



Optimistic Future for Tigers

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Maynard —



Maynard Athletic director Trish de Mars and Tiger head football coach Harold Ogilvie.

Last season's Thanksgiving tilt was canceled after disciplinary suspensions left too few Maynard players to field a team.

The 2011 edition of the Tigers, with a roster heavily weighted toward freshmen and sophomores, lost its first three games and took many on-the-job learning lumps. But Ogilvie, the team's third head coach in four years, has his entire backfield and most of his linemen set to return for next year.

"Our freshman and sophomores got in a lot of good varsity minutes this year," said Ogilvie, a special education teacher at Maynard High School and who spent the last five years as defensive coordinator at West Boylston.

A couple of days before his Tigers squad dropped a 42-8 Thanksgiving Day decision to heavily favored Clinton, coach Harold Ogilvie looked across the practice field at Maynard High School to the handsome new scoreboard, a gift to his football program from Middlesex Savings Bank.

"That's a beautiful scoreboard. I hope next year we'll be putting more funny numbers up on it," he said.

The loss to the Gaels was expected for Ogilvie's young squad, which finished the season with a 4-7 record. But at least there was a game on Thanksgiving. Tiger football is alive and well.

Remember that it's Tiger football, no longer Maynard High football. In the first year of a two-year co-operative arrangement with Bromfield High School in Harvard, 15 players are bused in each afternoon to work out with the 27 Maynard players. Their season started back in the summer with thrice-weekly weight training and conditioning under co-captains Ben Chiasson and Matt McNulty. Everybody also had to learn the Olgilvie's system and terminology.

"The way that the kids came together made it so easy for me," said Olgilvie, "It could be about the Xs and Os for me and my staff, and not about whether Johnny is getting along with Jimmy. The Bromfield kids were great additions to us. We had a lot of players who never touched the ball before, but they really wanted to play. They're a committed bunch and it has been fun to work with them."



Dan Jackson

Tight ends Clayton Galeski and Jason Frye, both from Bromfield, were productive pass catchers for the Tigers. But the experience of Bromfield junior Dan Jackson, a talented concert musician who'd not played football before this year, better illustrates why the combined team rebounded successfully.

A classical and jazz saxophone player, Jackson had participated in symphonic band exchange programs. He says that he found it difficult to penetrate the music cliques that had already formed at the other schools. "I wasn't sure how it was going to be here, but there was none of that clique stuff. They were really welcoming," said Jackson, who spent most of the season with the Tigers' JV squad and saw duty as a varsity reserve lineman. Olgilvie expects Jackson to be a varsity regular as a senior.

The football program's rejuvenation energized the entire Maynard student body, according to Athletic Director Trish De Mars. Art students designed a new "Eye of the Tiger" logo for the wall of the refreshment stand. After considerable discussion, the traditional and popular snarling Tiger head logo again graced the scoreboard. Middlesex Savings had already ordered the board, and construction was well underway, before they remembered to edit out references to Maynard High and change the wording to "Home of the Tigers."

There were no Maynard High football T-shirts sold to boosters this year either. It was Maynard-Bromfield football, as captains Chiasson and McNulty frequently reminded fans and well-wishers throughout the season. The 4-7 record was a first step in the right direction after last season's 3-8 mark. The Tigers growled again, and they expect to be roaring once more in 2012.

Read more: [Optimistic future for Tigers - Maynard, MA - The Beacon-Villager](http://www.wickedlocal.com/maynard/mobiletopstories/x828553371/Optimistic-future-for-Tigers#ixzz1fy2FTEff)
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