



RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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A Football Star Emerges Two-Dimensional Star Piaseczynski is Making His Mark

By Aiden Szymanski
Staff Writer

Last season, Triton football's Cole Piaseczynski finished with two touchdowns - one of which was an interception he took to the house against Lynnfield to cap off an emotional victory that saw the Vikings clinch a post-season berth.

"It was really big for the team - the whole program - to be able to make the playoffs," Piaseczynski said in a recent interview looking back. "We played really well as a team that game. Our defense played really well at the end on the goal line. Our coaches did a very good job preparing us."

The feeling was mutual, according to his teammate, senior running back/linebacker Nate Miller.

"After the Lynnfield game I was ecstatic," said Miller. "I remembered the year before they had beaten us and they had posted up in front of our scoreboard and stuff like that... it felt so good to beat those guys."

After consistent, season-long play his sophomore year - starting at strong safety and getting a healthy snap share on offense - this fall Piaseczynski has emerged as a two-dimensional Cape Ann League star. After months of offseason work, Piaseczynski's breakout season started late in the summer, when he was named the lone junior captain amongst four other senior teammates.

"I love representing the team," Piaseczynski said. "It's good for a lot of the younger guys to look up to someone."

His work hasn't gone unnoticed by his coach. "I mean the kid stands out," said Triton varsity football head coach Eric Burgos. "Not just by his play, but by his demeanor, how he carries himself, how he approaches his own personal health, how he approaches his game. If we all emulated what he does then that's exactly the program I envision."

Beginning this season with games against Ran-



Piaseczynski reacts after scoring a game-tying touchdown in the fourth quarter against Shawsheen Tech (photo by Aiden Szymanski).

dolph and Shawsheen, Piaseczynski had already doubled his touchdown total from the season prior.

A week later, with a healthy fall crowd in the home opener against Newburyport, Piaseczynski again came through for the Vikings, scoring all three touchdowns for the home team, whose defeat of Newburyport marked the schools first 'Border Battle' victory in six years.

"It was a big deal for the program. We put a lot of time into the preparation. It paid off in a big way," said Piaseczynski.

"It was cool to get the monkey off the programs back," said Burgos. "Having been a part of three of these games, I was just tired of getting beat. When you lose that game it's a different feeling, it's not an average loss, you know?"

"That was incredible," Miller said. "I think it was such an important thing because nobody that was on that field had ever known what it's like to beat Newburyport."

After a three-touchdown performance in a narrow loss to Amesbury, a forgettable defeat to North Reading, and a 40-10 win over Ipswich, the Vikings now find themselves 3-3 on the season. But for Piaseczynski, there is no use dwelling on the past.

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Brennan Be Back Retired Assistant Principal Returns, Fueled by Love for Football & Triton Overall

By Nicholas Doucot
Staff Writer

Despite retiring after 37 years of work in education, Mr. Scott Brennan is finding every excuse to return to the school he loves.

Brennan seemed to start taking it easy after stepping away from Triton as assistant principal and football coach, once again he is back coaching and is filling in for work as a janitorial assistant. He has been coaching for over 40 years and finds a great passion in being a leader, inside and outside of school.

"I have always found that one coach or that one teacher that was an inspiration," he said, "and I always wanted to be like that."

Brennan has played football since he was 9 years old when he played for a team called the Salem Packers. He and his brother walked to practices and stuck to the sport with passion, he said. He didn't get too many free rides in life with a family of six while working three to four jobs at a time.

Brennan states that his positive influences are his parents and the late Ray Donahue, his former Salem coach. In his freshman year, Brennan attended St. John's Prep, a school known for its proficiency in football. He ended up as captain of the JV football team at the Prep and as a senior was elected captain of the Salem High School football team after switching schools. When Brennan graduated high school and moved onto college, his parents didn't want him to play football, but his passion drove him to continue to play.

Since then, Brennan has felt inspired to achieve greatness and to lift his "fellow Tritonians" up to do the same. Whether it's in sports or in class, he sees athleticism and distinction at early stages and seeks to foster it. He believes that the students of Triton are special and that at their core, each can find common ground at least somewhere. After 17 years at Triton, Brennan stepped down as assistant principal of the high school last spring. He absolutely loved his job, he said, but needed to take some time away.

However, taking it easy didn't last very long, as the opportunity for a coaching position opened up and Brennan contemplated whether he should take it or not. After talking it out with his wife, he ended up returning to Triton as a coach following this year's victory against Newburyport. Before retirement, Brennan thought his biggest

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Mr. Scott Brennan poses in his office prior to his retirement (file photo).

Emotions Spill Over in Hoover's *It Ends With Us*

By Zoe Rivera
Staff Writer

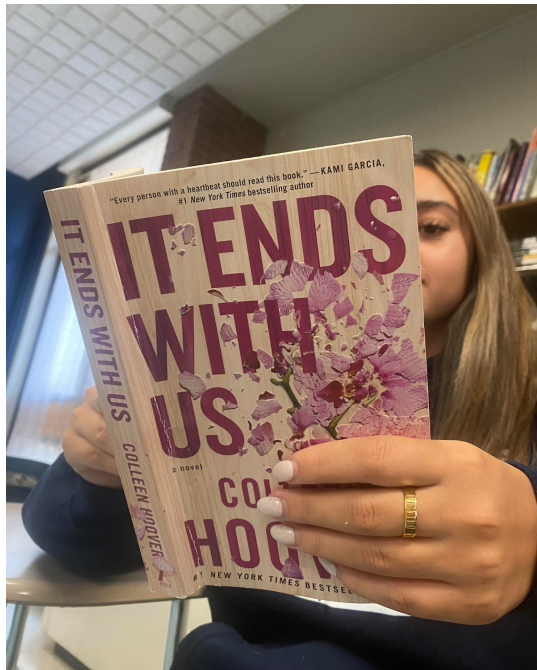
"Fifteen seconds. That's all it takes to completely change everything about a person. Fifteen." Lily said nervously after she got to see who the person she's in love with really is.

It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover is a heartbreaking story that leaves you wanting more.

The main character, Lily Bloom, has grown up all her life seeing her mom get abused by her father. She always knew it wasn't supposed to be like that but also has always felt very powerless. She moved to Boston, set up her dream flower business and met Ryle Kincaid. Ryle is a neurosurgeon and immediately felt a spark with Lily. He was almost too good to be true. After a slow burning reconnection it took no time for Ryle and Lily to fall in love. Throughout the book she is following along in her diary entries of when she was younger and her relationship with Atlas Corrigan. Atlas was Lily's childhood boyfriend. They had a very serious relationship at a young age. Throughout the book she gets put into a lot of heartbreaking and life changing situations.

When you're not the victim of abuse it's so easy to make comments and ask why the victim didn't do

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The reviewer enjoying a second read of *It Ends With Us* (Maggie Reilly photo).

~TRITON PRESENTS~

Haunted Halls

SATURDAY OCTOBER, 29TH

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM - YOUNGER KIDS (\$20 PER FAMILY)

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - HAUNTED HALLS (\$5 ENTRY FEE, \$20 FOR UNLIMITED WALKTHROUGH)

From Last Year to First Grade

PGS Welcomes Borzi, Hurton in 1st Grade Positions

Ugo Nascimento
Staff Writer

Any teacher would advise students to make sure they love teaching before they pursue it, because more than ever, the pressure is real.

Dealing with students in any grade can be quite stressful at times, and the pressure, and sometimes outright disrespect, from parents all contribute to the massive amount of teachers leaving their position all around the country.

But within the Triton community it is not hard to find people who are still passionate about their careers.

Geena Borzi, and Eloise Hurton, are both new first grade teachers at Pine Grove Elementary School. Both are fresh out of Salem State University. Hurton is from Newburyport, so the surrounding area is very familiar to her. She also attended Triton High School and had Mr. Allen as a journalism teacher. Borzi is also from the Boston area and chose to stick around after college to be with friends and family.

Shauna Magee is the reading specialist for Pine Grove, and she is also Borzi's mentor. At first Magee went to college for environmental science and worked in the field for a year before leaving her position to become a substitute teacher in the Boston School District. She graduated with her master's degree from UMASS Boston, and then she worked in Boston for four years until switching to Pine Grove.

Hurton and Borzi share that teachers and staff from schools in their prior academic career, and a natural instinct for helping people, were fundamental to their interest in working with kids.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher since middle school really," said Borzi.

When questioned about the government response about the teacher shortage, all three teachers agreed, the government and the education department should be integrating more measures to incentivize students who want to pursue teaching, better payment being one of the most concerning issues among others such as more affordable education and more respect both from parents and students but also from the government itself.

"People need to understand that teaching is not babysitting," said Hurton. More



First Grade teacher Ms. Hurton stands in her classroom in the first day of 1st grade (Nascimento photo)

scholarships specifically toward education majors is also essential right now; people need to take into consideration that student teachers have to spend large amounts of time in unpaid internships that are a requirement to graduate.

"If you are an 18-year-old, and it comes down to choosing, would you choose a modest-paying job or be broke?" said Hurton.

Drastic changes in the school year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic have greatly affected students academically.

"Most of these newer classes that we have right now were out for the most important part of elementary school," said Magee. "That kindergarten to 2nd grade phase is very important to the children since that is the appropriate time to begin writing."

Neither Borzi nor Hurton were discouraged to become teachers due to the pandemic, but they fought through it and stayed until the end.

"If anything the pandemic made me want to teach even more, I knew kids would need more support than ever," said Borzi.

"Even though I had a weird experience in college because of COVID-19 I was determined to finish it," said Hurton. And although first years can be tough on anyone, the teachers report doing well when it comes to time management between school and social life.

Experience is Key for Lebreck

Varied Background is Helping New SES Teacher

By Molly Porter-Crean
Staff Writer

Mrs. Kerry Lebreck's experience in early intervention is giving her the boost that she needs for this school year.

This is Mrs. Lebreck's first year as a preschool teacher in the Triton district. Last year, Lebreck worked as an instructional assistant, but now she is all on her own as one of Salisbury Elementary School's pre-k teachers.

Lebreck She works as a teacher in the preschool and it's her first year as a teacher in this position.

Combined she has worked 19 years with students, 18 of those were spent as an early intervention teacher, and one year as an instructional assistant. With Lebreck's expertise in early education and love for teaching, the way her teaching impacts children's lives due to her background really shines through.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Salem State University and her masters degree at Cambridge College, she started teaching right away.

"I used to work for early intervention, a special needs program for children from birth to three that needed help in speech or cognitive skills," said Lebreck.

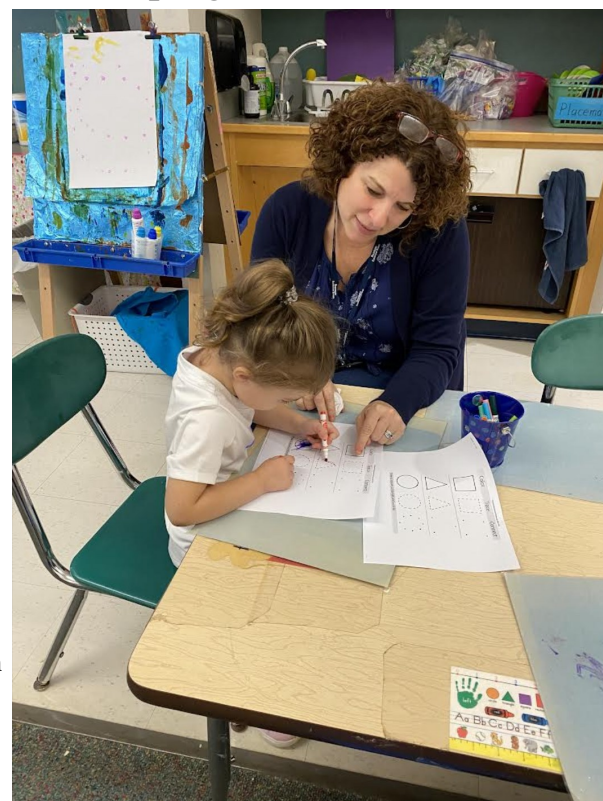
Early intervention in Massachusetts is a system that builds support for the child, the parents, and caregivers, which enhances learning in small children.

According to the Mass gov., "All Massachusetts DPH-certified Early Intervention programs incorporate into their practice the following core values: respect, individualization, family centeredness, community, team collaboration, and life-long learning."

These skills help Lebreck connect better with the children in her classroom.

Lebreck continued her journey to Salisbury Elementary School as an instructional assistant under teacher Julie Deschenese. Over that year they spent together much knowledge and advice was passed down and shared.

"(It was) kind of fun, you get to share ideas and pass things along, and if I know the answer I can help them out," said Deschenese in response to being asked if she likes mentoring for future and aspiring teachers.



Mrs. Lebreck helping one of her preschool students with their classwork (Porter-Crean photo)

While Mrs. Lebreck is in her second year at Salisbury Elementary, one year of assisting, and in her first year of teaching preschool, her colleagues have great things to say.

"(She) really folded into the flock very nicely," said Ms. Kathryn Dawe, Salisbury Elementary School's principal.

Along with this Dawe continued to express what it takes for a teacher to be a good hire, and a valuable hire.

"Have to definitely care about kids and put them first, they have to really be passionate about teaching those kids, and I don't want them to be a person that just does the minimum." Dawe said.

As many people grow up they realize what they want to do for the rest of their lives - and this is true of Lebreck.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," said Lebreck. Lebreck's love for teaching shines through when she states, "I find it very rewarding and I love working with the children and seeing them learn new things"

Lebreck has high hopes for the rest of the year: "I hope we have a good year and that everyone stays healthy and that we do a lot of learning while still having fun," said Lebreck.

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"We just need to believe in ourselves. We have the skill and the coaching to beat really anyone in the area. We were able to showcase that against Ipswich. We just have to keep rolling so we can get into the playoffs hot."

"Mindset right now is playoff football," Burgos added. "Based on the position we put ourselves in unfortunately, our playoffs started last week against Ipswich.

Every game is a must-win game for us, we have to work hard to dictate our outcomes. A big goal for the program is not only to make the playoffs but to host a playoff game."

Piaseczynski will undoubtedly be a big part of that plan

"As a player he is very dynamic," Burgos said. "We call him our Swiss Army knife. He can do a little bit in the slot as a wide receiver, and also as a tailback carrying the ball."

Off the field, Piaseczynski has made positive impressions with those around him as well.

"Very sociable," Burgos said when asked about Piaseczynski off the field. "Just a very smart dude. He just cares (and) just a class act, really. Does all the little things right."

His teammates notice his hard work, too. "I think Cole is a fantastic leader off the

field," Miller said. "I think that Coach's decision of making him the token junior captain was a very good move... he's always stepping up when people won't... he's telling people to focus up all the time, he's making sure people aren't messing around, he's really on top of his stuff."

Academically, Piaseczynski holds himself to high standards as well. For September, he was awarded the MIAA Student Athlete of the Month. He is taking two AP classes and he embraces the challenges that can come with sacrificing leisure time to make sure his work gets done. "It can be challenging at times," Piaseczynski said.

"It comes down to prioritizing those things over fun, leisure activities. School is important going forward in my life so I can be successful in the future."

For Piaseczynski, he looks to continue to add to what has already been a stellar junior season and help lead his team to postseason success.

"We should make a nice run towards the end of the year," Piaseczynski said. "A lot of guys worked really hard this year, especially during the summer, and I think that work is going to pay off."

"As a player he is very dynamic. We call him our Swiss Army knife. He can do a little bit in the slot as a wide receiver and also as a tailback carrying the ball."

— THS Head Football Coach Eric Bur-

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struggles were bad student behaviors in bathrooms and other problematic students. After retirement, he states that there's really no conflicts in his side hustles and he is happy with where he is.

Those who worked with Brennan real admired his approach to things as well as his dedication to Triton.

"Mr. Brennan was just kind of a fixture of everything that we did for years here at Triton," said Principal Patrick Kelley, who holds Brennan to a high regard for his methods. "He saw the best in every individual."

Main Office Secretary Theresa Karol also admires Brennan's approach "He would walk into every situation fresh and new," she says. "It didn't matter if there was a huge blowout between two kids beforehand. He would never walk in with negative feelings."

Along with his colleagues, the students really appreciate his unconditional optimism.

"He was always really uplifting," said senior David Pugh. Junior Jake Roberge spoke similarly.

"Even though he was sometimes a stickler, he would always be able to put a smile on other people's faces."

Brennan was shaped by a hardworking life and positive influences to achieve greatness. He spent 37 years in the field of education and 42 years coaching for football. Through thick and thin, he really loved his occupations, he said, still finds his loyalties lie with THS.

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anything. While following Lily through her life and slowly seeing what her life is turning into it is very eye opening.

This was my first book by Colleen Hoover and I was hooked from the beginning by what the message the book was trying to send. Throughout the book you have Lily's emotions in your hands and without that you couldn't feel all of the emotions that you get during the book. Hoover touches on a lot of real problems in the world and you learn a lot about domestic abuse and the realities of why it is so difficult for the abuser to leave the abuser. Junior, Arianna Basile, was asked about her first thoughts of the main message of the book and excitedly answered "I think it's a great message for young teens and it is a great example that shows it is possible for you to step away from a situation when it is toxic."

It Ends With Us most definitely tugs on all of your emotional strings. The ending is very necessary and unpredictable. It is a heart wrenching story in the best possible way.