

**Pat McAniff**  
**NHS Class of 1982**  
**WOF Class of 2024**

Pat can be described as a dynamic player who personified toughness. He was a natural leader on the field, being elected as team captain his senior year after holding the position on his freshman and eighth grade teams. Pat's contributions to Clipper football are immeasurable. He was relentless in his pursuit of the ball carrier and whoever had the misfortune to line up across from him had no idea what they were in for. His punishing play earned him the highly coveted Daily News Player of the Week on numerous occasions.

Pat is the only player that I can recall that started both ways as a running back and linebacker for Coach Stehlin as a sophomore. The reemergence of his brother Todd from a knee injury allowed Coach Stehlin to line Pat up mostly at linebacker his junior year and this is where he truly dominated. His fierce style of play earned him All Cape Ann League status. Pat's passion for football drove him to be in on almost every tackle, making plays all over the field.

Patrick's senior year held great promise. It started off like gangbusters for the Clipper captain. In the 1981 Gloucester game Pat rushed for 88 yards and scored three touchdowns and per Bert Spofford's accounts from The Book of Bert, "he was his usual destructive self on defense" leading the Clippers Defense to six quarterback sacks and -19 yards rushing on 20 attempts in a 20-0 Clipper victory. Pat played both ways as a running back and linebacker and was leading the state in rushing until the Triton game where a knee injury sidelined him for the rest of the season. While Pat's Senior year was cut short his contributions starting his sophomore year and continuing through the first few games of his senior year are indeed noteworthy. These contributions can stand against any Clipper who has had the privilege of donning the crimson and gold.

Pat's elite talent continued while playing at Plymouth State College where he holds the schools record for most tackles in a game (30) and most tackles in a season (165). While at PSC Pat was a two-time captain, three time all league LB, three time all ECAC, two-time 1st team All American and Division III New England Player of the Year.

In an excerpt from the interview with Tom Flaherty from Pentucket and Jack Welch, Ipswich coaching legend, Coach Stehlin details his high regard for Pat. The Coach is quoted as saying, "He (Pat) was undoubtedly one of the best football players I coached, and he is not in the Newburyport Hall of Fame". I think it's time to address this. I have discussed Pat and his nomination with Wall of Fame members, Ronnie Simmons and Dennis Stevens as well as local sports sage Mike Doyle, all of whom overwhelmingly support this nomination.

-Todd Davis  
(WOF 07')