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nameGAME

Columbus Day tradition celebrates 20th birthday

By JULIE SUMMERS
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Haven't these guys had enough already? Obviously not, since Monday at 1 o'clock, those old New Dorpians will be back at the field at Egbert Intermediate School, Midland Beach, to record their 20th straight Columbus Day football game.

If your memory is a whole bunch better than ours, you'll remember that we told you about **Mark Sigona** and his merry band of touch tacklers a few years ago and how the whole tradition got started when the guys, then students at New Dorp and Monsignor Farrell high schools, decided they needed something to do on the school holiday so they chose up sides and the rest, as "they" say, is history.

They'll all be back again this year, **John Smythe** and **Joe Cascella**, who'll travel in from New Jersey; **Teddy Stein**, who'll hop the ferry from Manhattan; and, of course, the Islanders such as Columbus Day originals, **Mike Pontebbi**, **Bill Fitzgerald**, **Dan Elliott** and **T.C. Coakley**, along with not-quite-original-but-almost **Tony Cascella**, **Ben Benson**, **Jimmy Fitzgerald**, **Steve Nichols** and **Tommy Sullivan**. (PS — Ted and Joe were the other two originals when the guys began with a 3-on-3 format.)

But, after 20 years, Mark tells us, rumor has it that the guys are beginning to get a bit old for football. "Who knows?" he says. "Next year it might turn into a golf outing or a card game. Or maybe we'll just watch our kids play."

Wanna bet?

Bilingual babe

Ask 4-year-old **Michael Kvasic** what he did on his summer vacation and he's liable to spout out the answer in Croatian.

After all, he, his 7-year-old sister **Jessica**, mom **Anne** and dad **Nick** (probably you know him better as the girls' soccer coach at New Dorp and the boys' mentor at Port Richmond than as Michael's dad) spent their holidays with Anne's family in Varazdan, near Zagreb, in what was once Yugoslavia and is now Croatia.

"Michael became fluent in Croatian this summer," Nick tells us. "Of course, we've always spoken both languages at home but when we'd ask him a question in Croatian, he'd answer in English."

That didn't work in his folks' native land. Often Michael's answers were not understood so, hey, he's four, he can adapt. He began answering in the language spoken to him. And he's kept it up at home too.

And here's a little update on Dad, who's turned his bilingual skills into some pretty nice trips, most memorably to the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984 when we served as a translator. Nick is back refereeing soccer matches on the college level ("Reffing was always my first love," he confesses) and is still writing his music, which has once again (the ninth straight time!) brought him the ASCAP Special Award for Pop Music.

Quite a coup

Well, he finally did it! **Julio Miranda** *finally* outbowled his two brothers-in-law.

Migdalia Miranda tells us her hubby has had an on-going bowling rivalry with her two brothers, **Mario** and **Joe Gonzalez**, for a number of years now but has always been just a hair behind the siblings (Julio's average is 175 while Mario's is 197 and Joe's 203).

Until Friday night, that is. Yep, Oct. 3 was a red-letter night for Julio, who was literally on a roll in the Friday Night Vacation Mixed League at Showplace. The Westerleigh resident struck 10 in a row before notching a 4-10 split on the 11th.

OK, it wasn't a 300. No problem. Julio ended with a 286, the highest game he had ever bowled, and a 681 series. And brother-in-law Mario could only rack up a 247 that night. (Joe, who smashed a 300 back in 1995, doesn't bowl in the mixed league on Fridays but we're sure Julio let him know the good news when the two met in **Rocky Fass** Memorial League competition at Colonial Lanes on Sunday!)

Can't honestly blame Julio for being so proud of his accomplishment or of his wife's that same night since Migdalia fired her first ever 200!

Wonder what the duo had for dinner.

Shape up!

Get-well wishes go out to **Lou Anarumo**, one of the Advance basketball advisory board members, who's not feeling up to par these days and is ensconced in St. Vincent's Hospital.

We hope he'll be back at his principal's desk — and bugging all the kids again — at PS 53, Bay Terrace, very soon.

BOWLING

Philpott hits 759 at Rab's

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Nazareth Philpott rattled off games of 245, 278, and 236 for a sizzling 759 series in the Manfredi Cadillac Ladies loop last night at Rab's Country Lanes.

Taglianetti rolls 778

Rob Taglianetti hit a 778 series in the Subaru League at Country. Taglianetti rolled games of 289 and 258. In the same league, Bob Weisenee shot a 759 with a 298 and a 245.

Garitano raps 710

Bob Garitano's 262 and 245 left him with a 710 series in the Monday Men's Annex at Showplace.

Colonial Lanes
Monday Night Vacation Mixed: St. Clair Pemberton 672; Anthony Kaufman 286.
Rab's Country Lanes
Richmond Bone & Joint: Dawn DeMeglio 226; Jeanne Grasso 218.
Manfredi Cadillac Ladies: Nazareth Philpott 245, 278, 236-759; Nazareth Lauriano 267-633; Loretta Connor 234, 211; Cathy Martorano 225, 215-640; Linda Reebs 210; Rae Soldano 213; Karen Konczynski 211; Donna Zojac 211; Karen Fusa 211, 214-606; Lisa D'Angelo 210; Jeanette Gaspione 212; Teresa Fortunato 204; Gerry Sarnowski 256, 223.
Subaru Men: Tony Nyairo 682; Sal Milano 249-700; David Lange 263-690; Rob Taglianetti 258, 289-778; Gary Zalaski 258-678; Bob Weisenee 298, 245-759; Pedro Soto 246, 246-668; Rich Barone 242; Ken Curry 243; Bob Mortani 247; Vin Ferrante 264; Mike Downer 268; Larry Crotton 238; Anthony Colletta 665.
Showplace
Our Nite Out: Karen Dean 210; Debbie Helmin 219; Barbara Visone 213.
Monday Men's Annex: Frank Brancaccio 246; Bob Garitano 262, 245-710.
Victory Lanes
Mike Marotte Memorial: Paul Quattrocchi 277-691; John Rugen 257-683; Mike King 255; Nick Chovke 260; Ed Wilkinson Sr. 258-687; Joe Gonzalez 257; Tony Pizzarello 253; Kevin Rourke 258.
Bowling on the Green
Campio Insurance: Brian Brennan 268; Bob Kafel 267-674; Ron Russo 245; Paul Mannino 246-652; Robert Nauder 242; Brian Dabuzio 254-681.
Monday Night Ladies Classic: Lorraine Ciotello 221; Lucy Dominantonio 217-628; Stephanie Schroder 216; Sue Brofsky 235; Colleen Clancy 237.
Showplace
Monday Women: Candy Cancito 221; Doreen Bernhardt 212.

Duke leads Ebonite event

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — Norm Duke averaged 246.1 pinfalls last night to take a 193-pin lead over Dave Wodka after the fourth round of the Professional Bowlers Association's Ebonite Challenge.

Duke, 6-2 in match play, had a 26-game total of 6,228. Bryon Smith was third at 5,975, followed by Dave Arnold at 5,930, Pete Weber at 5,927, and Jess Stayrook at 5,926.

The top five after today's final 16 games of match play will advance to the stepladder final tomorrow night.

COLLEGE SPORTS

CSI women spikers fall to Stevens Tech

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Playing without its two setters, Aysel Karaaslan (previous commitment) and Regina Victor (minor injuries from a car accident), the College of Staten Island lost its intensity and focus, dropping a 15-7, 7-15, 16-14, 15-6 volleyball match to Stevens Tech.

"We had some good statistics but no intensity," assistant coach Denyse Simmonds said, marking Ciara Rosario's 11 kills and four aces, Kerri O'Neill's nine kills and three aces, and sophomore Maria Lugo's fine all-around game.

The Dolphins host Dominican Thursday night.

Soccer

NJIT 3, CSI 0

NEWARK — The Dolphins dropped to 3-5 with the non-conference loss to Division II New Jersey Institute of Technology. CSI was outshot 20-6 but goalie Robensen Richardson registered 10 saves.

Honors

Four Wagner College athletes, one from the College of Staten Island and one Staten Islander playing for an off-Island college earned conference honors this week.

Wagner football players, Ryan Linder and Jason Bain took Northeast Conference defensive player of the week and newcomer of the week, respectively, for their play against Robert Morris. It was Linder's second honor of the season while Bain is the second consecutive Wagner rookie honored.

Melody Javaheri, the first Seahawk volleyballer to be honored as player of the week, has played in every match this year and registered 110 assists in two contests while Elizabeth Hayes earned her third newcomer of the week award after hitting .327 for the week.

CSI's Loretta Leotta was named CUNYAC women's tennis player of the week for her 6-1 record in second singles.

Former Monsignor Farrell HS standout Tom Guerriero was cited as NEC soccer player of the week for the first time this season by helping Fairleigh Dickinson to two conference victories, one the third shutout of the season for the senior goalie.

BOXING

De la Hoya summoned for jury duty, promo fight

By CHRIS THORNE
ADVANCE CORRESPONDENT

Oscar de la Hoya could render two verdicts before the year ends.

The unbeaten WBC welterweight champion has been summoned for jury duty in Superior Court in Los Angeles this week. Then he starts training for his Dec. 6 title defense against Wilfredo Rivera at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

De la Hoya (26-0, 21 KOs) and Rivera appeared at Tavern on the Green yesterday to kick off the bout's publicity tour. After the media gathering, de la Hoya hopped on a plane to the West Coast to keep his date with the judge.

"They insisted I be there," he said with a smile.

Just like promoters insisted he be there yesterday. De La Hoya's fourth fight this year will be carried on pay per view by TVKO, which projected that the total pay-per-view revenue for the four fights would be over $100 million. The fight also will be the last in the Convention Center before the home of the Miss America contest undergoes a $50 million renovation.

"This guy is a good fighter, but he's a perfect opponent for me," de la Hoya said. "He'll stay in front of me, and we'll fight," De La Hoya continued. "He comes in and bangs, but I'm not saying he's an easy target."

HS football notebook

ADVANCE PHOTO ■ JIN LEE

Jason Mathurine of Curtis jars the ball loose from Trevor Francis (28) during Sunday's Island showdown.

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Curtis' defense wanted shutout

There's no question the Curtis defense was playing for its fourth straight shutout in the waning moments against Port Richmond on Sunday.

"We wanted the shutout," admitted Curtis linebacker **Sean Schneider**. "All those shutouts are why people talk about our defense. It was important to us."

The Red Raiders, though, spoiled the party by kicking a game-ending 32-yard field goal as time expired on a 26-3 loss, ending the Warriors' consecutive scoreless quarter streak at 17.

Some Curtis defenders would have rather seen PR go for a TD on third-and-10 from the Curtis 16, instead of kicking the field goal.

"If they were so happy to get three points then our defense must be good," said Curtis linebacker **Craig Litrell**.

PR coach **Steve Peretzman** said he opted to kick the field goal rather than go for a TD because he claimed Curtis had stayed with many of its first stringers during the final drive whereas PR had inserted its second unit.

"(**Fred Olivieri**) did what he had to do and I did what I had to do," said Peretzman.

Olivieri said Litrell, Schneider — both of whom are seniors — and two junior defensive backs were the only original starters still left in the game at that point.

"My seniors came to play hard and they didn't want to come out," said Olivieri. "I couldn't do it to them."

"I want to get as much playing time because this is my senior year," added Litrell. "If I'm out there I'm gonna help the team no matter what, even if I'm on one leg."

Hassell has coming out party

Curtis coach Olivieri was more than happy with his play of sophomore quarterback **George Hassell**, who had entered the game struggling a bit with his passing.

Hassell connected on 7 of 14 passes for 87 yards, but had four short-range completions that propelled the Warriors' late in the quarter.

"It was a coming out party for Hassell," said Olivieri. "He was reading the defense and put the ball where he had to put it."

Hassell's performance put him among the Island's QB leaders with a 45.6 completion percentage. For the season, he has four TD passes and no interceptions.

Lion speciality

Although Monsignor Farrell dropped a 20-17 CHSFL decision to St. Francis Prep on a last-second field goal by sophomore **Jim Meaney**, the Lions also turned in their share of highlights on special teams.

In fact, if it weren't for the Lions' speciality units, the game may not have been as close, as the Terriers outgained Farrell's offense 308 yards to 81, including a 194 to 16 advantage on the ground.

However, it was a different story on special teams as the Lions averaged 36.1 yards on kickoff returns, including a 95-yard touchdown return by **Joseph Cipoletti** to start the game. The Lions' coverage unit on kickoffs also had a good day, limiting Prep to just 14.3 yards a return.

Farrell's all-purpose threat **Matteo Amato** averaged 33.4 yards per punt, including 48 and 41 yard kicks. He also added a 30-yard field goal, kicked two PATs and returned two kicks for 35 yards.

Golden Arm

Attention **Jack O'Haulon**, baseball coach at Susan Wagner. There's a guy at your school who can throw a ball from one end of the campus to the other and he's not into baseball. Give him a sales pitch.

That's Falcon quarterback **Mike Nunez**, a junior rookie who threw for 189 yards and four scores Sunday in the 50-0 thrashing of Brooklyn Tech. And one of those scores was an 80-yarder, 55 of which were in the air, to **William Benjamin**.

For Nunez, who also gunned for the majority of the yards on a 62-yard scoring pass to **Johnelle-Beekum**, is strictly into weightlifting in his off-season. He's 155 pounds and yet can bench press 225.

Nunez was a little-used backup a year ago for Wagner's standout signal-caller **Rob Hoke**. "Sitting was all right. Each day (in practice) I just got more and more experience," said Nunez.

Nunez is also a shifty runner (12 carries for 57 yards) and a deft faker. He even had referee **Joe Dede** faked out once. He feigned a give to fullback **Leo Hall** up the middle, took it around the end and Dede whistled it dead when Hall was met by several Engineers.

"I didn't know Nunez had it. I blew it dead when I thought Hall would get hurt," said Dede. "Actually, I shouldn't blow a whistle there. The guys on the wings should. I'm behind the play, not seeing the ball as well as they are." SW was given a first down on the play.

"When we get Mike on the perimeter (running), it opens things for Leo in the middle. Otherwise they'd bunch up on Leo," said Wagner coach **Al Paturzo**.

Speaking of Hoke, the Cornell JV running back addressed the Falcons in the classroom postmortem after the Tech win.

Sea defense dominates

St. Joseph by-the-Sea's defense came up with an outstanding effort in its 14-7 triumph over Xaverian Saturday. Nine of the Clippers' 11 possessions ended in three-and-outs. The Vikings allowed five first downs.

Linebackers **Steve Miliante** and **Sal Stuto** were constantly in the Clipper backfield, with Miliante stopping charges up the middle and Stuto rushing the passer outside and lending a hand in the interior.

"When they carried around the outside, I went directly to the ball," said Stuto.

"Sal's our fastest linebacker," Miliante, a senior, said in praise of his teammate.

Meanwhile, defensive coordinator **Mike Lorenzo** lauded both.

"Miliante's the best player I ever coached on defense," raved Lorenzo. "He's the smartest, too. He knows the defense's call before I call it. So does **Joe Giampapa**.

"And Sal's going to be a leader," Lorenzo said of Stuto, a junior. "Last week was his first as a varsity starter. He has a great blend of power and speed."

The Clippers managed only 16 yards on 29 rushes. **Matt Caldwell** intercepted two passes and **Anthony Ranieri** recovered a fumble. Giampapa recorded two sacks while **Jeff Lyon** added one. Only three of the Vikings' 12 penalties were on the defense.

Viking offense spreads the wealth

Five receivers caught passes while Caldwell and Giampapa combined for 240 yards on the ground for Sea, which is just how offensive coordinator **Buddy Watson** likes it. "I like to get everyone involved," Watson said.

Pete Tronolone, Giampapa, **Pat Daniti**, **Dean Marco** and **Joe Monferrato** each had at least one reception.

While the running game had much success, the receivers had a number of dropped passes, however.

"Our receivers need confidence," Watson said. "They're all young except for Tronolone (a senior). "We didn't catch the ball the way we would have liked, but the (wide receivers) blocked downfield. In the second half, we did what we do best — run the football."

Eagle defense sparkles again

While senior quarterback **Mike McCumiskey** supplied the offensive firepower by rushing for TDs of 1, 48 and 83 yards as St. Peter's topped Nazareth 28-6 Saturday, co-coach **Ralph Verdiglione** (who shares the head coaching duties with **Frank Carretta**), also praised the defensive efforts of his troops.

"We've won three straight and our defense has given up only two touchdowns in the three games," Verdiglione said. "It's been a great team effort, but senior linebacker **Mike Bellucci** and senior tackle **Joe Kelly** have been consistently outstanding."

In the win over the Kingsmen, St. Peter's forced seven fumbles, while **Anthony Guarnieri** had an interception. Bellucci finished with 10 solo tackles, three assists and a sack, while **Greg Siller** (five tackles, a fumble recovery and a sack) and **Josh Martin** (five tackles, fumble recovery) also had big days.

— MIKE HYLAND, CHARLIE DeBIASE JR., LARRY ANDERSON, BILL SPURGE, BOB WIETECHA JR. and JOE D'AMODIO

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