
65 Years of Red Devils Football

1961



2026

AN UNEXPECTED TURN

2003 • Part 2



Ridge entered the playoffs after a strong season led by Tim Howarth and Matt Mullen.

But the postseason would test the Red Devils in an unexpected way.

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THE PLAYOFFS BEGIN

Ridge opened the state playoffs on the road against unbeaten No. 2 seed Phillipsburg. Both teams entered averaging more than 30 points per game, setting up a major first-round showdown.

SCOUTING REPORT

WHAT: North Jersey, Section 2, Group III quarterfinal.

WHO: No. 7 seed Ridge (7-1) vs. No. 2 seed Phillipsburg (8-0).

WHEN/WHERE: 7 tonight/Maloney Stadium, Phillipsburg.



RIDGE REPORT

Ridge is averaging 32 points per game and has a number of ways to make a run at Phillipsburg. Senior quarterback Tim Howarth, who seems to do his best work off broken plays, has thrown for 15 touchdowns and run for two. His main targets have been Byron Glaspy and Joe Sutherland. Sutherland has caught seven touchdown passes, Glaspy five. Senior back Matt Mullen has given the Red Devils steady production. He has rushed for 14 touchdowns and 1,049 yards. Ridge has been fortified by a solid two-way line, which will need an outstanding effort tonight. Senior Brian Brazinski and junior Cliff Meinwieser have been the leaders on both sides.

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A TOUGH START

In front of a crowd 4,000 at Maloney Stadium, Ridge found itself **down 14-0** at the start of the 2nd quarter.

Against an unbeaten Phillipsburg team, the Red Devils suddenly had to play from behind.

14-0

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A DEVASTATING BLOW

Early in the second quarter, **Tim Howarth** was hit after just releasing a pass.

RIDGE'S HOWARTH
Collarbone is broken

The injury **ended his season** and left Ridge without its starting quarterback.

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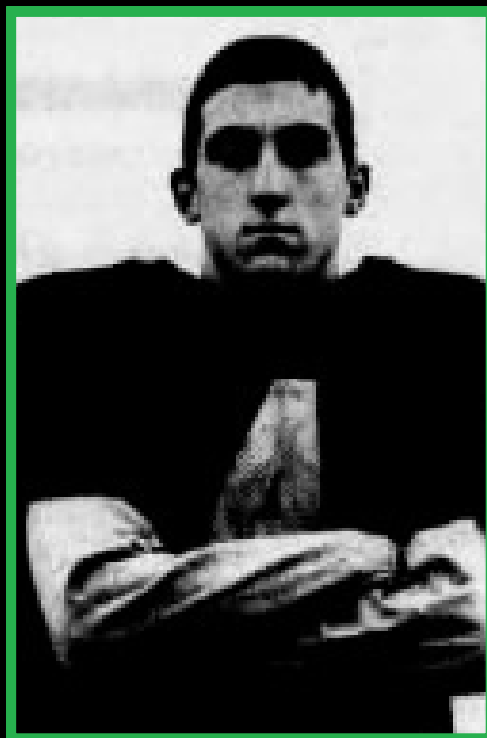


2026

READY WHEN CALLED

Down **14-0** with Howarth **sidelined**,
Ridge turned to backup quarterback
Steve Monastero, who had yet to
take a game snap all season.

But would he deliver?



Steve Monastero

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MONASTERO DELIVERS

V FOOTBALL	
RIDGE	31
PHILLIPSBURG	27

Monastero threw for **203 yards** and **3 TD passes** and added a **5-yard TD run**. His **game-winning** pass to John D'Agostini came with just **1:13 remaining**.

Monastero helps propel Ridge past No. 9 Phillipsburg, 31-27

Monastero, Ridge stun Phillipsburg

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ONE WIN AWAY

**No. 17 Ridge
prevails, 23-7,
to reach final**

Ridge punched its
ticket to the
sectional final
with a hard-fought
23-7 semifinal win
over Livingston.

Matt Mullen
powered the
offense with **135
rushing yards** and
2 TDs, while Steve
Monastero helped
guide Ridge to the
championship
game.

SCOUTING REPORT

WHAT: North Jersey, Section 2, Group III semifinal.
WHO: No. 7 seed Ridge (8-1) vs. No. 3 seed Livingston (9-0).

WHEN/WHERE: 7 tonight/Livingston High School.

HOW THEY GOT HERE: Ridge defeated No. 2 seed Phillipsburg 31-27; Livingston defeated No. 6 seed West Morris 27-21.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Route I-287 North to Exit 39. Take Route 10 East toward Whippany for 6.9 miles. Turn right onto Mt. Pleasant Parkway. Turn left onto Hillside Terrace, then right onto S. Ashby Avenue. Turn right onto Taconic Road, which becomes Wahler Road. Enter Robert H. Harp Drive and high school.



RIDGE REPORT

Senior quarterback Steve Monastero led the stunning win over Phillipsburg by throwing two touchdown passes and scoring another after replacing injured senior starter Tim Howarth, who left early in the second quarter with a broken collarbone. Monastero completed 16-of-28 passes for 194 yards against Phillipsburg. Senior fullback Matt Mullen has rushed for 1,178 yards and 15 touchdowns, senior receiver Byron Glaspy has caught 11 passes for 207 yards the past two years and senior Joe Sutherland has caught two TD passes in the past two games. Ridge has an outstanding two-way line led by Brian Brazinski and Chris Picerni. Linebackers Chris Cefalo, Byron Glaspy, Andrew Walker and Luke Watkins and defensive backs John D'Agostini and Monastero have been outstanding. Monastero has six interceptions. Mike Buck gives Ridge an outstanding kicking game, while Glaspy is a threat to return kicks and punts for good yardage every time he touches the ball.

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THE BIG STAGE



On a blustery night in December, a crowd of 3,000 gathered at Giants Stadium for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group III final between Ridge and Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

NORTH 2

**Ridge (10-1)
vs. Scotch Plains (10-1)**

When: Saturday at Giants Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

Keys to victory for Ridge: Few teams have been able to run effectively against Scotch Plains. Mullen must be able to get tough yards between the tackles to create some space for Ridge's productive passing attack. The defensive line, anchored by tackle Brian Brazinski, and the linebacking corps, led by MLB Chris Cefalo, must contain Lockery and Baker and not allow Scotch Plains to control the ball for long stretches. Kicker Mike Buck could be a factor if the attack stalls in the red zone.

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A DOMINANT FINISH

Ridge took control early and never let go. **Monastero** completed his first **10 passes**, while **Matt Mullen** rushed for **118 yards** and **3 TDs**. The **defense dominated** as the Red Devils **shut out** Scotch Plains-Fanwood, **27-0**.



A group of Ridge defenders swarm Scotch Plains-Fanwood running back Kyle Bakeris.

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Monastero leads Ridge to title

Super-sub QB completes first 10 passes as No. 16 team blanks Scotch Plains, 27-0



Ridge offense simply overwhelming

Matt Mullen
scores 3 TDs
as Red Devils win
1st title since '87

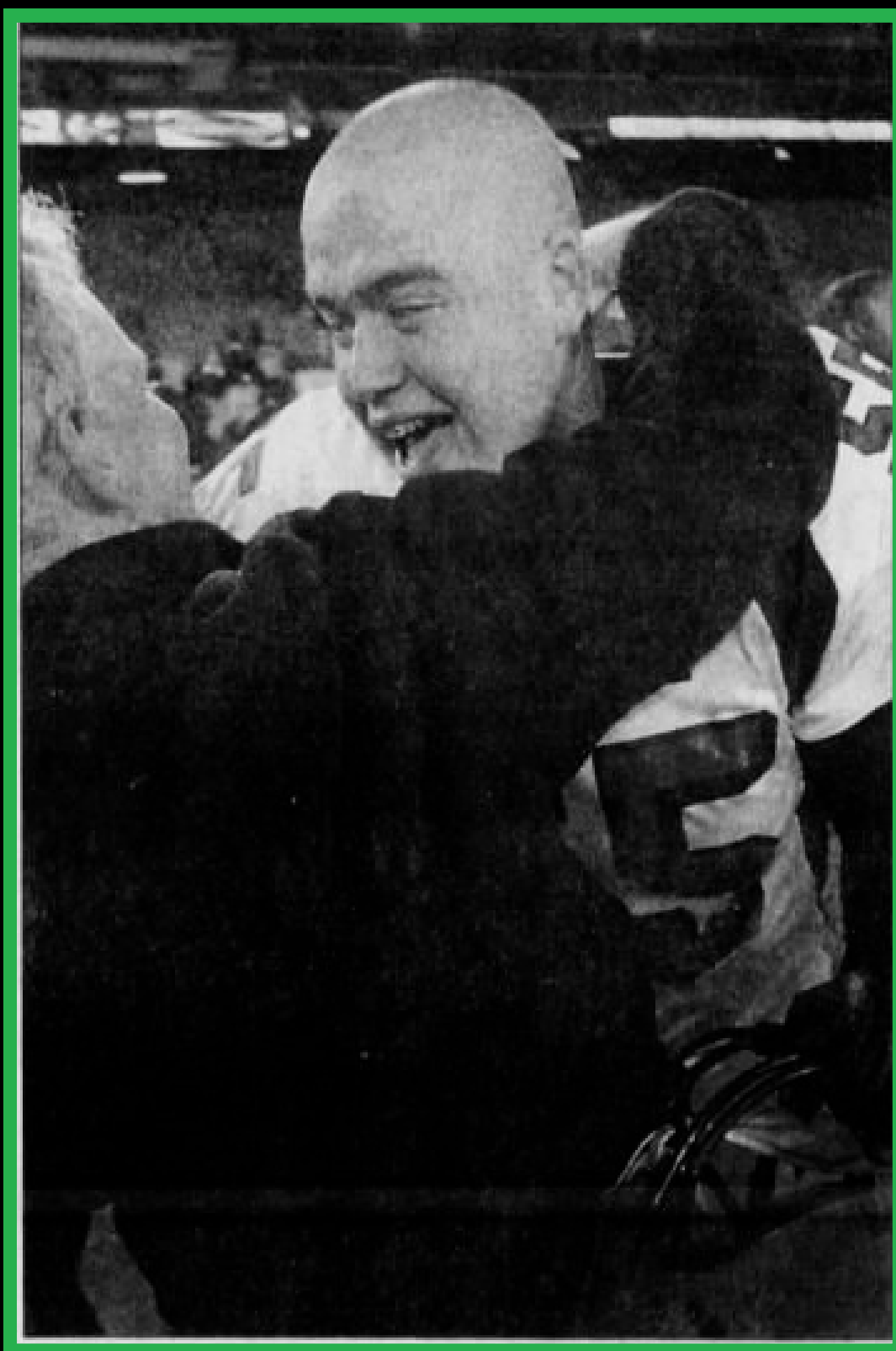
Ridge did the unexpected

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“It was a great win and we are glad we can bring it home for Ridge High School.”

-Coach Tom Falato



Coach Falato hugs right tackle Phil Klaas following the victory at Giants Stadium.