

Football Legends of PA



Segment Three Run Time: 17:48

Overview

Some famous names in Pennsylvania football include:

Chuck Bednarik, an NFL hall of fame member from Bethlehem, PA, played for the Eagles for fourteen seasons after serving in WWII.

Dan Marino played for Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School before playing for the University of Pittsburgh and the Miami Dolphins.

Mike Ditka, from Aliquippa, PA, was the first tight-end player ever inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Andre Reed attended Dieruff High School in Allentown, PA. He played wide receiver in the NFL for 16 seasons with the Buffalo Bills and Washington Redskins.

George Curry, coach of the Berwick Bulldogs, has the most wins of any high school coach in PA.

This video series spotlights the most beloved names in Pennsylvania high school and professional football. It explores the players and the coaches and families who molded them. Add to what you already know about the tradition of Pennsylvania football by hearing the stories of these legends.



Discussion/Questions

1. Many successful players talk about the need for discipline. What is discipline? Where did you learned it?
2. Andre Reed came back to Dieruff High School to talk to the students. What kind of an impact do you think he had on the students that he met?

Activities

1. Get a football-related article from your newspaper or online. See if you agree with the writer of the article and discuss it with your class. Look up any words you don't already know.
2. Superbowl Sunday is a tradition for many Americans. Does your family do any thing special? Who would you watch the game with?

Spotlight: Joe Paterno

"Throughout my life, I have always had the ability to concentrate on what has to be done and not worry about things I can't do anything about." -Joe Paterno

Joseph Vincent Paterno was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1926. He attended Brown University and took a coaching position at Penn State after graduating. He had planned to study law, but instead became one of the best-known coaches in all of football.

Paterno was named head coach of the Nittany Lions for the 1966 season, and is still coaching today at the age of 80. He was named 1986 Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year. He has posted a 354-117-3 record in four decades as head coach. Paterno ranks second in career wins among major college football coaches.

In 1982, Paterno won his first national championship when he defeated the University of Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. After winning the 1995 Rose Bowl, Paterno became the first coach to win all four major bowls.

Paterno's contributions to his team are also academic. He has donated over \$4 million to expand the Penn State library, and has helped raise another \$13.5 to do so. As both a coach and English major, he insists that his players use proper grammar. He has been written about in several books, including *No Ordinary Joe: The Biography of Joe Paterno* (1999) by Michael O'Brien.



More information

ESPN <http://espn.go.com/>

Academic Standards

Football Legends of PA is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.2 Pennsylvania History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.2.12.

A. Evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to Pennsylvania history from 1890 to Present.

