

TEAM RECOGNITION 2021

1978 ND Varsity Football

The 1978 Varsity Football season was truly one for the record books as it marked ND's transition to Genesee Region League and NYSPHSAA Section V competition from 2 prior decades of competition in the Buffalo Bishop Smith League . . . what a record setting season it was!



ND Hall of Fame Head Coach Bill Sutherland '67 [HOF '95] and Assistant coaches Dennis Tresco '72 [HOF '03] and Dennis Waggoner '68 [HOF '97] led the '78 squad to an undefeated [6-0-1] initial Genesee Region Championship as well as an overall season record of 8-1-1 capped off by ND's 1st Section V Class C Sectional title with an 8- 0 victory over South Seneca HS as a result of a Jim DiLaura to Tom Rapone 3rd quarter TD reception.

Led by Co-Captains Phil Pangrazio '79 and John Gear '79, the Irish led the GR league in average points per game while holding opponents to 4.5 points per game. Phil and John along with teammates Jim DiLaura, Mike Francis, John Stisser and Mike Wagner were named to the GR All-Star 1st team. Mike Francis also earned prestigious All Greater Rochester [AGR] 1st team recognition. 6 different team members scored at least 5 TDs.

5 individual members of the 1978 squad are currently members of the ND Sports Hall of Fame. '78 team members with their induction dates are Tom Rapone '14, Phil Pangrazio '16, Mike Francis '17, John Stisser '18 and Bob Beyer '19.

1978 ND Varsity Girls Volleyball

Under the leadership of legendary ND Volleyball Coach and Hall of Famer [HOF '17] Rhonda DiCasolo, the 1978 Lady Irish Volleyball squad became the first ND Volleyball team to earn a coveted NYSPHSAA Section V Championship in their 1st year of Section V competition!

Led by seniors Dawn Sherwood, Mary Ellen Welch and Sue Mazur and juniors Margy Campobello, Missi Raczka and Stacey Darron, ND made a successful transition from the Buffalo Bishop Smith League competition to the Genesee Region [GR] League by claiming the league championship in their very first year of GR competition while compiling a 10 - 1 overall record. Dawn Sherwood '79 and Sue Mazur '80 were named to the GR All-Star team.



Coach DiCasolo's team continued their dominance during their first taste of NYSPHSAA Section V post season competition by traveling to the Section V tournament at Alfred University and defeating the likes of Avoca [twice], Scio, Fillmore, Wyoming, Elba and Naples to go 7 - 0 to bring home ND's 1st Volleyball title in school history! Sue Mazur '80 was named the Sectional MVP and was joined on the All Tournament Team by Dawn Sherwood '79 and Sue Burns '81.

The 1978 Sectional Championship was the 1st of Coach DiCasolo's 6 eventual Sectional Championships that her teams captured during her 30 year coaching tenure. She also guided ND to 14 GR titles and 2 NYSPHSAA Far Western Regional titles as well as 2 NYSPHSAA Final game appearances.

Her legendary career [539 total wins - 1st place in Section V history and 6th place in New York State Volleyball wins] all started with her 1978 team's record setting 1st GR and Section V titles!