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Sachem's Best

SACHEM NORTH FOOTBALL TEAM ENJOYS "BIGGEST WIN"

Flaming Arrows beat top-seeded William Floyd 17-14

By JIM FURLONG

How happy is a teenage boy after he kisses a girl for the first time?

How happy is a teenage boy after he gets his first driver's license?

Now you have an idea how happy the Sachem North Flaming Arrows, especially kicker Travis Nardello, felt last weekend after they achieved a milestone victory. Coach Dave Falco, his staff, players, parents, siblings, fellow students and Sachem North supporters are savoring a sweet result on Sept. 11 -- winning 17-14 on the home field of William Floyd, in Mastic Beach.

"This means a lot," said running-back-safety Devon Lawrence, who scored both the Sachem North touchdowns and rushed for a game-high 163 yards.

"We played the No. 1 team and we came out strong. We are celebrating. This puts up our confidence. A lot of teams doubted us."

William Floyd, the top-ranked team in the Suffolk County Division I preseason ratings, lost a regular-season game for the first time in seven years.

Seventh-seeded Sachem North too a big step forward toward gaining a county playoff berth in November. Falco, who began the Flaming Arrows' program after the Sachem district divided into two high schools, enjoyed the biggest highlight during his team's fifth varsity season.

"This is the biggest win for the program since the split," said Falco. "Our mindset for this season is WHY NOT US!"

After the two teams exchanged post-game handshakes, the Flaming Arrows were hollering and grinning.

"Our kids deserve this," said Falco. "They had the best off-season conditioning since the split. I am very happy for them and for the guys on my staff."

The Floyd setback, only the fourth loss in the last 65 games for Coach Paul Longo's program, ended the Colonials' record-setting 48-game win streak for Division I games.

The Flaming Arrows sure appeared much improved when compared to their previous four meetings against Floyd. Sachem North was outscored by a combined mar-

gin of 134-13 in those four games, including 41-7 loss in 2007 and 30-6 a year ago.

On Sept. 11, the Flaming Arrows showed determination and collective skill, and Nardello, a senior competing in his first varsity football game, made a clutch kick.

With two seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, the poised Nardello converted a 24-yard field for the game-winning points. After both teams called a timeout, Jerry Venza made an accurate snap to the holder, Fred Golini. Junior quarterback Angelo Armine directed the offense. Lawrence displayed the skills and breakaway speed that Falco said makes him a definite college prospect.

Lawrence dashed 34 yards to the end zone in second quarter, and he stunned the Floyd defenders with a 72-yard TD burst on the first play of the third quarter.

The Sachem North defenders stopped the Colonials on eight of 10 possessions. With Floyd using a new quarterback, Darryl Moore, the Flaming Arrows prevented the big play.

"On defense, we had 11 hats to the ball at all times," said Lawrence.

Junior linebacker Jesse Scanna, a three-year starter, sparkled with a team-high 11 tackles.

"I thought that linebacker played very well," said Longo. "He was all over the field."

Falco praised his assistant coaches for their efforts: Joe Cannone, David Caputo, Michael Maratto, Tom Pandolf and head athletic trainer Michael Wulforst.

Folks in the Lake Ronkonkoma area are looking forward to a 7 p.m. kickoff on Sept. 17. The Flaming Arrows will host Sachem East in a battle for neighborhood bragging rights.

The victory over Floyd may have reminded Falco of happy memories he helped produce and share a quarter century ago.

Falcon, a 1984 graduate, was a key starter for the 1983 unbeaten Sachem team that finished 9-0-1 as the Suffolk County champion for Coach Fred Fusaro.

DROP-IN LOUNGE FOR TEENS

Sachem Community Youth Services offers a drop-in lounge for youth ages 10-20. Come play pool, foosball, video games, bumper pool, ping-pong, board games, and other activities. Come hang out with your friends or make new ones. All programs are free. The center is located at 232 Ronkonkoma Avenue in Lake Ronkonkoma. Sachem CYS offers these programs in a supervised, safe, and friendly environment. For more information, please call 585-1811.

FREE ARTS & CRAFTS PROGRAM



Sachem CYS offers a free Arts & Crafts program every Thursday from 4-5PM. Children between 7-12 years of age are welcome. Program will be held at our 70 Fairmont Ave., Medford location. Please call 585-1811 for more information.

SACHEM CYS YOUTH COUNCIL

Do you want to make a difference in your community but don't know how you can help? If you are between the ages of 10-20 and want to join a team of other teens in order to organize community service projects, plan trips, and have a voice in your community, call Sachem Community Youth Services at 585-1811.



SACHEM CYS

YARDWORKERS AVAILABLE

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