

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
Now online! <http://mhsheadlight.weebly.com>

Marblehead Prepares for T-Day Tilt With Swampscott

Joel Katz
Sports Editor, Senior

Two Teams: One Title. On Thanksgiving Day, the Marblehead Magicians face off against the Big Blue of Swampscott with everything on the line. Both teams have undefeated 4-0 records in the conference, and whoever wins this game heads to the playoffs for more football. The Magicians, 7-2 overall, are coming off a huge 13-12 win over NEC powerhouse Beverly. The Big Blue come into the game with only one loss. Both teams have been reeling off wins as of late, but only one can continue their streak on Piper Field Thursday morning.

To understand the magnitude of this game, one must look at its result over the course of the last three years. Each meeting has come down to the final plays, and has ended in triumph for the winner and heartbreak for the loser. In 2008, with Marblehead trying to play spoiler to Swampscott's Super Bowl run, Swampscott won a close 21-13 game with a last-second interception in the endzone. A year later, Marblehead defeated the Big Blue on a heroic, late fourth-quarter drive with a trip to the playoffs on the line. Marblehead went on to the Super Bowl for the first time in team history. Last year, the game again came down to another spectacular fourth-quarter drive, with Marblehead scoring a touchdown on a desperation pass with no time remaining. Down by one point, Marblehead went for the 2-point conversion and the win, but

the try was stopped by the Swampscott defense.

This year's matchup is shaping up to be another amazing showdown. Both teams have shown they can move the ball on offense. For Swampscott, senior quarterback Mike Walsh leads the way in their dynamic, pass-heavy offense. The Big Blue have had little trouble scoring points this year, proving so in a 47-14 conference win over Danvers and a 33-15 win over the formidable Fishermen of Gloucester. The Marblehead team has struggled at times this season, but has come on strong in the latter half of the season. After suffering a devastating 28-26 loss to Newburyport, in which the Magicians surrendered a 26-7 lead with two minutes remaining in the game, the team fell to a 3-2 record heading into conference play.

However, instead of hanging their heads, the Magicians rallied and rolled into Gloucester with their swagger renewed. Marblehead beat Gloucester 22-6, and thus began their conference winning streak. The Magicians defense hung tough and allowed totals of only 6, 7, 6, and 12 points in victories over Gloucester, Salem, Danvers, and Beverly. Marblehead's offense, anchored by standout senior runningback Will Quigley, also proved its ability to sustain drives and wear out opposing defenses. Having played with pride and urgency in the last four games, the Magicians silenced the incessant hype surrounding conference foes Swampscott and Beverly, and now find themselves with only one thing standing between them the playoffs.

This is what Thanks-

giving is all about. It's time for all the families, friends, classmates, teachers, co-workers, townies, and reporters to gather and watch a game unlike any other. Two teams will collide, and only one can prevail and achieve the glory that really lasts a lifetime in Marblehead. Yes, football is a game, and there are bigger problems in the world, but for a couple hours on Thanksgiving morning, between the cheers, shouts, and roars; the cowbells, thundersticks, and vuvuzelas (those horns you see all the fans blowing into in World Cup matches); on the hallowed ground of Piper Field, nothing else matters. In the moments before the game, the Magicians players will look upon all the adversity they have faced in their lives leading up to this game. This adversity will become fire that keeps the players going the entire game, and it burns stronger late in the fourth quarter, even when all hope seems lost. There is nothing left for either side to leave on the table. For the 21 seniors of Marblehead, this is the biggest game of their lives—the last chance to defeat their sworn rivals, and maybe the last time they will ever put on football pads in their lives. People will watch from the bleachers, from the fence, from the hill, from the parking lot, and potentially from the tops of cars to see these two teams lay it all on the line one more time. This is it. It is time for the game of the year.

Joel, a captain on the football team, injured his spleen in the Beverly victory and looks to support his team in their Thanksgiving showdown.

Magicians vs. Big Blue-A History

Dan Rosenberg
Headlight Staff,
Sophomore

As Thanksgiving is coming on the horizon for the town of Marblehead, it's not just a time for family and food; it's a time for football. The Magicians' biggest annual game, the Thanksgiving tilt against the Big Blue, is coming up this week. And while there have been some close, memorable games in recent history, not many people can remember some of the earliest games in the series. These two teams have a vaunted and storied rivalry, dating back more than 100 years. And so, on the 102nd anniversary of Marblehead's High School football program, it's time to look back on the long and exciting history of the Marblehead vs. Swampscott football rivalry.

Interestingly enough, there is some controversy over Marblehead's first coach. There have been no definitive records of who the first coach was, as Marblehead published the team listings starting in 1910. In 1909, however, the first year of their football program, either Raymond Brackett or H.W. Robbins was the head coach of the team. In an interview, a player for that 1909 team, Fred Orne, said that he remembered Brackett as being the coach. Therefore, Brackett is the more widely

accepted coach, but there is still some controversy. There is an old legend that the early Swampscott and Marblehead teams chose blue and red as their colors in order to emulate the Yale and Harvard rivalry. It's an interesting old story, but it's impossible to know if it's true. Marblehead's colors were not always red and black however. In 1926, coach Marshall Shearer changed the uniform colors to yellow and white with brown socks. The change did not last, however, and the tradition of red and black was brought back the next season.

Throughout the past 102 years, there have been some great games between the two teams, many of them on Thanksgiving. And while they haven't all gone Marblehead's way, these games have been the highlights of many fans' Turkey Day. They played their last game at Seaside Field, a 19-6 win, on Thanksgiving of 1929. One of the best Thanksgiving games came early in the rivalry, in 1942. The teams were tied for first place in the Northeastern Conference, with the championship coming down to this final game of the season. Marblehead led a great last drive to tie the game 7-7, leading to a split championship between the two teams. In 1955, in one of the best games in Marblehead history, the game came down to the

last drive. Marblehead got to the five-yard line, and as the clock hit zero, threw an interception to end the game, 19-18.

All the games haven't been close. In 1961, Swampscott was undefeated and looked like the surefire Northeastern Conference champions going into the Thanksgiving game, but Marblehead stunned them in a 35-14 rout, denying Swampscott the championship. But for 6 years, from 1967-1972, Swampscott dominated Marblehead, including a fourth quarter comeback win on Thanksgiving in 1969 to clinch the Northeastern Conference. But in 1973, Marblehead handed Swampscott a 20-12 defeat, securing a tie for the championship that year.

The tradition of nail biting games continued last year, when the game came down to the last 10 seconds of regulation. Marblehead's failed attempt at a 2 point conversion gave Swampscott a 22-21 win over the Magicians in one of the best games in recent memory.

It's clear that this is a storied and rich history, which has all the makings of an NFL rivalry. And it's not over yet. The Marblehead squad is taking on Swampscott this Thanksgiving with a playoff trip on the line, adding yet another chapter to this illustrious story.

CHECK OUT OUR DISPLAY!

Grace Perry has spent the past week making a new display case for Headlight issues at MHS in the English wing. Come take a look!

Gadhafi, The Lions, and Harry Potter-A Time to Give Thanks

Alex Stein
Editorial Manager, Senior

Thanksgiving is upon us, and as we get ready to sit down across the table from the relative across from us that we haven't spoken to in several years, there is no better time to reflect on what we can be thankful for from the past year. 2011 has been an interesting year to say the least. We have had our share of ups and downs, and because no one wants to talk about the bad parts while we eat our turkey, let's focus on the good that has come out of this year.

To start off, let us give thanks to the several thousand troops stationed around the globe protecting us at home. What they do on a daily basis is incredible and distinguishes them as heroes among us. We can also give special thanks to the brave men and women who worked together to bring down terror leaders and dictators such

as Osama Bin Laden and Moammar Gadhafi. I know this Thanksgiving, the weight of those two men reigning terror has been lifted off of many Americans' shoulders.

Another person we can give thanks to in 2011 is Steve Jobs, a true pioneer in technology innovation, who died recently of cancer. His contributions, like the iPod and Mac computers, will continue to be the future of communication and entertainment. At least once this Thanksgiving we will all remember his contributions while we check Facebook on our iPhones and Tweet about how dry grandma's stuffing is.

I want to thank the Detroit Lions for not being the laughing stock of the NFL this year. Finally for once on Thanksgiving I can enjoy a football game that is actually exciting.

I also want to give my most dedicated thanks to Pop-eye's for supplying the Red Sox with chicken this past fall. What would sports radio be without angry fans of Boston Nation calling in, bashing the Flop Sox?

I also want to thank the makers of the final Harry Potter movie. I've been following the series my entire life and while most of America and myself feared the ending would be botched, I am pleased with the results. This summer was a lot better knowing Harry and company didn't get left in the dust on the big screen. On the other hand, I hope the writers of the TV show "The Killing" on AMC choke on a turkey bone. It must be great knowing who killed Rosie while I sit here with the rest of clueless America trying to figure out the mystery.

Personally, I have a lot to appreciate and give thanks to. I achieved a lot this past year, including getting my driver's license (a painful experience to say the least). The help I received from college advisors and tutors to help prepare for the SATs and college was greatly appreciated. I know this Thanksgiving will be a lot easier to digest knowing that my applications are sent on time.

Happy Thanksgiving and may you have a happy and healthy holiday.

HEADLIGHT STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: MATT LIEBERSON

CO-EDITOR: PAIGE KELLOWAY CHEF: DANNY PLUNKETT

SPORTS EDITOR: JOEL KATZ EDITORIAL MANAGER: ALEX STEIN WEBMASTER: ALEX KERAI

FACULTY ADVISOR: THOMAS HIGGINS