSICK FALLS — Brad Burns has rushed for 1,973 yards and 35 touchdowns for the Hoosick Falls football team in 2012 and, at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, the senior running back actually outweighs four of the five starting offensive linemen.

In the case of senior Bryan Sherman, the difference is over 40 pounds.

The Panthers may not possess bulk up front, but that does not mean they are not fierce at the line of scrimmage. Quite the contrary, in fact.

The offensive line features Sherman (150 pounds), Derek Bird (177), Grady Beck (175), Brandon Hodges (185) and Lance Rice-Wilder (250). When Hodges comes out, in steps sophomore Mark Hackett at 175.

Defensively, Hoosick Falls employs a three-man unit with Sherman and Hodges at end and Rice-Wilder in the middle. Bird and Beck spell the others. "I feel like I shouldn't be beating these big guys. As a smaller kid, I thought I would get tossed around. It feels good that I don't," said Sherman, who stands 5-6.

"Everything is footwork and the angles where we hit someone," Rice-Wilder said. "If we have a 250-pound man against Sherman, who is (150), and Sherman hits him on his right

Class C state final

■ **Who:** Section II-Hoosick Falls (12-0) vs. Section V-Hornell (12-0)

■ **When:** Noon Saturday

■ **Where:** Carrier Dome, Syracuse

shoulder and walls him off — he's done."

"They have been able to do it. No. 35 (Burns) helps, but they are moving people," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "They are smart, they get out on their blocks and Brad is a finisher. They are all pretty impressive. What they have accomplished at their size is amazing. It worried us all year. We're still going."

"I'm blessed," Hoosick Falls senior quarterback Billy Pine said. "Grady makes all the calls and is the tough guy in the middle. Besides Lance, they all aren't very big. It is all about attacking. They have answered the ball all year long."

The Panthers (12-0), ranked No. 2, will need stellar play on both sides of the line of scrimmage when they take on No. 1 Hornell (12-0) Saturday at the Syracuse Carrier Dome for the Class C state championship. The Red Raiders take a 51-game winning streak into the game and are seeking a fourth straight state title — the first three coming at the Class B level.

In reaching the school's second trip to the Carrier Dome, the Panthers

have encountered some difficulties during the state playoffs.

Two weeks ago, Hoosick Falls trailed Saranac Lake at halftime 6-0 before the running game took over as the line allowed Burns and Pine to lead the Panthers to a 20-12 win.

Last week vs. James I. O'Neill, Hoosick Falls got pushed around in the opening quarter and trailed 21-7 entering the second quarter.

Hoosick Falls scored early in the second quarter and Rice-Wilder forced a fumble that helped fuel a 36-0 run as the Panthers prevailed 43-21.

"To come back from that beating we took in the first quarter, play through and then own the line of scrimmage felt great," Sherman said.

"We just had to wake up. We just needed to make a few plays. It helped to build our confidence," Rice-Wilder said. "We adjusted to what they were doing. They were putting their big guys on our small guys. It was physics at the beginning, but we adjusted and made it work."

On defense, Rice-Wilder is extremely disruptive in the middle. Sherman and Hodges are usually flying around everywhere to record sacks and stuff runs to the outside.

"We overwhelm them with our speed," Sherman said. "We're tough kids and small in stature compared to other linemen, so we use that speed and get through the gaps as soon as possible."

SENIOR MOMENT

Hoosick Falls underclassmen hope to make a lasting one in state championship game today at Carrier Dome

pages 36-37



36 • Saturday, November 24, 2012

high school football

The Record www.troyrecord.com

Last chance for Hoosick Falls seniors

Panthers meet Hornell, owner of a 51-game win streak, in state final

scouting report

WITH IT AGAIN	
Regular Season	
Hoosick Falls #1	Northville 0
Hoosick Falls #2	Orangeville 10
Hoosick Falls #3	Troyville 9
Hoosick Falls #4	Delmar 9
Hoosick Falls #5	Schuylkill 12
Hoosick Falls #6	Carroll 9
Hoosick Falls #7	Troyville 9
Hoosick Falls #8	Northville 14
Hoosick Falls #9	Franklin 9
Hoosick Falls #10	Chatham 9
State Tournaments	
Hoosick Falls #11	Geneva Lakes 13
Hoosick Falls #12	James L. O'Neil 21

BY THE NUMBERS	
Passing	
Comp.	Att. Yds. TDs Int.
Billy Pine	20 142 1000 29 0
Rushing	
Att.	Yds. Avg. TDs
Brad Burns	100 1070 10.7 10
Billy Pine	87 609 6.9 10
Brandon Hudgins	55 327 5.9 1
Receiving	
Rec.	Yds. TDs
Josh Taborian	35 710 20.0 9
Jack Bepler	18 200 11.7 3
Brad Burns	10 91 9.1 1

HOW THEY CAN WIN
Block, block, block: The Panthers know they will be up against a larger Hornell team this afternoon. But this isn't anything new for Hoosick Falls. They very rarely have a size advantage. In the first quarter of last week's game, the line got pushed around on both sides of the ball, resulting in a 14-point deficit by the time 12 minutes had gone by. However, when the Panthers started to push back — on offense and defense — they took control of the game, taking it all and taking turnover. Hoosick Falls is talented, very talented, and it all starts up front for them.

HOW THEY CAN GET BEAT
 Let it all become too much: Hoosick Falls hasn't had a team at the Carrier Dome in almost a decade. Many of this year's Panthers squad is used to big games, most of this year's starters played in last year's devastating one-point loss in the Class C semifinal. However, they aren't used to this kind of game, outside, with plenty of crowd noise against a team with a reputation for winning. The one thing that Hoosick Falls can't do is let it overwhelm them. Once they come to their senses there's no turning back.

By Laura Amato
 lamato@troyrecord.com
 @LauraAmato

HOOSICK FALLS — This is it. For the nine seniors on the Hoosick Falls football team, many of whom have been playing together since they were 6-year-old, there is nowhere to go after today's New York State Class C football championship game against Hornell at noon.

There is no other game; there is no other chance.

This is it. "This has been our last week of high school football ever," running back Brad Burns said. "We're really preparing and working hard; harder than we ever have, because we won't ever get this chance again."

When the Panthers first took the practice field this past August, putting on their pads and their uniforms for one more final season, the goal on everyone's mind was to get to the Carrier Dome and the state championship game.

Twelve games and 12 victories later, Hoosick Falls is heading to Syracuse for the first time since 2003, where it will take on the three-time

state champion Red Raiders, who also boast

an incredible 51-game winning streak.

While some teams would find a winning streak and reputation like that intimidating to go up against, the Panthers are actually relishing the opportunity to share the field with Hornell this afternoon.

"Spending too much time focusing on that isn't going to help us win the game," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "We want to play the great teams because that means we're being successful."

Of course, Hoosick Falls has had its own share of success as well over the course of the last three seasons. The Panthers are 44-3 in that time frame and this year alone, they've dominated practically every opponent they've matched up against.

Since week one, Hoosick Falls has outscored opponents 526-to-77. They have racked up 3,167 yards on the ground and another 1,541 yards in the air. The defense recorded six defensive shutouts against Section II teams.

Fresh off a 43-21 victory over James L. O'Neil in last weekend's Class C state semifinal, the Panthers are feeling confident going into today's matchup, despite being labeled the underdogs.

"We're going to come into this game as underdogs and rightfully so," quarterback Billy Pine, who has 2,256

all-purpose yards this season said. "But we've got nothing to lose."

"I like being the underdog. I think we're going to give them a great game."

The Panthers have recorded two consecutive victories in their past two postseason games, using their physical nature to break down opposing defensive lines to open running lanes for Burns and giving Pine plenty of time to scan the field for deep passes.

It's that same physical nature that will be crucial if Hoosick Falls is planning on walking off the field with a victory this afternoon. Hornell prides itself on their toughness up front and, strictly speaking, the Red Raiders are considerably larger on the line than Hoosick Falls.

"It is a bit of a pride thing," lineman Lance Rice-Wilder said of physical play up front. "But we have a motto that you can't get pushed back. As long as we move forward we'll be fine."

This afternoon, Hoosick Falls plans to leave it all out on the field at the Carrier Dome. This is a game that very well may be the last time some of these players suit up in uniforms, put on their helmets and cleats and take their position at the line of scrimmage.

There isn't another game after this afternoon and no matter how the Panthers are perceived by the outside world going in, the squad knows they have nothing to lose.

In the end, they're just planning on playing the game that they love and has come to shape their entire lives.

"I don't think we've ever really been intimidated," Burns said. "We know we have all the talent we need to be the best team in the state."

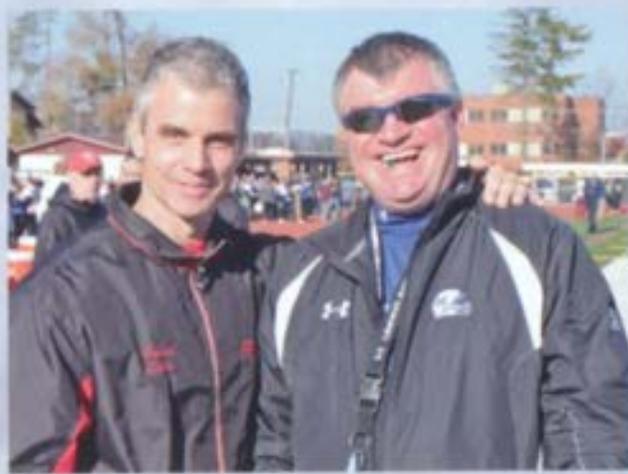
J.S. Carras
 The Record

Underdog Hoosick Falls prides itself on being a hard-nosed, physical, no-nonsense football team. Today, the Panthers take on Hornell, a team, with a similar philosophy in the New York State Class C title game at the Carrier Dome.





Hoosick Falls' Randy Tutunjan (right) looks for room to run during the Class C state quarterfinal on Nov. 10.



A small world for Hoosick's Jones

Jones, Lilac, Shell tied together with unique Cortland bond

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — Hoosick Falls Central School football coach Ron Jones has something in common with Glens Falls coach Pat Lilac and Burnt Hills coach Matt Shell, the other two teams in state championship battles at the Carrier Dome this weekend.

All three attended and played football at Cortland State — Jones and Lilac even roomed together at the school.

"We met in 1985 on the foot-

ball field," said Jones, a 1990 graduate of Cortland State. "We also were together at Norwich."

Continuing the small world theme, Pat Lilac is the brother of Hoosick Falls boys basketball coach Mike Lilac.

"First of all, passing [on the field] at Kingston was awesome," said Jones, who enters the game on Saturday with 108 career victories. "But you go back to the Section II final. When I heard they won, I was as happy for him as I was for us."

Lilac, a 1991 Cortland graduate, started coaching at Colonie as an assistant coach, then moved to Glens Falls and started as the varsity coach in 2002. Jones, a Hoosick Falls graduate, started coaching at his alma mater in 1998.

"To take the trip by yourself is great, to do this with just your team is awesome," Jones said. "But doing it with someone you are close with and pulling for them is neat. We bounce things off each other, talk a lot during the season and offseason. We each throw out ideas to each other."

With all the craziness of cham-

ampionship week, Jones said he and Lilac haven't had much of a chance to converse.

Class C

HFCS (12-0)

Hornell (12-0)

Saturday, noon

"He and I have been texting some funny memories back and forth, just a short thing," Jones said. "He threw a couple of things at me that I forgot and vice versa. Having those memories is nice."

Saturday will be Glens Falls' first appearance in a state championship game.

Shell and Burnt Hills brought home Section II's first state championship in football since 2005 on Friday night, a 40-20 win over Section VI's Sweet Home.

"I sent Matt an e-mail, because

they've been there a lot," said Jones, who was with Shell for one year at Cortland. "I asked him if he had any gems."

Hoosick Falls will play for the Class C championship in the first game of the day at noon Saturday and Glens Falls will come immediately after at 3 p.m. against Mansfield (Section IV).

Done sweet done? For the past few weeks, Hoosick Falls has used the Strong Brothers Sports Dome in Pittsford to practice. The facility, which was just put up about a year ago, is a decent approximation of the conditions

NOTEBOOK, continued on 28

"Perfection is unattainable...but if we chase perfection we catch EXCELLENCE."

- Vince Lombardi



H.F. faces Section V power Hornell

NOTEBOOK, continued from 18
the players may face at the Carrier Dome.

"Having this here is a big advantage," Jones said. "The footing is perfect. I wanted to be outside on line last week, but it got slick because the field is slippery and most of the grass is gone. This is weather-proof."

Another fact in play is the dryness of the air in the dome. To keep it inflated, the stadium has many air exchange blowers. The dome in Pittsford has one as well.

"It really dries out the air. It's super dry and the kids get dehydrated," Jones said. "[Retired Shenendehowa coach] Brent Steuerwald told me the last time [in 2003] to keep hydrated and by the end of the first quarter the kids were [tired]. At least in here we can get a little climatized."

As far as the play goes, the Pittsford dome is also helpful to get the players used to the background of the white roof at the Carrier Dome.

"It is in play there," Jones said. "It's the same temperature, wind-



Hoosick Falls receiver Randy Tutunjan, right, looks for room to run during the Class C state quarterfinal on Nov. 10.

proof, waterproof. It's going to be a nice day in there."

If you get Tickets cost \$10 for adults. The Carrier Dome is located at 900 Irving Ave. in Syracuse, N.Y.

If you can't get The Banner will be hosting a live blog through

our Twitter feed at the paper's Web site on Saturday starting just before noon. To get there and follow along, visit http://www.benningtonbanner.com/sports/cj_22053023/live-blog-hoosick-falls-vs-hornell

The game will also be televised live on Time Warner Cable Channel 50.

Panthers hunting an elusive crown

AUSTIN DANFORTH
Assistant Sports Editor

HOOSICK, N.Y. — Four banners hang behind each baseline in the Hoosick Falls Central School gymnasium. Close to 15 feet long, they are noticeably different — and much larger — than the rest.

HS FOOTBALL

These are the Panthers' state championship standards. All eight belong to the girls and so will the next, after the girls soccer team's triumph last weekend.

So, as if trying to snap three-time defending state champion Hornell's 51-game unbeaten run wasn't enough, the Hoosick Falls football team has its own weighty, decades-

long streak to vanquish in the state championship game Saturday.

It's time the boys put up a banner of their own.

"I feel like it's well overdue," said senior lineman Bryan Sherman. "Our school really needs this."

More visible than the playoff plaques that line the walls outside the gym, easier to count than the trophies encased in the school lobby, the glossy banners are the thing.

"We've got eight girls championship banners — and the ninth is on the way — and no boys championships. It would be kind of exciting to be the first ones up there," said senior wide receiver Randy Tutunjan, who also played

TITLES, continued on 2B



H.F. boys eye first title

TITLES, continued from 1B

on sectional finalist squads in basketball and baseball last year.

Between 1986 and 1989, Hoosick Falls girls garnered state crowns in girls basketball, softball (two) and field hockey (two).

A Section II powerhouse for most of the last decade, the football team has six sectional titles and four regionals, but 2003's squad was the only state finalist until this fall.

Familiar with that history, the Panthers know exactly what's at stake at the Carrier Dome as they try to become the school's first male state championship team.

"It's pretty wild because we've had some great teams in the past and most of them have fallen short," senior Josh Brogue said. "That we get the chance to do it, I don't know how to put words to it. It's just crazy."

Sherman said the boys' dearth of state championships comes up "only when we argue with the girls."

But perhaps no Hoosick Falls football player is in a tougher spot than senior quarterback Billy Pine, whose sisters have three girls soccer state championships between them — Carly in 2005

and Rachel in 2011 and 2012.

"All my sisters are pretty athletic but my older two have patches, sectional [championships], Rachel has two championships and she got the MVP so she's been rubbing it in my face at home," Pine said.

"I want to be part of the first male state championship but also so I can compete at home, you know?" he said.

And maybe, just maybe, this is their year.

The Panthers owned Section II for the fourth year in a row. They rallied for wins in the quarterfinals and Final Four. They participated in the rare Thanksgiving Day practice.

With another win, they would not only surpass their predecessors from 2003 but earn their own immortal spot on the gymnasium wall.

"Ever since we were little we wanted to be just like that [2003] team," Pine said. "Growing up that's always been the team that everyone's been compared to and to be in the company of them is pretty cool because those are the guys we always looked up to."

"At least now we're even with them," he said. "We want to get that win."





www.troyrecord.com The Record

high school football

Saturday, November 24, 2012 - 57

Hornell players have never lost a game

By Laura Amato
lamak@troyrecord.com
@LauraAmato

HORNELL — Fifty-one consecutive victories is not something that comes easily and no one knows that better than the Hornell football team.

The Red Raiders (12-0) have adapted almost flawlessly to their first season in Class C competition, crushing 12 straight victories and extending their New York State win-streak record in a fashion that almost makes it look like barely any effort at all.

The Hornell football team would respectfully disagree with that.

"It definitely hasn't been smooth sailing," said first-year head coach Erik Werner. "We don't look at it as 51 wins; we look at it as 51 weeks where we have clawed and scratched our way to a victory."

"We take every single opponent as seriously as if it were a championship game; no matter who it is."

When the Red Raiders line up against Hoosick Falls at noon for today's New York State Class C championship game at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, they'll be looking to make a little bit more history, trying for a record-making fourth straight state title.

Despite all the incredible stats and the records and the history, Hornell knows that today's football game won't be an easy fight and they aren't going in anticipating anything more than a grudge match between two obviously talented teams.

"We realize nothing is ever given to you," Werner said. "So we want to make sure we get out there and earn everything."

The Red Raiders will be proud, as they have been all season, by senior running back Zack Bacon, who has racked up a team-high 1199 yards on the ground and found the end zone 12 different times this year.

A four-year starter, Bacon has been to the Dome the past three years and is determined to finish out his career at Hornell with one final victory in the marred stadium.

"He's been here and with us since the streak started," Werner said of his starting running back. "He's seen every single one of those games and I think that some of that experience in the big games is going to help us."

While some teams tend to focus more on their own skills and goals in the post-season, the Red Raiders have a slightly different approach that has served them well during their historic win streak.

Hornell tends to formulate their game plan every week depending on the team



(Above) QB Richie Markanovic has passed for 1,881 yards and 16 TDs this season. (Below) Leading rusher Zach Bacon has never lost a high school football game. He's played four varsity seasons for Hornell, and won all 51 games in which he's played. Hoosick Falls can change that today with a victory on the New York State Class C championship game at the Carrier Dome.

they're facing off against and this weekend's game against Hoosick Falls is no different; the Red Raiders have specifically prepared and tailored their team to take on the Panthers.

"We want to see what they have offensively so we can stop it and what they have defensively so we can exploit it," Werner said. "So when something comes in front of us, all of our efforts are focused on whatever we can do to come out on top."

In fact, Hornell has been eyeing Hoosick Falls all season-long, scouting the Panthers in the offseason after the move to Class C.

"When I was looking at some of the top teams across the state in Class C last year, Hoosick Falls was at the top of my list," Werner said. "I'm not really surprised it all worked out this way. I had my eye on them."

This afternoon, the Hornell football team will be looking to make a little history on the gridiron, but the Red Raiders know that the victory simply won't be handed to

them. They're ready to work and they're more than just a little excited to

go back to Syracuse. "I don't care how many times we've been there though, every time you get to walk out in the Carrier Dome is incredible," Werner said. "It is going to be a tough football game between



quality teams and we're going to have to play our best to win."

them. They're ready to work and they're more than just a little excited to

scouting report

WEEK 51-52

Regular Season		Playoffs	
Ranking	Record	Ranking	Record
Hornell 20	12-0	Hornell 2	1-0
Hornell 41	11-1	Hornell 3	1-0
Hornell 51	10-2	Hornell 11	1-0
Hornell 26	9-3	Hornell 22	1-0
Hornell 31	8-4	Hornell 14	1-0
Hornell 38	7-5	Hornell 5	1-0
Hornell 45	6-6	Hornell 18	1-0

BY THE NUMBERS

Player	Passing			
	Att.	Yds	TDs	Int.
R. Markanovic	11	1,881	16	1

Player	Rushing			
	Att.	Yds	TDs	Fumbles
Zack Bacon	127	1,199	12	10
Lucas Berger	108	807	6	15
R. Markanovic	22	134	4	7

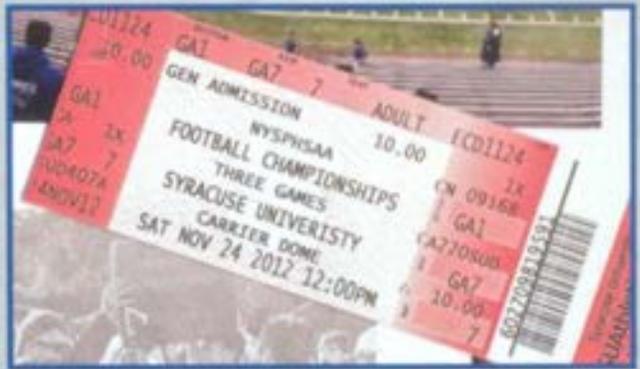
Player	Receiving			
	Rec.	Yds	TDs	Int.
Hornell's Bacon	12	1,199	12	1
Lucas Berger	18	807	6	4
Zack Bacon	12	1,199	12	4

NEW HORNELL CAR WASH

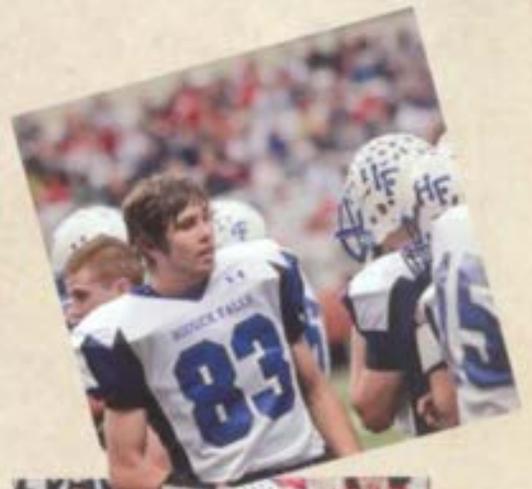
Late of Season - The senior fullback is one of those few high school players who can boast a sterling split in all four of his years on the team. Every single year he's managed to produce results as well and this year he's averaging just over nine yards every time he carries the football. At 6-5, 230 pounds, Bacon's biggest strength may be his ability to push through the line and once he breaks free, it will be tough to stop him.

NEW HORNELL CAR WASH

Overconfidence - The Red Raiders are confident and they should be. They're 51-game winning streak is the longest in the state and they've got three straight Class C championships to their name in the last three years. Granted, Hornell is now a Class C team, so the competition is brand new, but that doesn't mean that the overall approach is all that different. All of that aside though, Hornell can't go into today's game simply assuming they'll walk off the field with another championship. That kind of overconfidence can do in a team even before the first whistle.







*I firmly believe
that any mans finest hour-
his greatest fulfillment
to all he holds dear
is that moment
when he has worked his heart
out
in a good cause
and lies exhausted
on the field of battle -
VICTORIOUS"
- Vince Lombardi*



Panthers win big one

Undersized Hoosick Falls upsets Hornell in title game

By James Allen

SYRACUSE — "Attack" was the mantra for the offensive line throughout the week of preparation for the Hoosick Falls football team, and attack is exactly what the Panthers did Saturday afternoon.

The result was Hoosick Falls' first Class C state championship and an impressive 34-21 victory over No. 1-ranked Hornell at the Carrier Dome.

The fans from Hoosick Falls were raucous throughout. The Panthers provided their faithful plenty to cheer about in accomplishing what no team had done since 2006 — beating Hornell. The Red Raiders had not lost in 51 consecutive games.

Inside

C11 ▶ Glens Falls loses Class B final.

Online

View more photos from the state finals games at <http://timesunion.com/sports>.

"Holy cow, I don't even know what to say. It is ... really awesome," Hoosick Falls defensive back Levi Brewster said.

"That is a tremendous football team," Hornell coach Erik Werner said. "When they get ahead, they run it well, and they took time off the clock. Great job by those guys. They earned the title."

One day after Burnt Hills claimed the Class A crown with the Panthers watching from the stands, Hoosick Falls became the sixth Section II school to win a state championship.

Please see **TITLE C11** ▶



HOOSICK FALLS coach Ron Jones, right, celebrates with players Billy Pine (4), left, and Randy Tuturjian (7), center, after their 34-21 win over Hornell in the Class C football state final on Saturday at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.





HOOSICK FALLS' Brad Burns, center, runs toward the end zone for a touchdown as teammate Derek Bird cheers during the Class C football state final against Homell on Saturday at the Carrier Dome.



TITLE

▼ CONTINUED FROM C1

Only one other time had Section II won two state titles in the same season: 1996, with Troy (Class A) and Watervliet (Class C).

The Red Raiders (12-1) captured state Class B titles in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Saturday, they were simply overmatched by the Panthers (13-0).

"This is pretty legit," Hoosick Falls coach Ron Jones said. "This is a great program. You've got to have a great program to be a great program. When you beat a team that is that good, it is more meaningful. Yeah, but I don't get any pleasure at knocking off the big guy. We had to do it in order to get where we wanted to be."

"That was just amazing," Hoosick Falls running back Brad Burns said. "Ly since finally got to go out with a state championship. We ended their 51-game winning streak. That was just a beast."

The offensive line of Sherman and Lance Rice-Wilder at tackle, Braden Hodges and Derek Bird at guard, as well as Grady Beck at center, excelled. With the exception of Rice-Wilder, the line was outweighted by between 70 and 90 pounds per player.

"You had to really 'man-up' to take on such a big guy," Sherman said. "It is going to take some courage to do. No one wants to get run over."

The Panthers consistently ran the ball well, finishing with 313 yards on 40 attempts.

Senior quarterback Billy Pine earned game's Most Valuable



HOOSICK FALLS fans cheer during the Class C football state final.

Player honors after rushing for 189 yards and one touchdown, throwing for 82 yards and two touchdowns, plus recording six solo tackles and two assisted stops.

Burns contributed 144 yards and two touchdowns.

Homell junior running back Luke Morgan galloped 74 yards for a touchdown just 21 seconds into the game.

Undaunted, Hoosick Falls responded with an eight-play, 65-yard drive culminated by a 6-yard touchdown pass from Pine to senior receiver Randy Turinjan with 9:28 left in the opening quarter.

The Red Raiders had not faced an opponent using the spread. Pine and Burns took turns chum-

ing out big rushing yardage as the Panthers grabbed a 27-7 lead by halftime.

Homell got back into contention with a pair of touchdowns from Richie Hackenrider to Brandon Busch, the second coming with 11:38 left.

Brewster came up with two interceptions, and the offense played keepaway by grinding out runs that chewed up valuable time.

"You've got to be able to run the ball when everyone knows you are running it," Jones said. "We were able to do it well enough against a huge team. I'm so impressed."

▶ jellon@timesunion.com • 218-414-3062 • @J1218bliss



Hard Work

N.Y. CLASS C FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HOOSICK FALLS 34 • HORNELL 21

TITLETOWN ADDS ANOTHER

Panthers race past Hornell for crown

ADAM SAMROV
Sports Editor

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Three-time defending state champion Hornell had beaten a lot of teams a lot of different ways during its 51-game winning streak, the second longest such run in the history of New York high school football.

Then the Red Raiders met Hoosick Falls.

Racing back after a Hornell touchdown on the second play from scrimmage, the Panthers used their up-tempo, no-huddle offense to tire out the Red Raiders and score 27 unanswered points in the first half en route to a 34-21 win in the Class C championship at the Carrier Dome.

The title is the first for any male sports team at Hoosick Falls.

"The seniors finally got to go out with that state championship," senior running back Brad Burns said. "We're just trying to take it in right now."

The read-option package, giving the quarterback the chance to read the defense and make a decision to give the ball to the runner or keep it himself, was key for the Panthers. Quarterback Billy Pine rushed for a season-high 169 yards and Burns for 144.

"We've had so many [reps] over the years, running the [option] was pretty easy because you can see what they are doing," said Pine, who also went 6-of-15 passing for 85 yards.

On a couple of occasions, Pine, the championship game MVP, used the option to perfection, finding his way through the Hornell defense for several big gains and handing off to Burns, who scored on runs of 25 and 60 yards.

"We stressed tempo all week long," said Pine, who threw two touchdowns and ran for another. "They were huge guys and in the second quarter, Brad [Burns] and I had some big runs. We wore them down and that was huge in the game."

The 34 points scored were the most allowed by the Red Raiders (12-1) in more than two years.

"We made a couple mistakes on the edge. We knew what we did wrong; we kind of fixed it," said



Hoosick Falls Central School quarterback Billy Pine (4) breaks free on a long run during the second quarter of Saturday's state championship game against Hornell.

Hoosick Falls uses speed, heart to topple powerhouse

AUSTIN DANFORTH
Assistant Sports Editor

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Manning the trenches at a wiry 5-foot-6, 160 pounds, Hoosick Falls Central School senior Bryan Sherman was, like most of his teammates, undersized compared to the Hornell Red Raiders he would line up against in Saturday's Class C state final.

But if one answer came from the Panthers' championship performance it was this:

Size? Meh.

"We knew we had to outmatch them with our pace and speed," said Sherman. "That was the theme all game, just make 'em make them work and wear them out."

For Hornell's size, Hoosick Falls countered with speed, technique and smarts. For Hornell's historic 51-game winning streak, the second longest ever in New York, Hoosick Falls answered with longer for its first state title.

For Hornell's 21 points, Hoosick Falls found back with 34.

Pine takes championship trophy victory.

"Without a doubt, they were the best team we've seen [this year]," Hornell coach Erik Werner said. "They ran a great system."

"We'd seen team speed, we'd played some very athletic teams ... these guys, you know, I don't really have an answer as far as X's and O's. I just know they played a tremendous game and they earned their championship," Werner said.

Yet X's and O's only tell part of the story.

Man-on-man, with Hornell linemen outweighing their Panther counterparts by 50 pounds or more, was the feverish before kickoff. Sherman, for instance, stood some nine inches shorter and 115 pounds lighter than the Raiders' biggest player, Zach Kellogg.

Rather, it was with the intangibles that Hoosick Falls shined.

"We can't line up against guys like that and just run them over," Hoosick coach Ron Jones said. "We have to do certain things."

The Panthers' spread attack maximized space available for their athletes. The read-

INSIDE THE GAME



Hoosick Falls Central School's Brad Burns (33) and Randy Tutunjan wrestle down Hornell running back Zach Beason, left, during the second quarter of Saturday's Class C state championship game.

SIZE, continued on 2B

TITLE, continued on 2B

Panthers overcome size, history for 1st Class C title

SIZE, continued from 1B

option package with quarterback Billy Pine and tailback Brad Burns played into years of chemistry and preyed on Hornell mistakes.

And the undersized offensive line, as it had all season, provided the protection.

"I will never judge any of those guys' toughness because I'm bigger than three or four of them but those guys have hearts the size of lions," said Pine, who earned championship MVP honors with

169 yards rushing, 85 yards passing and three total touchdowns.

"They attacked all game," Pine said. "Their motors just do not quit and I can't think them enough for that."

When the halftime horn sounded with Hoosick Falls leading, 27-7, the Panthers raced off the field toward their locker room while the Red Raiders, shell-shocked, unlaced their chinstraps and left the field slowly.

The Panthers, playing to their strengths, had left their mark. Hornell's bruising back Zach

Bacon — at 6-feet, 230 pounds — mustered just 51 yards on 13 carries behind his imposing line.

With their option attack and small line, Pine and Burns rolled up 313.

"Coach [Ron Jones] always says to be the most physical team and own the tempo," Pine said. "Coach watches a lot of Oregon Ducks film and they push the tempo and just wear teams down. We knew our pace would just wear them down and we would get those big runs."

Late in the contest, the Pan-

thers took the tempo in the opposite direction. After three quarters of unrelenting action, they spaced time off the clock with a deliberate, six-minute drive.

"We worked on it all week and it came out like we planned," Burns said.

Size? Meh.

The Panthers are quite OK with their formula.

"It proves that we're tough, that we won't quit even when we face adversity and we're the underdog," Sherman said.



Hoosick Falls Central School defensive lineman Derek Bird, right, brings down Hornell's Julian Reinhardt, center, for a loss with teammate Randy Tutunjian in pursuit during the second half of Saturday's state championship game in Syracuse.



Hoosick Falls outfoxes powerful Hornell for crown

TITLE, continued from 1B

Hornell coach Erik Werner. "It kind of got us out of the defenses we wanted to run and then we made some real late adjustments that I should've seen earlier."

Leading 14-7 with 9:31 left in the half, Hoosick Falls gained more momentum with a head-up

defensive play. Starting at his 8-yard line, Hornell running back Zach Bacon scampered 14 yards before Randy Tutunjian stripped the ball and the Panthers took over at the Hornell 22.

On the first play after the turnover, Pine found open Josh Brogan on the right side. Brogan broke for the end zone, diving to the right pylon to extend the advantage to 23-7.

"After the touchdown, you could see it took the life out of them," Pine said. "They started strong, but then we grabbed them by the throat. We said, 'We're here to play too.'"

Then Burns ran up the middle for a 25-yard touchdown run with five minutes left in the first half to bury the Red Raiders even deeper. Burns ended up with 2,128 yards and 37 rushing touchdowns on the season — one of the best statistical seasons in Section II history.

Hornell cut into the lead in the third quarter when quarterback Richie Harkensider found receiver Brennan Busch for a 45-yard

But Hoosick Falls came back immediately with Brad Burns going on a 60-yard jaunt to make the lead 20 again at 34-14.

"Before the game, Coach Jones said we're the underdogs, we need to be aggressive this entire game," Pine said. "The pace wore them down and the big plays added up. Randy and [Josh] Brogan made big plays at receiver and I have the privilege of playing next to 35 [Burns], too."

In the fourth quarter, with Hornell down 13 and 2:46 left, Panthers safety Levi Brewster picked off Hornell quarterback Richie Harkensider, his second interception of the game, to seal the title for the Panthers.

Hoosick Falls finished with no turnovers, while the Red Raiders had four.

"I only felt comfortable when they were down two scores and we got the ball back so we could take [them] kneel down," Jones said, who won his first New York championship in 14 seasons leading the Panthers.

in a season, matching the 1996 Waterford championship squad.

The Panthers held Hornell to 233 yards on the ground, a third of which came on Luke Morgan's 74-yard scoring run on the opening drive. Morgan finished with 132 yards while Bacon amassed 51 yards on 13 carries.

"Hoosick Falls, I give them all the credit in the world. They were a tremendous football team," Werner said. "They earned this victory today."

The state crown was the second this season for Hoosick Falls, which also claimed the Class C girls soccer championship.

It was also the realization of a long-awaited goal.

"Coach Jones said you can get overwhelmed by the atmosphere, the stadium and the win streak, or go out and take them out. They are in your way, you've had this goal since sixth grade," Pine said. "It means the world to Hoosick Falls. It's a football town that was missing one thing — a state championship."

"We'll talk about this for the



Panthers Bring Championship Home From Dome; Stun Hornell 34 - 21

by Steve Bradley

They said they were going to play football in the Dome. They were only 11 and 12 years old, but they honestly believed they were going to play in the Dome. The mother of one of those then 12 year old boys wanted to move back to her hometown, but her young son said he wanted to stay in Hoosick Falls so he could play football and go to The Dome with his friends. When they won the Pee Wee football championship, they said they were going to play in the Dome.

And they did. They played in the Dome. Boy, did they ever play in the Dome.

Last Saturday the Panthers traveled to the Syracuse Carrier Dome to take on the Hornell Raiders to determine who would be the NYS Class C champion. The Raiders sported a 51 game winning streak, the longest in NY and second longest in the country.

Continued on page 8



Their star running back weighs 230 pounds, larger than many professional running backs. The Raiders were winners of the last three straight NYS Class B State championships. For 2012, they were moved down to Class C after state-wide changes in enrollment requirements were made. Both teams were 13 - 0. This would be the Panthers' first trip to play in the Dome since 2003. The Panthers were undersized in comparison to their opponent at almost every position. Any football oddsmaker would pick Hornell to win this game. Hornell never stood a chance.

The Panthers took the field to the cheers of hundreds of their fans. The fans had come by chartered bus, rented motorhomes and carpooling. Their vehicles were painted with encouraging words in Panther blue. The Pep Band and the cheerleaders were having no problems getting the fans fired up. In Hoosick Falls and all over the country, HFCS alumni, former residents and grandmothers who know nothing about football were glued to the TV or computer screens to root for their Panthers.

Panther Damon Dubois kicked off to the Raiders, and the ball soared into the end zone for a touchback. On their first play from scrimmage, the Raiders gained seven yards. The opponent didn't take the ball for a first play touchdown like the previous week. So far, so good. On the very

next play, the Raider quarterback handed the ball off to number 32 and he took the ball to the end zone for a 74 yard touchdown. It looked like the same play used the previous week. Less than thirty seconds gone in the game, Hoosick Falls 0 - Hornell 7.

The Panthers didn't flinch. On their first possession, the Panthers marched right down the field on the mighty Raider defense on a thirty yard pass to Josh Brogue and a forty plus yard run by quarterback Billy Pine. Seven yards away from the end zone, Pine took the snap and fired a bullet pass to receiver Randy Tutunjian. Tutunjian stepped around his defender and into the end zone for a Panther score. Hoosick Falls 7 - Hornell 7.

As the time of the first half went on, Hornell was having trouble moving the ball. Their fans became quieter and quieter. The Raiders made mistakes uncharacteristic of a team with a 51 game winning streak. Yards on the ground, which is what got them here, became hard to come by. Mark Hackett, Brad Burns, Brandon Hodges, Austin Pitt and the entire Panther defense were stopping Raider runs at the line of scrimmage. On the other side of the ball, the Panthers were moving the ball with relative ease, gaining 270 yards in the first half. With just over two minutes left in the first quarter, Pine stepped into the end zone on a one yard

quarterback
keeper behind
the block of



center Grady Beck. In the second quarter, after Tutunjian ripped the ball away from the

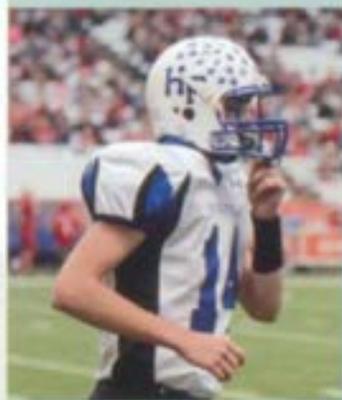


Raiders' big running back and recovered it on the Raiders 22 yard line, Pine quickly hooked up with Brogue on a 22 yard TD pass. With just over five minutes to go until the half, Burns burst up the middle for a 35 yard TD. Halftime score - Hoosick Falls 27 - Hornell 7. The underdog Panthers had the big bad Hornell Raiders looking like rough tough cream puffs.

But Hornell didn't get here by not being able to overcome a challenge. The Raiders were a team built to get a lead and protect it,

now they were in the unfamiliar position of having to come from behind. They started passing.

It worked. With just over eight minutes left in the third quarter, the Raider quarterback connected with a receiver for a 45 yard TD reception. With the extra point tacked on, the score became Hoosick Falls 27 - Hornell 14. The Panthers got the ball back, and, just over a minute later, Brad Burns took the handoff from Pine, put his head down and ran through a hole in the middle of ▶



the line. When he looked up, there was no one in front of him, and he didn't stop running for 59 yards. That TD was very comforting to the Panther fans and the coaches. After Eric Kaufmann made the PAT - Hoosick Falls 34 - Hornell 14 with almost 19 minutes of game time left. The Panthers ate up six minutes of that time with one drive at the end of the third quarter. The Panthers didn't score, but eating away at that pesky time clock was critical.

With less than a minute gone in the fourth quarter, the Raiders struck again with a 22 yard TD pass. Hoosick Falls 34 - Hornell 21. The remainder of the game went back and forth with HF chewing up the time and Hornell doing everything they could to score. Finally, with just over two minutes left, the Raiders threw a pass that Levi Brewster intercepted, his second of the day, to seal the victory.

The Hoosick Falls Panthers beat the mighty Hornell Raiders. The young men had accomplished what they set out to do as twelve year olds on a Pee Wee football field. What a fantastic finish to a fantastic season.

The entire town met the team bus upon its return with a parade of fire trucks and police cruisers with sirens blasting, rescue squad vehicles with the lights flashing and dozens of cars honking their horns. Hundreds of people lined the streets to cheer, and households on every street flashed their porch lights as the parade went by. People from all over the country were sending congratulations via Facebook. Everyone was so proud of these young men it was amazing.

What a fall for Hoosick Falls Central sports.

SUNDAY

PERFECT ENDING

Hoosick Falls defeated Hornell to win its first state championship in football: Page 38





Panther pride

Horsick Falls' Josh Bregar, center, celebrates his touchdown with Panther teammates Derek Bird, left, and Grady Beck during their Class C football state final against Hiram on Saturday at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Horsick Falls won, 34-21.

Coverage/CI

CHRIS SCHULTZ/TIMES UNION



Panthers notch historic first



Part of the Panthers success is the fact that the JV team travels and suits up for every varsity game. given the dominance they have achieved recently, these young players often see alot of playing time "under the lights". So when it is their time to shine, they've been there before.



JV





All Star Brad Burns



NYSWA Class C Co-Player of the Year
NYSFCA Class C Co-Player of the Year
Bennington Banner Player of the Year
Troy Record Co-Offensive Player of the Year
Times Union First Team RB
Section 2 Class C Player of the Year
2,150 yards rushing
41 touchdowns
81 tackles
2nd highest rushing yards in Section 2 history



All Star Billy Pine



- NYSWA Class C Co-Player of the Year
 - Bennington Banner All Star DB
 - Troy Record Co-Offensive Player of the Year
 - Times Union First Team QB
 - Section 2 Class C North Offensive Player of the Year
- 1,752 yards passing
833 yards rushing
66 tackles





All Star Lance Rice-Wilder

NYSWA 2nd Team Defensive Tackle
Bennington Banner All Star OL
Troy Record First Team OL
Section 2 Class C North First Team OT



All Star Randy Tutunjian

NYS Class C Second Team-WR
Bennington Banner All Star First Team-WR
Troy Record First Team- WR
Times Union First Team- WR
Section 2 Class C First Team- First Team
WR



All Star Bryan Sherman



NYSWA Third Team Defensive End
Bennington Banner First Team Defensive End
Times Union First Team Defensive End
Section 2 Class C First Team Defensive End



All Star Josh Brogue

Troy Record 2nd Team- WR
Section 2 Class C North 1st Team
WR



All Star Grady Beck

Class C North First Team- Center
Bennington Banner First Team
Offensive Line - Center



Panther All Stars



All Star
Brandon Hodges



All Star
Levi Brewster



All Star
Mike Matatt



Albany Times Union 2nd Team- OG
Section 2 Class C First Team- DE



Section 2 Class C North First Team- DB



Section 2 Class C North First Team- LB

Panther All Stars



Section 2 Class C North 2nd Team- WR



All Star
Tom Peabody



Section 2 Class C North 2nd Team- Kicker



All Star
Damon Dubois



Section 2 Class C North 2nd Team- Kicker



All Star
Eric Kaufmann

Thursday Night Dinners



Part of Panther tradition are the Thursday night dinners. Every week the parents prepare a feast and serve the players and coaches. It is a time to gather together and hear some last minute words from the coaches about the upcoming game. This year a chicken barbeque was provided by Paul and Shari hand the week before the Superbowl. And for the third straight year the Becks provided a steak dinner promised if the Panthers won the section. Prior to the state championship game, the team was served Thanksgiving dinner, and players from the 2003 team joined them and gave words of advice and encouragement. No Thursday dinner was ever complete without Sue Burns' cornbread and Coach Folgs cookies!



Senior Moms!



Rib Eyes for winning the Superbowl!



Charlie Costantino and Ray McGarvin the grill masters on steak night



Members of the 2003 Panthers, the only other HF football team to make the state championship game at the Thanksgiving Feast



TITLE TOWN

The community support for all Hoosick Falls athletics has always been tremendous. This year was no different. With 5 fall sports teams earning scholar athlete honors, 4 making sectionals, 3 making state semis, and football and girls soccer taking home state titles, this year was unlike any other in Hoosick Falls.

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. — "What sport are you looking for?" asked Mike Libac, the Hoosick Falls Central School boys basketball coach, when I walked into the school's gymnasium Tuesday afternoon.

While most schools have already shifted gears to winter sports like basketball, some, like Hoosick Falls, are still chasing autumn dreams of glory. OK, not quite like Hoosick Falls, the only campus in New York this fall with state semifinals in boys soccer, girls soccer and football.

Indeed, the Triple Crown charge is alive and well, evidenced by the ver-

and blue and white signs of school pride — "Welcome to Title Town," "Go Panthers," "Bring it home Panthers" — staked across the town. It's hard to travel in any direction here and not encounter at least one if your eyes are open.

INSIDE THE GAME

The go-to guy about the Panthers' success might have something to do with the water supply, but I'm more worried that the area could run out of posters, markers and paint before the weekend hits.

"There's signs for everybody, all three [teams]," said Evan Phillips, a senior on the boys soccer team. "We're talking around each other and the entire town — it's just crazy that these towns have gone this far."

Last fall, with football and girls soccer competing deep into November, the Panthers snatched a first with two regional champions — the title for all Final Four participants — in one season.

With boys soccer adding to the sensational trophy haul this time around, the Panthers have matched their record for regional championships in a school year — and there are still two entire seasons to play. Until now, the banner year had been 1987-88, when field hockey, girls basketball and softball all reached the penultimate round of the postseason.

"The climate in Hoosick Falls right now concerning the athletic program is

N.Y. CLASS C STATE SEMIFINALS

Historic fall has 'Tittletown' decked out in blue and white

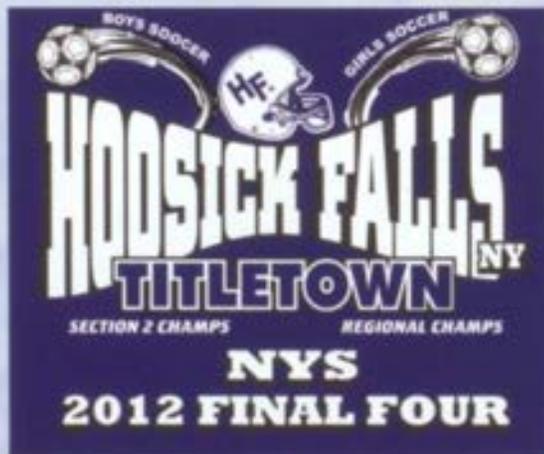


Signs along Route 22, heading north out of Hoosick Falls, cheer on the town's three regional champions last Saturday.

HOOSICK, continued on 2B



There were not too many telephone poles and fenceposts to be found that were not covered with panthers paws and signs. BRING IT DOME!!!!



Let's Go Blue!



The Coaches



Statisticians: Brian Hall
 Mike Lilac
 Technical: Mike Brewster
 Tom St. Hilaire
 PA Announcer: Tim Fauler
 Bob Pine
 Home Team Physician :
 Dr. Marcus Martinez

"Drink lots of water, eat your bananas. Bring dry socks and a shirt. Tonite, I want to you visualize playing the game in your mind" - Coach Folgert



"When you walk off the field leave no doubt in anyone's mind who the most physical team is" - Coach Fleming



Ron Jones
 Head Coach

K 12 PE Teacher
 HFCS Alumni
 Former Panther



Eamonn DeGraaf
 Offensive & Defensive Line

HS Technology Teacher
 Varsity Girls Basketball
 JV Baseball



Chris Fleming
 Defensive Coordinator

7 - 12 PE Teacher
 JV Boys Basketball



Mark Folgert
 Asst. Coach, Head Guru

Witch Doctor, Visionary
 HFCS Alumni
 Former Panther



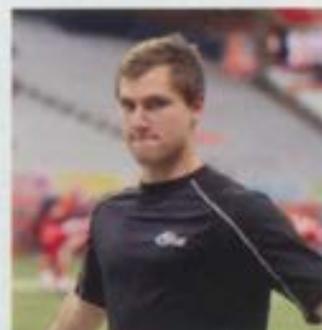
Building and climbing the precarious tower in Granville



Videographer Mike Brewster



The players always enjoyed having HF Alumni and former Panther Charlie Weeden on the sidelines



Former Asst. Coach Josh Furnas made the trip from California to make a cameo appearance at the Championship in Syracuse

Panther Pride



Craig Burdo
Assistant Coach

Kindergarten Teacher
Modified Football Coach



Andrew Morin
Assistant Coach

HFCS Alumni
Former Panther



Jake Colliano
Assistant Coach

HFCS Alumni
Former Panther



James "Bubba" Willette
Assistant Coach

HFCS Alumni
Former Panther



To Our Fantastic Community Supporters – From the Hoosick Falls Football Team

The Hoosick Falls football team was able to enjoy unparalleled success this past season. There is a limited amount of people that can call themselves champions but through hard work and dedication we managed to obtain that title. We would like to recognize our coaches, our community, and our families for the time they put into supporting our efforts and helping drive us forward.

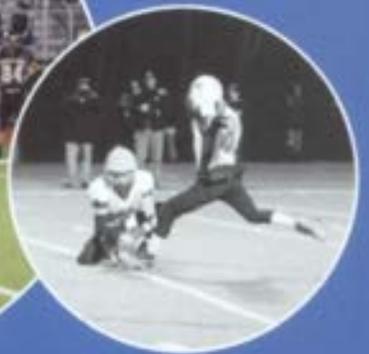
On behalf of the Hoosick Falls football team, we would like to thank our coaches for the tremendous effort and time they put in to leading us to success. Our coaches, Ron Jones, Chris Fleming, Eamonn Degraaf, Andrew Morin, and Mark Folgert put in countless hours studying film, preparing game plans, and getting us ready for our upcoming opponents. Without their dedication and guidance we would not have matched the amount of success we achieved. We had a huge drive to win and a goal that had been on our minds since elementary school. Our coaches believed in us throughout the years and pushed us to work hard and never give up on our goal. These coaches have molded us into men and given us a mentality that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

Our team would also like to thank our fans, community, and school. As the playoffs arrived, the support from our community reached a new level. Every street in Hoosick Falls had signs supporting us and our journey; pushing us to achieve excellence. Local diners and shops donated food and money in order to make our journeys easier. Their donations were extremely kind and made us realize the support that our community has for us. The local Strong Brothers Sports Dome allowed us to practice in their facility in order to get away from the outside weather conditions and have a chance to get adjusted to the turf. We would like to thank the school for all of their support. We had many pep rallies and send-offs which took time out of teachers day's yet not one teacher complained because they supported us as well. The whole school staff was behind our team, pushing us to keep winning. We would also like to thank our fans who showed up to every game and cheered us on. No other team that we played brought a crowd like we did. Throughout the years, win or lose, you all were there supporting us. Thank you for making us signs and intimidating other teams with your loud roars. Without the support of our fans, we would not have achieved the success we had.

Lastly, we would like to thank our families and our friends. We have been playing this game for many years and our parents have put in countless hours and dedication to bringing us to practices, buying us our needed equipment, and traveling to our far-away games. You taught us to never give up and you always knew that we had what it took to finally bring home that state championship. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this sport and aiding us in achieving all of our success.

Without the support of all the above mentioned, we would not have achieved the same success. Yet, with your support we can now say that we achieved our goal and we are now New York State Class C State Champions. We hope that you can see how much we value your support and we hope that you continue to support us as we move on and aim for higher goals.

-The Hoosick Falls Football Team





BLUE, WHITE!



2012 HFCS CHEERLEADERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Bethany Bakaitis	12th	Taylor Corbin	9th
Elizabeth Leva	12th	Olivia Cushman	9th
Chelsea Sarsfield	12th	Katherine Disorda	9th
Ashley Vascherault	12th	Jacquelyn Holbriiter	9th
Taylor Danforth	11th	Jillian Keefer	9th
HollyAnn Deveresse	11th	Maia Mohan	9th
Morgan DiMaggio	11th	Sarah Sigot	9th
Emily Houghton	11th	Tiffany St.Hilaire	9th
Kennedy Main	11th	Alyssa Leva	8th
Taylor Filhor	10th	Janessa Leva	8th
Mandi Mulready	10th	Jordan Clyde	7th
Anna Sawyer	10th	Tearcy Music	7th
Sarah Schultz	10th	Hailey Sarsfield	7th
Emily Slaton	10th	Danielle St.Hilaire	7th
		Cassandra Hynd	7th

**Katie DiMaggio,
Coach**



PANTHERS FIGHT!



SENIORS



CAPTAIN

#4
Billy Pine
QB, DB



#5
Josh Brogue
WR, DB



#7
Randy Tutunjian
WR, LB



#27
Matt Sprague
WR, LB

2012 PANTHERS
3 Fall Sports in State
Semis
Football
Girls Soccer
Soccer

#35
Brad Burns
RB, LB

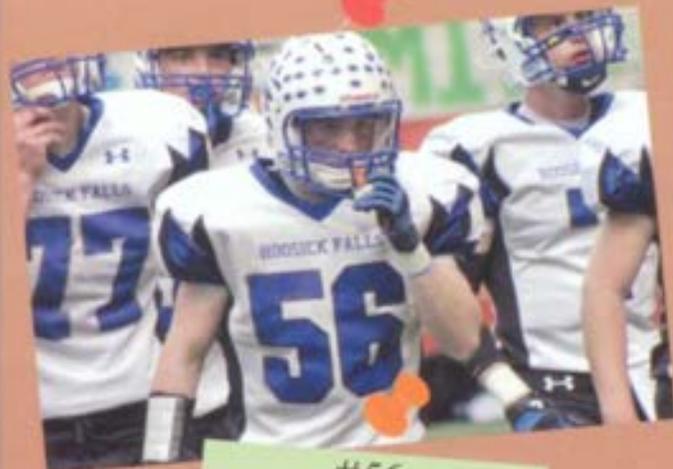
CAPTAIN



Class of 2013

2012 New York State Class C Football
Champions

2012 New York State Class C Girls
Soccer Champions

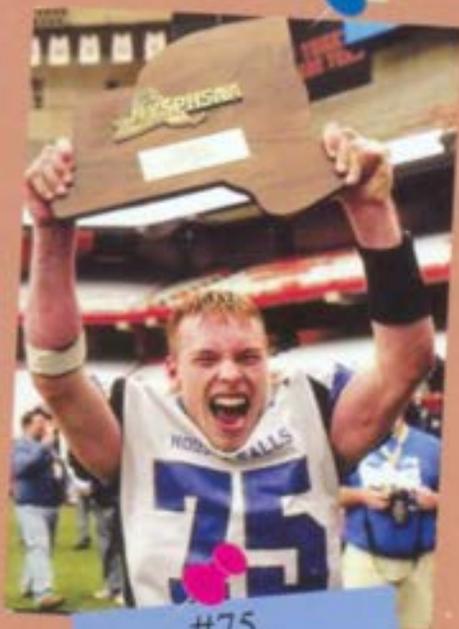


#56
Bryan Sherman
OL, DL



CAPTAIN

#61
Lance Rice-Wilder
OL, DL



#75
Grady Beck
OL, LB



CAPTAIN

#83
Matt Brewster
WR, DB

2012 PANTHERS
Scholar Athlete
Team Honors

Panthers 9 20

Mechanicville	8/31/12	43	0
Granville	9/08/12	42	10
Taconic Hills	9/14/12	47	8
Stillwater	9/21/12	40	0
Schuylerville	9/28/12	43	12
Corinth	10/5/12	47	0
Tamarac	10/12/12	44	0
Voorheesville	10/20/12	69	14
Fonda-Fultonville	10/27/12	47	0

Scoreboard

12

Chatham - Superbowl 11/2/12	40	0
Saranac Lake 11/10/12	20	12
James I O'Neill 11/17/12	43	21
Hornell 11/24/12	34	21



Thank You
TO THE FOLLOWING

BUSINESSES FOR
SUPPORTING OUR
YEARBOOK



EC Fund

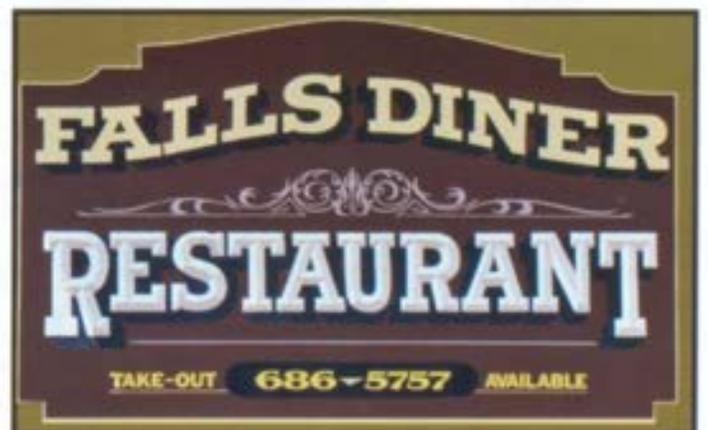
Helping kids do things.

PIZZA BELLA



- PIZZA
- SUBS
- WINGS
- SLICES

686-1900



TIME WARNER CABLE



- DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT
 - HIGH SPEED INTERNET
 - HOME PHONE
 - SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS
 - SECURITY
- 1-866-321-CABLE

CONWAY

PLUMBING & HEATING

518-686-0700

Fox Hollow Construction

Great Food



Good Times

MULLIGANS

ROUTE 7A
MANCHESTER, VT

802-362-3663

Open at 11:30 Daily



THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

*115 Years of
People Helping People*

Stewart's Shops



**WE ARE
CLOSER TO YOU!**



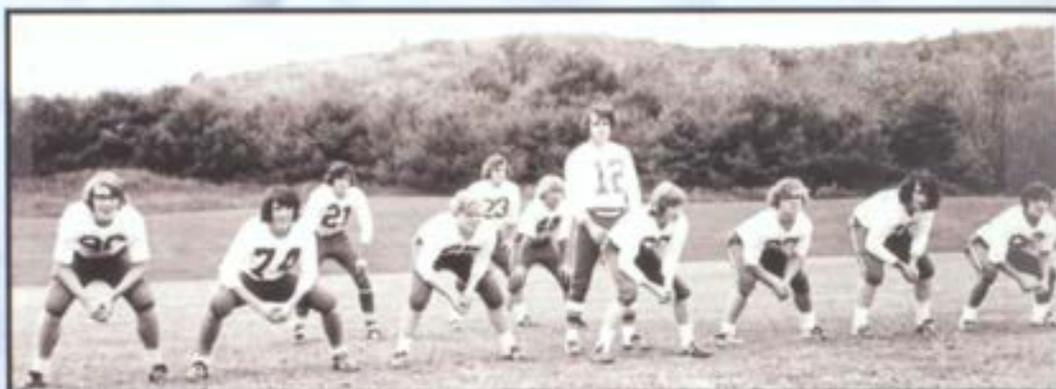
**STRONG BROTHERS
SPORTS DOME**

Rain or Shine, We've Got You Covered

TRADITION

1972

PANTHERS



In Front: Bob Hall, Ray McGarvin, Greg Gardner, Bruce Weeden, Jon Burns, Bruce Rawlings, Mike Mahar

Backfield: Derrick Fowler, Mike Kovage, Curt Kaukas, Howie Wright

HISTORY



ROW 1: E. Bornt, W. Peerboom, T. McMartin, K. Coonradt, M. Davendonis, D. Greenwood, E. Shaw, C. Harrington, P. Fabiano, S. Volkheimer, J. Herrington

ROW 2: Coach Greenberger, Coach Reeve, T. Thurber, G. Schmeigel, H. Wright, M. Mahar, B. Rawlings, G. Telford, M. Folgert, B. Hall, R. McGarvin, J. Grobuski, B. Hansen, B. Weeden, M. Kovage, G. Gardner, J. Vitro, S. Whittet, S. Urbon, C. Kaukus, W. Frazier, K. Buck, J. Burns, Head Coach Baker

PANTHER PRIDE

H.F.C.S.

OPP.

16	Queensbury	8
28	Mt. Anthony	8
8	Stillwater	0
8	Cambridge	6
28	Greenwich	0
36	Schuylerville	8
8	St. Peters	6
36	Ft. Edward	12

After many years of waiting, H.F.C.S. captured its first outright league championship. This season was highlighted by the league's final game when the Hoosiers faced St. Peters of Saratoga. Both teams boasted a 6-0 record. This set the scene for a pagentry of mixed emotions, drama, and all out play that magneted over 2,000 spectators. They cried for the elimination of a team that hadn't previously been scored upon. At the close of the tight 8-6 game, emotions were mixed. For the winners, overwhelming joy, cheering celebrations, and motorcades throughout downtown Hoosick Falls. For the losers tears, frustration, regret, and a long ride home. From the crowd only one word could be heard, pealing as if from some giant bell, 1.

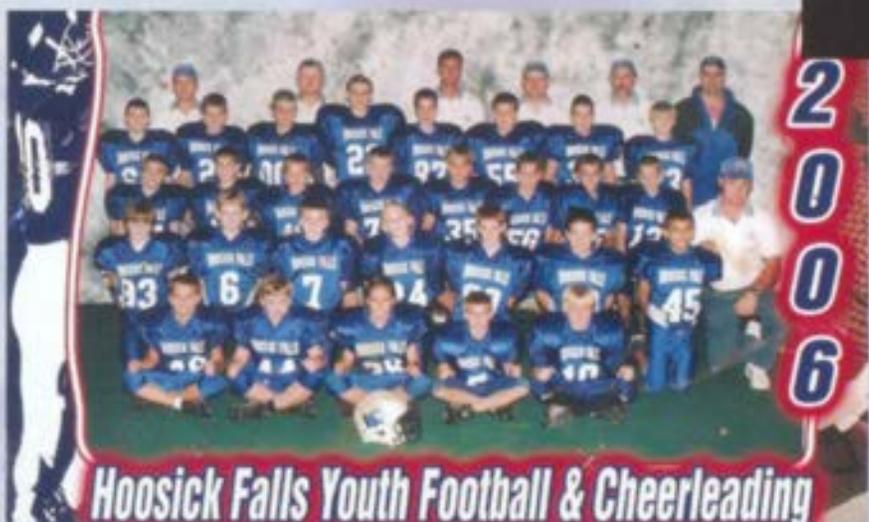
NYFL



2004 HF Raiders

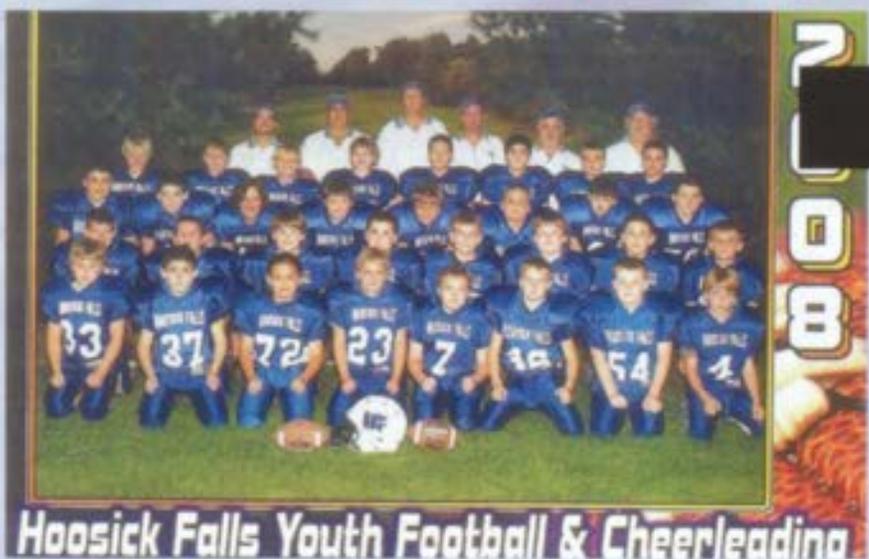
2004 Junior Youth League
Champions

12:48



2006 HF Irish

2006 Senior Youth League Champs
2012 Panthers pictured: (from top down)
Row 1: D. Bird, L. Rice-Wilder, R.
Tutunjian
Row 2: B. Hodges, B. Pine, G. Beck, B.
Burns, M. Brewster, R. Perkins, T.
Costantino
Row 3: B. Sherman, C. Hodge, J. Brogue,
D. Hardesty, B. Bacon
Row 4: C. Peabody, M. Mattat, B. Foster,
H. Yaviniski
Not pictured: L. Brewster



2008 HF Irish

2008 HF Irish
2012 Panthers Pictured, top to bottom
Row 1: W. Bradley, J. Bakaitis, G. Wright,
S. Barss, C. McCart
Row 2: J. Matte-Yorke, M. Hackett, A.
Pitt
Row 3: C. Davendonis, S. Richard, K.
Skott, E. Hand, J. Wood
Row 4: W. Cushman, N. Labarge, CJ
Yaviniski

Giuseppe's
HOMEMADE ITALIAN FOOD

Steak • Seafood • Pizza



JEAN'S
PLACE



BREAKFAST LUNCH
DINNER

HOOSICK

True Value

Yankee

ONE DOLLAR

Dr. Marcus Martinez, M.D.

MARTINEZ FAMILY PRACTICE

23 Parsons Ave
Hoosick Falls, NY
518-686-5300



HOOSICK TIRE
& Services

RIVERSIDE LAUNDRY

OPEN 7 DAYS

FROM **7:00 AM** **8:00 PM**
LAST WASH @ **7:30 PM**

WASH • DRY • FOLD
DRY CLEANING

Services
Available

The Danforth
ADULT CARE CENTER

Danforth Adult Care Center

19 Danforth St.
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
518-686-5167

BACK STREET
SALOON

22 WATER STREET, HOOSICK FALLS, NY
518-205-5000

Artistic
Hair
Designs



Operator:
Terry McGuire

53 Elm Street
Hoosick Falls, NY
12090

518-686-7485

Bianca's
PIZZA &
PASTA



Phone
686-3000

BARBER & FRICKE

Automotive, Inc.

686-4575

686-7745

Grain Stoves Inc.

Skott Farm & Equipment



517 Quaker Road
Buskirk, NY 12028



BUMBLEBEE SALON

Pedicures • Manicures
Waxings • Hair Care Services

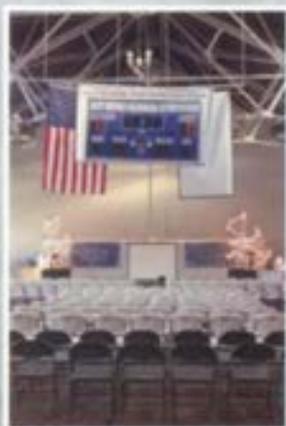
518-894-6482

Owner / Stylist
Chris Hodges

Hoosick Falls, NY

J.A. BRADLEY
& Sons, Inc.
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS





2012 NYS Class C

275

ADMIT ONE



HOOSICK FALLS FOOTBALL BANQUET

Sunday, January 20, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.

COST: \$10

Hoosick Falls Armory
Hoosick Falls, NY

A celebration in honor of the
2012 New York State
Football Champions!



A Senior Class to remember.



Best Defensive Staff in New York State

Championship Celebration

Coach Bob Ford,
University at Albany
Keynote Speaker



Thank you Kathy, for all that you have done for our program.

A special thank you to all of the parents that worked very hard to make this celebration special.

 **TOPS**

Thorpe's



Health Mart.
PHARMACY

*Society
of
St. Stanislaw*

**BAKER
INSURANCE
AGENCY**

BARBECUE
Recreation
Lounge & Grill



**HOOSICK FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**
Your Community Credit Union

**HARDESTY
SANITATION**
686-7171

WEEBS FISH FRY

TRY OUR FISH, YOU'LL GET HOOKED



- Burgers
- Hot Dogs
- Chicken
- Chowder

TAKE-OUT • EAT IN

Maggie's
Beauty Shop

Family Hair Care

(518) 423-6244



Price Chopper

RGI
INSURANCE

DOUG'S OIL, INC.

For All Your Heating & Plumbing Needs

#2 OIL • KEROSENE • DIESEL FUEL

P.O. Box 308
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
518-686-7617 or 518-686-4223
Fax: 548-686-1903



Fanara's

PUB & GRILL

BRICK OVEN PIZZA LOCALLY RAISED BEEF BURGERS & STEAKS

WINGS STEAMERS STEAK SANDWICH

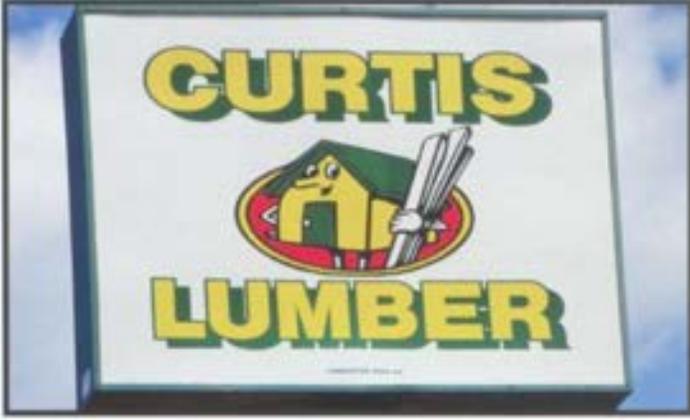
SUBWAY

HOOSICK SAND & GRAVEL

ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATION

PAT BAKAITIS
1-518-686-5147

*Scotty's
Diner*



Dr. Tim Fauler, D.P.M.
*Complete Podiatric &
Foot Care Services*
518-686-0286

**Derby
Club**



**Nickelback
Redemption
&
Penny's Propane**



**McNeilly's
GREENHOUSE
&
FLORIST SHOP**



**HOOSICK AREA
YOUTH CENTER
&
COMMUNITY COALITION**

IN APPRECIATION

NONE of this book is possible without the wonderful work of our parent volunteer photographers. Thank you for your time, effort, and amazing photos!

PAUL
HAND



STEVE
BRADLEY

GERRY
SURDAM



Thank You!
HFCS Administration
HFCS Custodial Staff
HFCS Cafeteria Staff
HFCS Varsity Club
Volunteers for Snack Shack and
50/50 Sales
Our local Fire and Rescue
Departments

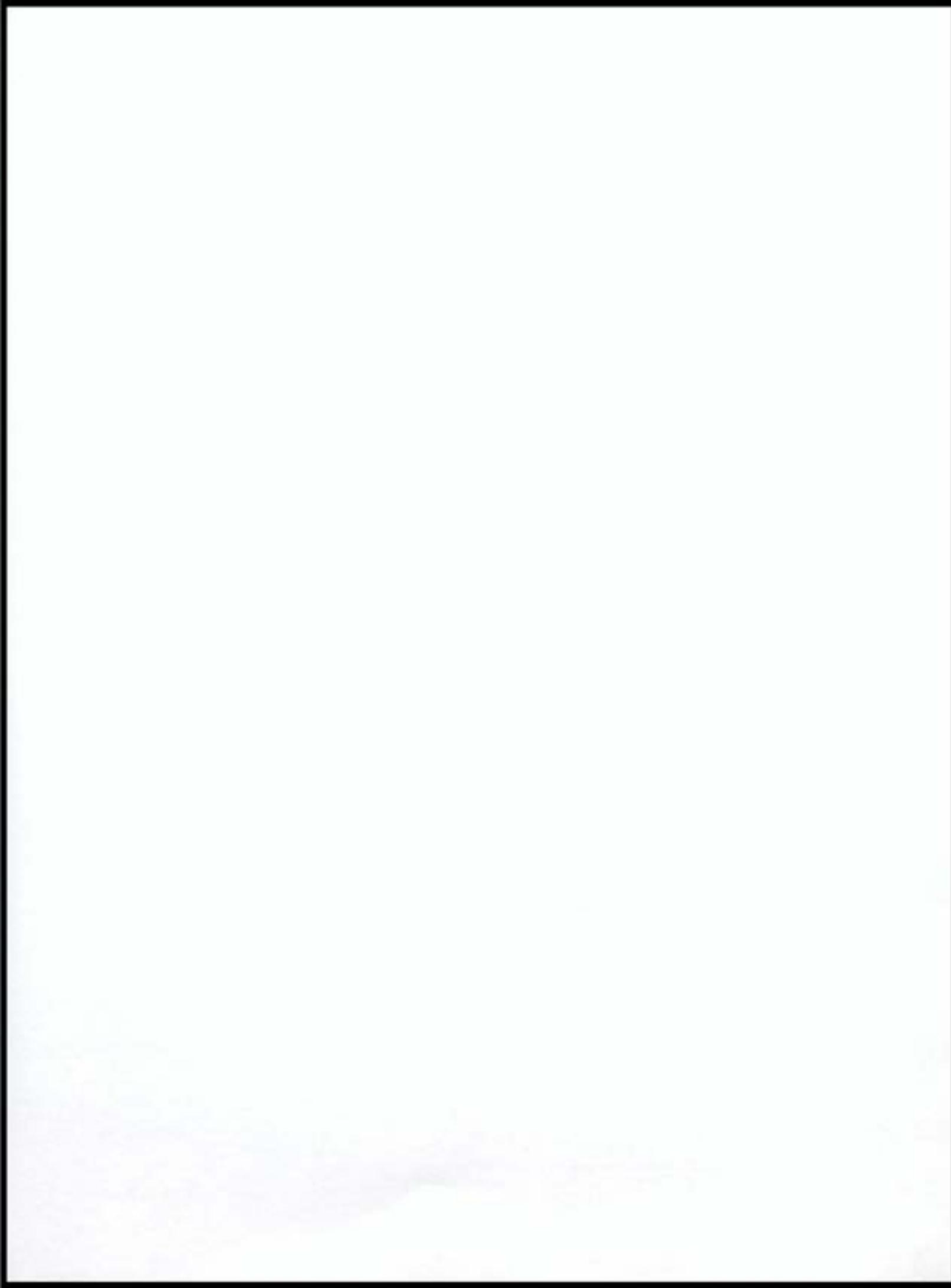


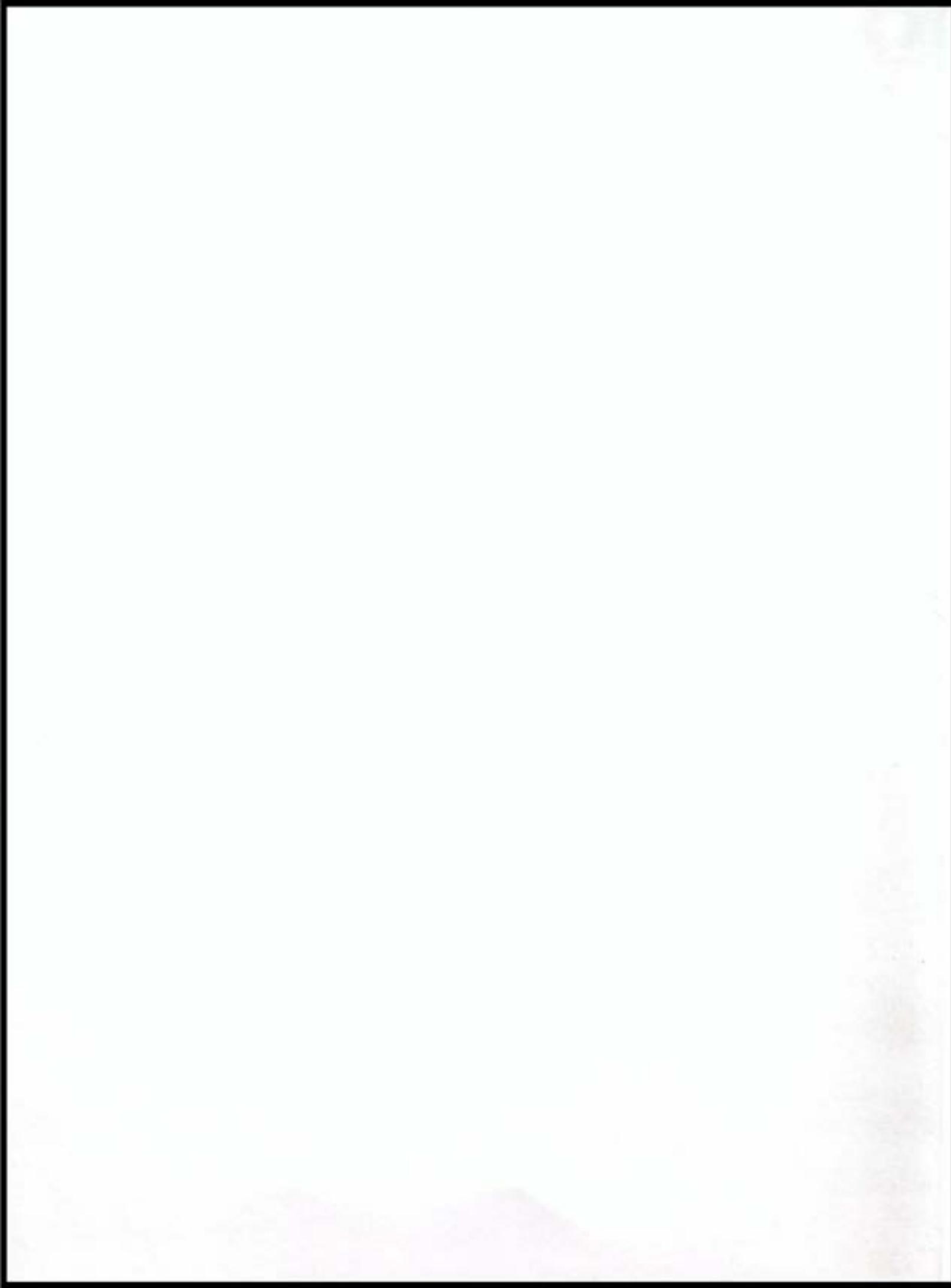
A final message from the Burns residence!

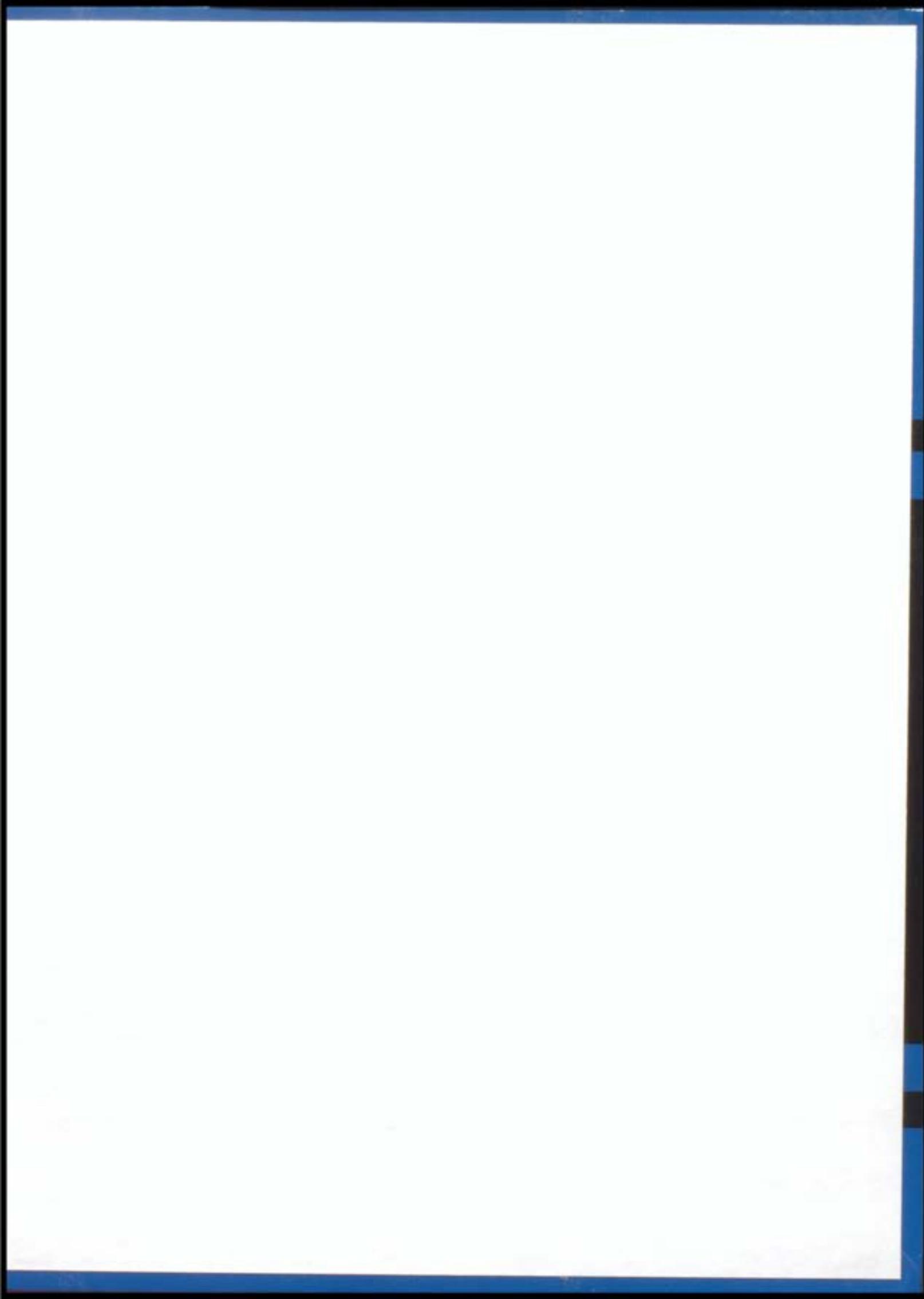


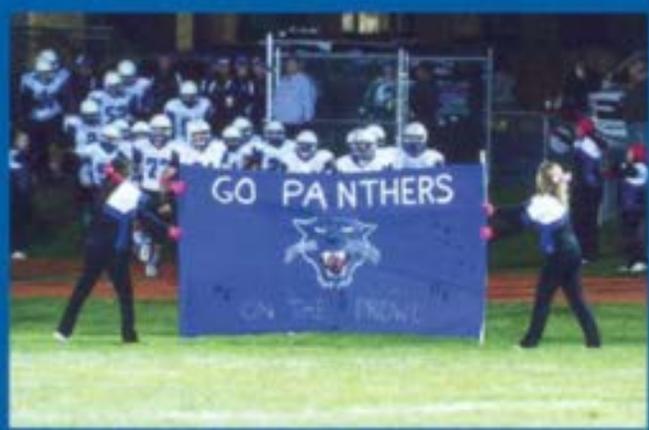
Yearbook Committee:
Kathy Beck
Sue Burns
Ron Jones
Mark Folgert
Sarah McCart

Contributing Editor
and Advertisements:
Steve Bradley









Lifetouch