

Algonquin Regional High School

**Athletic Hall of Fame
2015**



Saturday, November 28, 2015

Algonquin Regional High School

Athletic Hall of Fame

Previous Inductees

Inducted in – 1999

Paul Audet – (class of 1988)
Nancy Boutilier – (class of 1979)
John P. Clark – (1959-1967)
Paul F. Cronin – (1967-1997)
William N. Davis III – (class of 1962)
Lee P. Heffernan (class of 1974)
Rebecca Hutchins Orton – (class of 1992)
Frank Kronoff – (1969-1994)
Annabelle MacLeod – (1959-1972)
Tamara Owen – (class of 1980)
Stephanie Slack – (class of 1962)
John Wallace – (1964-1984)

Inducted in – 2003

Vincent Damore – (22 years at ARHS)
George Richardson – (class of 1977)
Tom Wilson – (class of 1962)
1994 Girls' Gymnastics Team
(State Champions)

Inducted in – 2007

Sue Allen – (class of 1961)
Evan Berte – (class of 1998)
Dallas Mall – (class of 2000)
Robert E. Melican – Superintendent of Schools
Beth Minnucci – (class of 1986)
Mike Mocerino – (class of 2000)
Bill Stapleton – (class of 1973)
Andrea Sinerate – (class of 1999)

Inducted in – 2011

Neil Cronin – (1966-1999)
Daniel Falcucci – (class of 2001)
David Falcucci – (class of 2001)
Jenny Farrell – (class of 2002)
John Frederick – (class of 1989)
Jennifer Griffin Harris – (class of 2001)
Baird Lashley – (class of 1989)
William O'Connor – (coach)

Inducted in - 2001

Joe Cummings – (class of 1967)
Mark Fidrych – (class of 1974)
Ivar Henningson – (1959-1973)
Kristin Mattson – (class of 1988)
Kevin Merchant – (class of 1979)
Joseph M. Molloy – (class of 1980)
Nikki Daley Morrissey – (class of 1991)
Katey Palumbo – (class of 1993)
Paul Pisinski – (class of 1960)
Mike Sherman – (class of 1973)

Inducted in – 2005

Mike Boys – (class of 1998)
Katy Emig – (class of 1998)
Tom Hjerpe – (class of 1984)
Vernon Iwancin – (class of 1978)
Chris King – (class of 1981)
Philip Philip – (1971-1991)
Frederic Philcox – (1965-1996)
Charles Redmond – (class of 1964)
Karen Russo – (class of 1991)

Inducted in – 2009

Mark A. Conti – (class of 1974)
Marc Eddy – (class of 2001)
Sarah Levine – (class of 1984)
Jan McCurdy – (30 year tennis coach)
Greg Young – (contributor)

State Championship Boys' Gymnastics Team
(1988 and 1989)

Inducted in - 2013

Kristen Bakanowski – (class of 2004)
Frank Brown – (class of 1970)
Shay Cunningham – (class of 2003)
Paul Cusick – (class of 1979)
Dan Derby – (class of 1979)
Jim Fulmer – (class of 1972)
Jim Gunning – (class of 1975)
Terry Hardy – (contributor)

Michelle Otey – (class of 2006)
Kevin Priest – (class of 1976)
John Wilson – (class of 1961)

IN MEMORIAN - JAMES A. GUNNING

James A. Gunning, inducted into the Algonquin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame on November 30, 2013, passed away January 23, 2015, fatally stricken at his home in North Grafton at the age of 57. Jim, a 1975 graduate was a multiple-letter winner while at Algonquin: four for outdoor track; two for indoor track; and two for cross country. He was the co-captain of both the indoor and outdoor track teams as well as a record-holder in many school running events. His athletic achievements were documented in detail in the 2013 Hall of Fame booklet. His personal characteristics are not as easily codified but are just as noteworthy—just as defining.

Jim credited his father and mother—Jim and Kay Gunning—for inculcating in him and his brothers and sisters (six siblings in all) proper values—to always do the right thing, to respect others, and to always do his best. Those precepts were reinforced, Jim said, by what he learned at Algonquin—in the classroom and also on the track, particularly by his coach Bill O'Connor (himself in the Algonquin Hall of Fame, inducted in 2011). According to Jim, Coach O'Connor preached daily the value of good sportsmanship—to encourage and root for teammates, to win or lose with dignity, and to congratulate the winners be they friend or foe.

Jim Gunning, a man who made friends easily because he himself was a good friend, was a man of integrity—a man of quality, a man who played hard and worked hard. For 27 years, he was a project manager for Walsh Brothers before joining J. Calnan Associates of Quincy as project superintendent, a position that took him away from home on many occasions, the home in which he and his wife Trudy ("the love of his life," he called her) entertained family and friends. Jim enjoyed music, fine food, and good wine.

He would have loved being at the Best Western Hotel in Marlborough on November 7th, celebrating with him school classmates at their 40th reunion, "a gathering just meant for Jim," said Janice Henningson, a long-time friend and the wife of Jeff Henningson, one of Jim's poker-playing buddies and a life-time friend. Some of his other card-playing friends—Scott Conti, John Meader, and Peter Turner—were also at the reunion.

They along with his family and a lot of others, wonder why Jim's life was cut short. Memories of better, happier times are all they have to sustain them in their grief, knowing that Jim Gunning's spirit lives on—in the hearts and minds of all who cared for him, of all who benefited by his guidance, of all who were encouraged by him. Every time they hear one of his favorite cheers—"Hip! Hip! Hooray!" (maybe as somebody roots for one of Jim's favorite Boston teams), they'll think of James A. Gunning and his positive nature—lamenting their loss but smiling at a favorite memory at the same time.

(Sources used include the Worcester Telegram and Gazette obituary, January 25, 2015, as well as the aforementioned Hall of Fame booklet.)

The Public Schools of
NORTHBOROUGH and SOUTHBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
53 PARKERVILLE ROAD – SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772
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CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON, Superintendent of Schools
GREGORY L. MARTINEAU, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

November 28, 2015

Greetings:

Congratulations to the 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees. Our District recognizes the contributions you have made to our athletics program, but more importantly, to our students and school community. We gather to honor you and our tradition of recognizing excellence in athletics in the role that you have played as a player, coach or advocate.

The educational landscape and field of athletics has changed over the years. What has remained constant is the impact that you have had on students, teammates and our schools. We are recognizing individuals and an entire team this year whose accomplishments span several decades. Today, we often speak about 21st century teaching and learning. Regardless of the time our inductees may have contributed to our athletic program at Algonquin Regional High School, you embodied these very same skills – creative thinking, collaboration, communication and problem solving. Above all else, you demonstrated commitment, perseverance and resilience on and off your field of play.

On behalf of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee and the District, I congratulate you on your achievement and appreciate the path you have created for others to follow.

Best regards,



Christine M. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools

SPECIAL THANKS

To all of those responsible for making this event such a huge success!

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Kevin Merchant, Chairman

Nancy Boutilier

Neil Cronin

Joe Cummings

Dan Derby

Karrah Ellis

Charles Redmond

George Richardson

Athletic Council – Hall of Fame Committee

Officers and
Members of the Council

Program Profiles:	Neil Cronin
Program Assembly:	Susan Baburins
Plaques:	Crown Trophy
Catering:	Kyle Parson
Cafeteria Staff:	Diane Cofer
Sound System:	Eric Vincent
Booster Club:	Rob Berger
Beverages:	Polar Beverages

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, November 28, 2015

1:00pm

PROGRAM

Welcome: Kevin Merchant

Opening Remarks: Mrs. Karrah Ellis, Director of Athletics

Remarks: Christine Johnson, Superintendent of Schools

Luncheon

Induction Ceremony

Inductees

Neil Burke

David Fouracre

Ilya Nicholas

Brad Ostiguy

Deb Taylor Lewis

The 1973 Super Bowl Football Team

Remarks: Mr. Tom Mead, Principal

Closing: Kevin Merchant

Karrah Ellis

Algonquin Regional High School

79 Bartlett Street Northborough, MA 01532-2098
Telephone 508.351.7010 Fax 508.393.9226

Serving the Communities of Northborough and Southborough

PAUL M. DIDOMENICO
LAUGHTON
Assistant Principal

THOMAS MEAD
Principal

MELVIN E.
Assistant Principal

MICHELE A. TONTODONATO
CHASE
Assistant Principal
Services

CHRISTOPHER M.
Coordinator Instructional Support

November 28, 2015

Dear Hall of Fame Inductee,

With over two-thirds of our students participating in one or more seasons of athletics, it is clear that sports are a vital component in the educational experiences of students and the culture of Algonquin. The Hall of Fame enhances the traditions of our school and acknowledges those individuals who have played a significant role in establishing those values we hold as important. As you are about to be inducted into the Algonquin Athletics Hall of Fame, you will take your deserved place among those who have achieved remarkable athletic success while setting an inspiring example of dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mead

Algonquin Regional High School

79 Bartlett Street Northborough, MA 01532-2098
Telephone 508.351.7010 x1021 Fax 508.351-7005
Serving the Communities of Northborough and Southborough

Karrah Ellis, CAA
Director of Athletics

Dear Hall of Fame Inductees:

Class of 2015, congratulations on your induction into the Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Hall of Fame! You are being recognized for your outstanding athletic contributions and dedication to the athletic programs here at Algonquin. You will be joining a very prestigious group of Tomahawks!

The induction ceremony exemplifies the proud history of Algonquin. We are inducting student-athletes who performed at the highest possible level in their respective sports including: football, basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, and softball.

As the great Vince Lombardi once said "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." Thank you to all of our inductees for your hard work, your dedication, and for always giving your best effort. That is what makes you true champions!

I would especially like to thank our Hall of Fame Committee Chair, Kevin Merchant, a 2001 Algonquin Hall of Fame Inductee, for his tireless efforts and commitment to ensure that this is a memorable event. I would be remiss if I did not offer a special thank you to Susan Baburins. This day would not be possible without her hard work, meticulous attention to detail, and dedication to Algonquin's Athletic Department.

With Pride and Respect,

Karrah B. Ellis
Director of Athletics

**NEIL BURKE
(Class of 1973)
Southborough**

**ALGONQUIN ATHLETE,
1969-73, and 35 years as a teacher
and coach, retiring in 2013**



ACCOMPLISHMENT AS A PLAYER

- Three years as a varsity member of the football, basketball and baseball teams earning seven letters
- Midland League All-star, football, (1972)
- MVP Algonquin/Westborough Thanksgiving game (1972)

ACCOMPLISHMENT AS A COACH

- Assistant football coach, eleven years
- Baseball coach - four years, junior varsity; 26 years, varsity with the following statistics:
 - 358 wins
 - 10 league championships
 - 5 District championships
 - 4 appearances in state championship games
 - State Championship, 2006, Division 1
 - Middlesex News Coach of the Year: 1998, 2006, 2012
 - Massachusetts High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame inductee, 2011

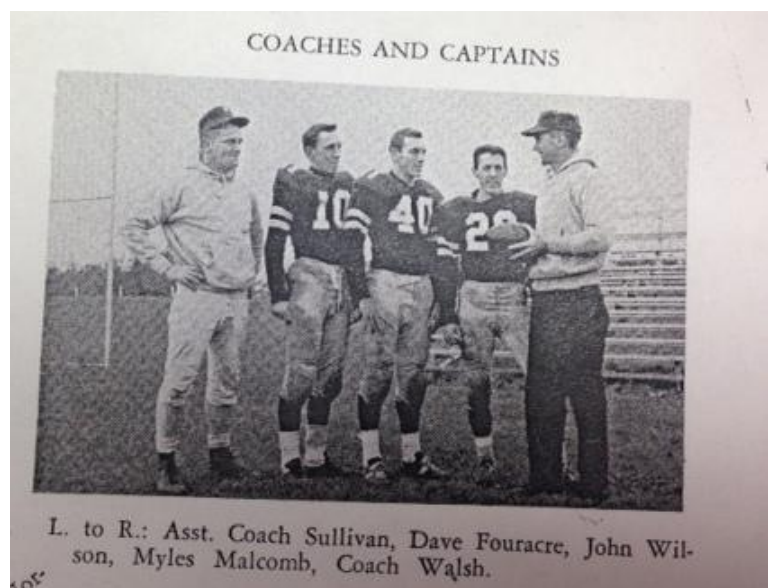
PERSONAL STATEMENT

Algonquin has played a significant part in my life for over 40 years and I consider the Algonquin community my second family—A community that I enjoyed learning from and working with for many years—A community that established high standards in both academics and athletics.

As a young Tomahawk, the teachers, coaches and my fellow classmates at Algonquin greatly influenced my career decisions to go into teaching and coaching. Their energetic and upbeat attitude towards education and athletics provided me with positive role models that would help me develop my own teaching and coaching philosophies. Participating in the Algonquin athletic program gave me a chance to develop greater self confidence and a more disciplined lifestyle. Playing sports at Algonquin also gave me the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships.

I had the pleasure of teaching and coaching at Algonquin for 35 years. The support and guidance that I received over that time from the administration, facility staff, teachers, coaches and students was tremendous and greatly appreciated. I will always be grateful to the generous and highly talented staff members and students that I had the opportunity to work with and coach over the years. I am a proud Tomahawk and considered it a privilege to be a student, teacher and coach at Algonquin.

DAVID FOURACRE
(Class of 1961)
- Northborough



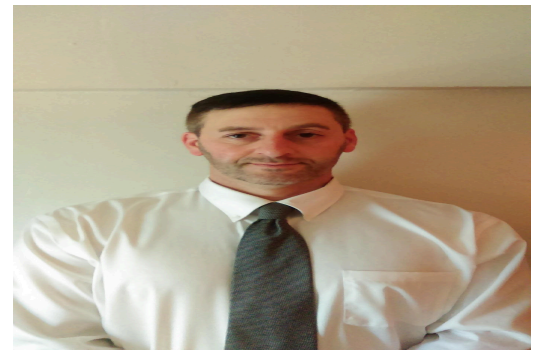
- Northborough High School, 1957-59, starter—freshman and sophomore years on baseball, basketball, and football teams.
- Five-letter winner at Algonquin for junior and senior years in three sports—
 - o catcher on baseball team junior year; quarterback, captain senior year,
 - o led football team to Class C Championship (Worcester Telegram & Gazette);
 - o Basketball, captain senior year, on team that completed in the Clark Tournament (Worcester) both years, losing in the semi-finals once
- Brockton High School baseball coach, retired - inducted into the Massachusetts High School Coaches in 2003

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My first involvement with Algonquin started long before the doors were open for students from Northborough and Southborough. During the winter of my sophomore year at Northborough High School, I was honored to be one of twelve student-athletes responsible for selecting the team uniform colors, the nickname, and the original logo of our new school - Algonquin. It was an exciting time for me to be united with members from Southborough High, one of our arch-rivals in basketball. Since grammar school we had competed against each other, and with regionalization, we were going to be teammates—a union that brought great success to those early sports teams.

As I reflect back on my career as a teacher-coach, I realize that impact that the teachers, coaches, and fellow students had in shaping that career. My coaching style in both football and baseball is a direct result of what I learned from Mr. Richard Walsh. The lessons I learned from my teachers during the two years at Algonquin are the same I tried to pass on to my own students. My success is a direct result of those Algonquin experiences.

ILYA P. NICHOLAS
(Class of 1987)
- Southborough



BASKETBALL, 4 years

Top scorer in Midland League, senior year (averaging 22.3 points and 12 rebounds per game), also captain and Most Valuable Player

Voted onto the Top forty State team from Central Massachusetts

1988—played for Worcester Academy's New England Championship Team

1989-1992, Framingham State, team captain senior year—fifth highest scorer in school's history with 1260 points

Most valuable player on team, senior year, earned spot on All-League Team (two years)

PROFESSIONAL CAREER - basketball player in Greece, 1992-97, on team that won two league championships
All-Star in 1993

MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL COACH, 2004-12, with 111-70 overall record

Three consecutive Midland-Wachusett League Championships

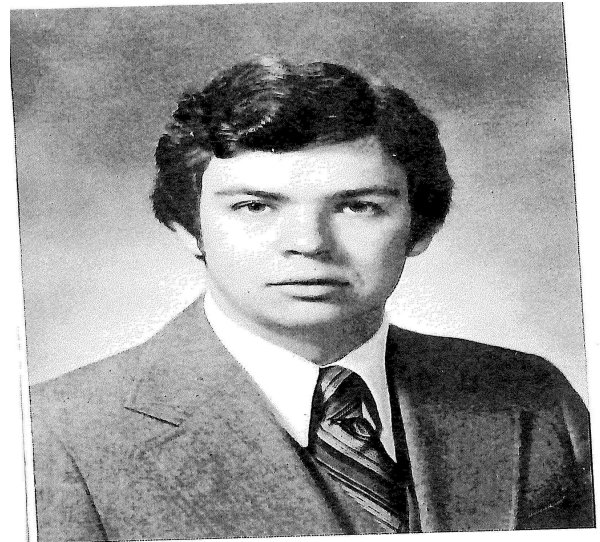
CURRENTLY, OWNER AND PRESIDENT OF BASKETBALL SPECIALISTS SCHOOL (BSS), A YEAR-ROUND AAU BASKETBALL PROGRAM, ONE OF THE LARGEST IN MASSACHUSETTS

FAMILY -daughter Natasha (2013 Algonquin graduate) played on State Championship Rugby team; Daughter Elyssa, class of 2017, plays varsity volleyball and varsity basketball for Algonquin

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My father was my greatest influence and supporter in my life, and I owe all of my success to him—both on and off the court. However, Algonquin Regional High School was a great experience for me, both athletically and educationally. Through basketball, I met many exceptional people and still maintain friendships with some of them. Mr. Jim Diamantopoulos (former health department chair) has been a great mentor and a family friend. Basketball coach Phil Phillip taught me the fundamentals of the game and how to be success both on and off the court. The athletic department and the maintenance staff allowed me to practice up to all hours in the gymnasium. The list of people who have had an influence on me—both big and small-is too long to mention them all. Overall, Algonquin will always hold a special place in my heart because of the freedom it gave me, allowing me to become my own person. Thank you.

BRAD OSTIGUY
(Class of 1974)
- Northborough



SOCCER—senior year

- The sport's first year of varsity Soccer at the school)

BASKETBALL—Four years, two on varsity, scoring 124 points as a senior (9 per game)

BASEBALL - four years, two on varsity

- Played first base and the outfield when not pitching
- Won six games and lost two, with a 1.25 earned run average
- All-Star Team, senior year, Marlborough Enterprise-Sun
- Called one of the best pitchers he ever had by Coach Jack Wallace

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I moved to Northborough right before my freshman year. It was the best thing for me. Along with the education I received at Algonquin, the life lessons I learned from playing for Jack Wallace and Phil Phillip are immeasurable, lessons that I have passed on to my two children (30-year-old Justin who works for the PGA tour in Atlanta and 25-year-old Jill, who resides and works in New York City and is a buyer for Ralph Lauren). All the sports teams during this period were successful—contributing to resurgence of school and community spirit in the Northborough-Southborough communities—a spirit that was carried forward for years to come.

DEB TAYLOR LEWIS
(Class of 1984)

VOLLEYBALL - Junior varsity one year;
Varsity one year



BASKETBALL - Varsity, four years (captain 3, 4)

- Point guard starter—four years, scoring 964 points with approximately 500 assists and 250 steals (averaging around ten points per game in her freshman and sophomore years; 15 points and five assists, as a junior; and 19 points, eight assists and four steals as a senior)
- Team lost in District Finals her junior year, won the Midland League title her senior year with a 17-0 record (and was ranked in USA today), but lost in District semi-finals
- Worcester Telegram & Gazette Super Team All-Star, junior and senior years
- AAU Basketball—four years, three-year starter, captain fourth year, and named to Regional Number one team in Connecticut
- Also played on the **Bay State Central Mass Team**

SOFTBALL

- Four years as a varsity starter (second base, shortstop, and the outfield)
- team captain senior year with a batting average of .420
- stolen base leader in Central Mass
- Worcester Telegram & Gazette honor team, senior year

ACADEMIC STATISTICS

- State academic All-Star, senior year
- GPA of 4.7, 4th in class (out of 1370)
- National Honor Society, school newspaper, Yearbook staff, Class Steering Committee

COLLEGE—UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT full basketball scholarship

- Four-year starter, career assists leader, top ten in scoring
- Finished in top 25% of physical therapy class with a 3.2 GPA

PROFESSION—owner and operator of Coach Deb's Basketball Camp, also coaching recreational level basketball

- Tri-athlete (three iron-man competitions); qualified for Boston Marathon in 2004 and 2015 (top three of age group-top 10% of women)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

It's been thirty years since I left Algonquin—moving to Maryland after college. In 2013 I returned to Northborough—my home town—and was amazed to see how much had changed and, yet, how much had stayed the same, with so many powerful memories of how the coaches, teachers, and friends helped shape the person I am today. I've spent the majority of my time since graduation working with young people—coaching, teaching, and healing, giving me the opportunity to influence many young lives. Some of the players I have coached are all grown up now with kids of their own. Some have become coaches, too. Coaches and teachers at Algonquin taught me to get the most out of myself and my abilities. Many of my own coaching and personal philosophies as well as my strategies are a direct reflection of my days at Algonquin. I look at kids in high school and say to myself, I know what you're feeling. It wasn't that long ago (even through it was!), and we are forever united by similar experiences. I would love to be in the Algonquin Regional High School Hall of Fame so that I can be remembered as a part of that again.

THE 1973 SUPER BOWL FOOTBALL TEAM Undeclared Super Bowl Champions



VARSITY FOOTBALL

FIRST ROW: Left to Right, Mark Maloney, Kevin Hart, Mark Conti, John Henningson, Lee Heffernan, Bill Santella, Ken White, Mike Sullivan, Tom Morris, Jerry Milano, Ralph Reynolds. SECOND ROW: Jeffrey Sargent, Paul Bartolini, Wayne Tupper, Russell Cole, Steve Main, Bill Mason, Ken Warren, Greg Allen, Jeff Miller, Shaun Sebastian. THIRD ROW: Jim Elbe, Dennis Bauer, Dick Dale, Gerry Snell, Jack Joslen, Pat Sullivan, Jeff Henningson, J. Schaeppi, John Kaminski, Gerry Smith. FOURTH ROW: George Gillespie, Winslow Pettingell, Jeff Whitaker, Bill Cusick, Phil Rahaim, Jim Doyle, Guy Sargent, Dave Howard, Dan Turner, Jay Akers, Tony Serra. FIFTH ROW: Mark Myles, Tim Neusium, Scott Whitney, Dave Claypool, Bill Kemble, Tom Boyanto, Dave Cole, Jeff Baker, Jim Ankatell, Mark Berling, Dave

Welcome to the Hall of Fame

Neil Burke
David Fouracre
Debbie Lewis Taylor
Ilya Nichols
Brad Ostiguy
Football Champions

Congratulations,
Neil Cronin

"When the one
great scorer comes
to write against
your name -
He marks - not that
you won or lost -
but how you played
the game."
Grant land Rice



FENWAY PARK, DIVISION 1 – STATE FINALS
June 20, 1998

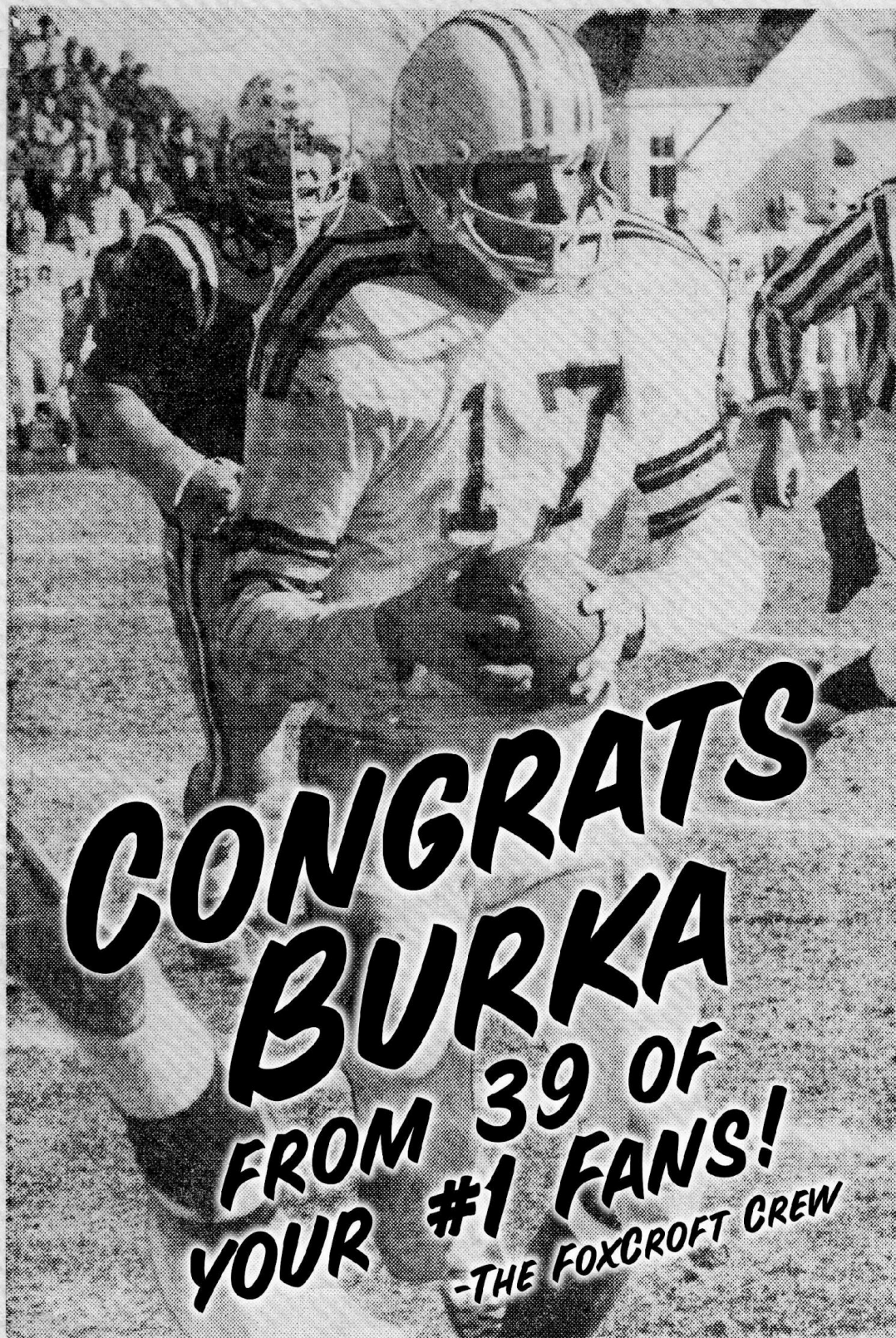


**CONGRATULATIONS
COACH BURKE**

“From two generations of Algonquin Students.

**This is a well-deserved honor as both an athlete
and a coach!**

**Love,
Dennis, Jayne, Heather, Alex and Colleen –
The Southborough Burkes.”**



Telegram Photo by LEO E. MEYER

Algonquin Regional quarterback Neil Burke circles left end on a four-yard touchdown run against Westboro High yesterday at Westboro. The TD was the second of the game for Burke who was voted the game's top player.

