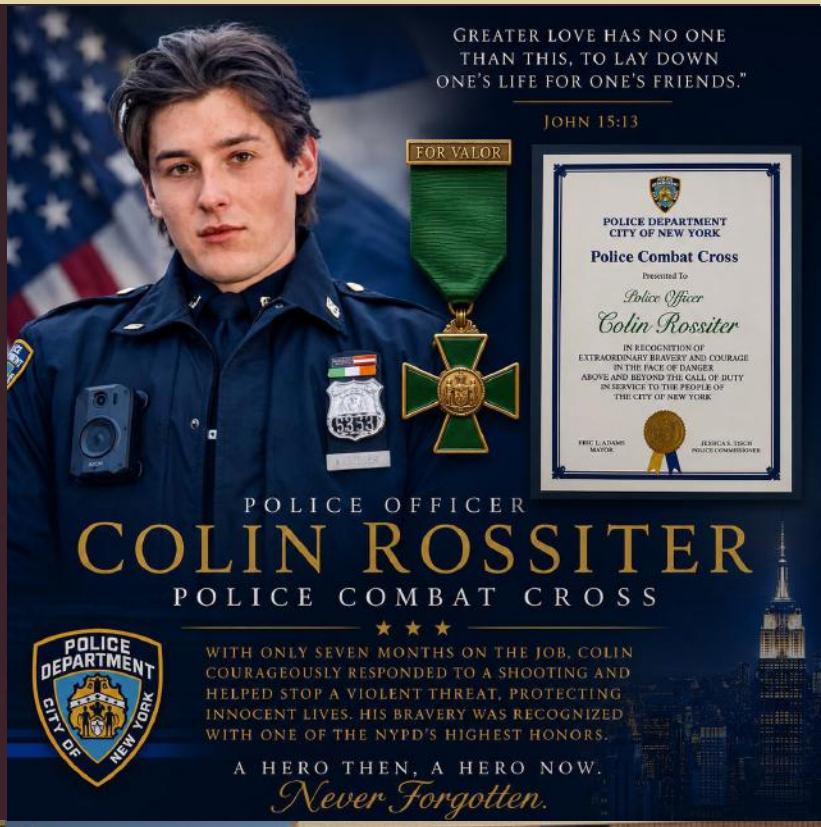
Monsignor Farrell High School

Alumni Stories

November Edition — *2026*

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Congratulations to the 1976 varsity football team, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of their undefeated championship season Friday night, October 23rd at homecoming.

Special thanks to Brian Hall ‘77 and team co-captain Matty Iammatteo ‘77, who organized the reunion and purchased their teammates throwback jerseys for the event.

From 1973-1976, the group never lost a Farrell football game, going 35-0-2; 19-0 over two junior varsity seasons, and 16-0-2 during their two varsity seasons under Coach Dennis Barrett.

In attendance:
#70 Matt Iammatteo, #45 John Stumpf, #67 Frank Fabiano, #12 Alex DeJesus, #15 Benny DiCostanzo, #42 Steve Esposito, #66 Frank DiTommaso, #64 Frank Montalto, #84 Bill Apriceno, #85 Pat DeMeo, #24 Gerry Hartie, #35 Tony Perugini, #57 Brian Hall, #58 John Richichi, #20 Peter Bosco, #33 Tom Martino, and #25 Jimmy Lopes.

Wearing their husbands’ jerseys: Sean Haggerty’s widow, Kathryn, wearing #13, and John Cassidy’s widow, Lynn, wearing #21.

Joseph DiTomasso ’10 Memorial Scholarship Bocce Tournament



Along with the DiTomasso family and friends, more than 150 members of the Farrell community came together for the Joseph DiTomasso Memorial Scholarship Bocce Tournament. It was a special day of friendship, competition, and remembrance in honor of Joseph DiTomasso ’10, who passed away two years ago. During his time at Farrell, Joseph was a member of the Lions’ CHSAA Championship hockey team.

The tournament was brought to life through the efforts of Joseph’s brother, Michael DiTomasso ’13, their parents, Donna and Carmine, and many others who helped create a meaningful event celebrating Joseph’s life and legacy. Members of the Monsignor Farrell Hockey program also volunteered their time, serving as the bocce referees.

The event was a wonderful example of the Farrell brotherhood, family, and friends coming together to honor Joseph’s memory while supporting a scholarship established in his name. We extend our sincere gratitude to the DiTomasso family, our student volunteers, and everyone who helped make the tournament such a special occasion.





Colin Rossiter '18
2000 - 2023

In Memoriam: Colin Rossiter '18

What inspires a family to continue telling the story of someone they lost far too soon?

For the Rossiter family, the answer is simple: Colin's impact.

In just 22 years, Colin Rossiter '18 touched countless lives—as a son, brother, friend, teammate, Farrell student and, ultimately, as an NYPD officer who answered a calling to public service.

"He was a young man who had an incredible wit, a love of Farrell Hockey, and a calling to public service," Colin's family shared. "He accomplished his dream of becoming an NYPD officer."

Colin's time in the NYPD would bring experiences that profoundly affected him. Just seven months into his career, he faced immense trauma during a violent Brooklyn gunfight. After Colin's death in 2023, his family made it their mission not only to preserve his memory, but to use his story to shed light on the invisible wounds that can affect first responders.

That mission has become an important part of Colin's legacy. His family hopes that by speaking openly about PTSD, mental health and police suicide, they can help break the stigma that can prevent people from seeking help.

A Family Beyond Family

For the Rossiters, Colin's life created connections that continue long after his passing.

The NYPD, Monsignor Farrell, Our Lady Star of the Sea, youth hockey and the Staten Island community have each become part of the family's extended circle. Those relationships have provided comfort while also keeping Colin present in their lives.

The support surrounding Colin's family following his passing demonstrated just how many people considered him one of their own. His Farrell teammates, teachers, fellow police officers, community leaders and others gathered to honor his life.

"

When institutions like the NYPD, Our Lady Star of the Sea, youth hockey leagues and the community of Monsignor Farrell High School wrap their arms around us, it means everything to a grieving family

- The Rossiter Family

"They have truly become an extension of our household," his family said. "They carry our grief and keep Colin present in our lives."

For a family navigating an unimaginable loss, those bonds have become an important part of remembering Colin not only for how he died, but for how he lived.

Honoring His Courage

Colin's commitment to public service was rooted in a desire to help others. His courage as an NYPD officer was formally recognized when he was awarded the NYPD Police Combat Cross, the department's second-highest award, for extraordinary heroism while engaged in personal combat with an armed adversary.

For Colin's parents, accepting the honor on their son's behalf was an experience filled with conflicting emotions.

"As parents, you stand there with immense pride remembering your son in uniform, knowing the courage he displayed when faced with sudden chaos," his family recalled. "That pride is anchored by an agonizing grief because Colin can't accept the medal himself."

The honor recognized Colin's bravery in a moment of extraordinary danger. But for his family, it also underscored a much larger message about the challenges first responders can face after surviving traumatic events.

"It is a striking reminder of the tragic gap between physical survival in a gunfight and the mental survival that follows," they said.

Accepting the Combat Cross, they added, was ultimately a solemn responsibility—a way to stand before Colin's fellow officers and honor the courage he displayed.



Members of the Monsignor Farrell High School Hockey Team join to honor Colin at his street naming in Oakwood



Colin Patrick Rossiter Way is located at the corner of Amboy Rd and Park St



Keeping Colin's Legacy at Farrell

Colin's connection to Monsignor Farrell remains at the heart of his family's efforts to preserve his memory.

As a student and hockey player, Farrell was a place where Colin thrived. He built friendships, developed as a teammate and became part of a community that continues to remember him.

That connection is now being carried forward through the Colin Rossiter Scholarship, established by his family to support future Farrell students.

"Staying connected to Monsignor Farrell through Colin's memorial scholarship will be the cornerstone of Colin's memory in a place where he truly thrived as a student, teammate and a loyal friend," his family said.

The scholarship represents more than a way to honor Colin. It is an opportunity to ensure that his name, values and commitment to service continue to influence the next generation of Farrell students.

The family hopes Colin's story will inspire young men to recognize the importance of service, community and looking out for one another.

"It is our hope Colin's scholarship will solidify his legacy and inspire other young Farrell men to public service—Vir Fidelis."

For the Farrell community, Colin Rossiter's story is a reminder that the relationships formed during a young man's time at Farrell can last a lifetime—and, sometimes, can continue to shape lives long after he is gone.

Through the Colin Rossiter Scholarship, Colin's family is ensuring that his connection to Farrell endures. His legacy lives not only in the memories of those who knew and loved him, but in the opportunities given to future Farrell men who will walk the same halls, wear the same colors and carry forward the same spirit of loyalty, service and brotherhood.



Pete Lembo '88: Head Coach at University of Buffalo



Kevin Coyle '74: Senior Defensive Assistant Coach at UMass



Messiah Burch '23: Redshirt Junior RB at University of Buffalo

A Farrell Face-off

University of Buffalo vs. University of Massachusetts in the Flagship Cup

Saturday, October 17th: Buffalo defeats UMass 25-18 in Overtime

Messiah Burch: 28 carries for 172 yards including 10 yards in overtime leading to the winning touchdown

For Buffalo

Head Coach Pete Lembo '88 and starting running back Messiah Burch '23.

Pete was named the head coach of the University at Buffalo football program on January 21, 2024. Through two seasons at Buffalo, Pete has won 15 games, the most by a UB football coach over his first two seasons. Prior to Buffalo, Pete spent three seasons as associate head coach and special teams coordinator at the University of South Carolina and has extensive college football coaching experience.

Messiah was named Buffalo's Player of the Game for his performance against Toledo on Saturday, October 10th. The junior running back ran for 137 yards and 1 TD on 17 carries, his 3rd straight game of 100+ yards rushing. He has since added two more games of over 100 rushing yards totaling 5 straight. He currently sits at 14th in the country with 845 rushing yards on the season.

For UMass

Senior Defensive Assistant Coach Kevin Coyle '74 is in his first year back with his alma mater. Kevin spent last season at UCLA as the interim defensive coordinator for the Bruins.

Kevin has extensive coaching experience in both the NFL and the NCAA.

Go Lions!



Longtime Monsignor Farrell Wrestling Coach Dave Ironman passed away on October 27th, 2026

Remembering Coach David Ironman

The Monsignor Farrell High School community mourns the passing of longtime wrestling coach David G. Ironman, a beloved mentor, friend, and Faithful Man whose impact on Farrell and the sport of wrestling spanned more than three decades.

For generations of Farrell wrestlers, Coach Ironman was far more than a coach. He was a role model who dedicated much of his life to guiding young men both on and off the mat. His lessons went well beyond wrestling, teaching the importance of hard work, discipline, perseverance, and never giving up.

Coach Ironman's impact also extended far beyond Monsignor Farrell. He played an instrumental role in the growth of wrestling throughout New York City, earning a place in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2015 as a recipient of its Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. Outside of wrestling, he was also an accomplished attorney who brought the same dedication and passion to his professional career.

His legacy at Monsignor Farrell will continue through the Dave Ironman Invitational and the Dave Ironman Scholarship Fund. But perhaps his greatest legacy can be found in the countless lives he touched and the generations of Faithful Men who were fortunate enough to learn from him, be mentored by him, and call him Coach.

Monsignor Farrell will forever be grateful for Coach Ironman's decades of service, friendship, and devotion to our young men and our school. His presence will be deeply missed, but his influence will remain an enduring part of Farrell Wrestling and the Monsignor Farrell community.

Dave Ironman was so much more than my best friend. He has been part of my life since I was 14 years old, and through more than four decades of life's happiest moments, toughest challenges, and everything in between, he was always there. Dave was one of those rare people who left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

What made Dave so special was his ability to see potential in young men and help them become the best versions of themselves. Through wrestling, he taught discipline, accountability, perseverance, and character. His greatest victories, however, were never measured on a wrestling mat, but in the lives he helped shape. Generations of young men went on to become police officers, firefighters, doctors, attorneys, teachers, business leaders, husbands, and fathers because of the foundation he helped build.

Dave was the heart and soul of Farrell Wrestling, but his influence reached far beyond the sport. He was a coach, mentor, teacher, motivator, and a second father to so many. I have lost my best friend, but his lessons, his spirit, and his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched.

You left us far too soon, Big Dave. We were blessed to have you in our lives. I love you, my friend. You will never be forgotten.

- John Gallucci '85

I have been blessed to have had Coach David Ironman coach not only myself 1991 but also my two children Michael Jr. 2017 And Anthony 2018. He was a human being that had the rare gift of being liked by everyone. His knowledge was unsurpassed only by his humility and his humanity. Dave mentored boys into young men husbands and fathers. The loss of Dave is profound and heavy. I and my sons will always be blessed to have had the gift of him for decades. Rest easy Dave we will miss you and continue the lessons and principles you instilled in all of us!

- Mike Lanza '91

Coach Ironman was many things to many people including myself. He was a coach, a teacher, a mentor, a friend, a man with answers, a forward thinker, and perhaps the greatest eating companion of all-time.
He would always ask his athletes "how bad do you want it" meaning how hard are you willing to work for what you want. At the end of the day that is what drives us all.

- Pete Hamm '89, Head Coach of Farrell Wrestling

Dave had a lot of good friends but he was a great friend to so many. He took a genuine interest in the people he would interact with. Dave was one of those people who really cared about others.

- Dr. Timothy O'Byrne '85

He built a legacy of Farrell wrestling and a foundation for all competitors and coach's to follow. Not only did he build the sport of wrestling from the ground up at Farrell but within the entire city and state of New York.

- Nicholas O'Byrne '17



Monsignor Farrell Wrestling is excited to honor the 4 NY State Champions in our program's history and raise money for the newly created Dave Ironman Scholarship Fund.

Event Details
Saturday, January 2nd, 2027
Following Dave Ironman Memorial Invitational
Monsignor Farrell High School
Dinner catered by Denino's
Beer & Wine

Click Here to Purchase Your Ticket

Honorees
Brennan Sprague, Class of 2026
Terry Adams, Class of 2019
Jimmy Ryan, Class of 2019
Richie Sisti, Class of 2014 (2x NYS Champion)

Donations to the Scholarship Fund

The Dave Ironman Scholarship Fund directly benefits Monsignor Farrell students in the wrestling program. Donations can be made through the ticketing link below.

All proceeds from the dinner go to the ***Dave Ironman Scholarship Fund***.



Advertise With Us!

On Friday, November 13th, Varsity Football will host the CHSFL 'AAA' Semi-Finals on Varsity Media's YouTube Page

- Video Ads
- Logos & Graphics
- Broadcast and PA Reads

VARSITY MEDIA

If you are interested in taking a sponsorship with us, please reach out to Peter Kennedy (pkennedy@msgrfarrellhs.org) for more details



Fall Bocce Classic



Back-to-Back Champs!

For the first time in the Fall Bocce Classic's 10-year history, we have back-to-back champions. Team Tait takes home the cup again.

(Left to right) Christian Tait '20, Ryan Tait '91, Michael D'Armetta '91, and Daniel Holton '04

Thank you to all participants and sponsors, especially JAG Physical Therapy and Merge Event Solutions as our lead sponsors.

And a special thanks to Denino's at the Den, Mike Burke '92, and Danny Vaccaro '85 for keeping everyone well fed with hot and fresh pizza throughout the day.

Until next year!



HOMECOMING

This year's homecoming was extra special, as we dedicated two Monsignor Farrell landmarks to two Monsignor Farrell Icons...

The Monsignor Peter G. Finn Track and *The Monsignor Thomas J. Bergin Terrace*

With over 400 alumni in attendance, a dominating 55-21 victory over St. Anthony's, and the honoring of two legends, this will be a Homecoming we never forget.



Alumni Events

November 2026

Saturday, November 7th: Class of 2006 Reunion - Click Here to Register
Friday, November 13th: Varsity Football CHSFL Semi-Finals Matchup Opponent TBD - Click Here to Register

- Honoring 1986 Metro Bowl Team
- All Alumni welcome to buy tickets to eat, drink, watch the game from the Monsignor Bergin Terrace

Wednesday, November 23rd: Young Alumni Lunch - Click Here to Register

December 2026

Tuesday, December 1st: Varsity Basketball vs. Moore Catholic Honoring 2016 Championship Team
Thursday, December 3rd: Christmas Tree Lighting & Nativity Blessing
Sunday, December 20th: Alumni Basketball Game followed by Varsity vs. Fordham Prep - Click Here to Register

January 2027

Saturday, January 2nd: David Ironman Memorial Wrestling Tournament & Champions Dinner - Click Here to Register

Class Reunions

Fall 2026

We celebrated the classes and teams of...

Football 1996
1966
2001
Football 1976
2016
The 1990s
1976
2006

Interested in planning your own reunion?

Contact Peter Kennedy (pkennedy@msgrfarrellhs.org) and visit msgrfarrellhs.org/alumni for details

Ways to Donate

One-Time or Recurring Gift

- Check
- Credit Card
- Venmo

Leadership Pledge

- Gifts Greater Than 5k Paid Over 5 Years

Planned Giving

- Wills
- Retirement Account or Life Insurance Policy
- Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Appreciated Assets Such as Stock or Real Estate

Scan the QR code or visit

msgrfarrellhs.org/donate



Join Us on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm for the 8th annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Nativity Blessing

Vir Fidelis

MONSIGNOR FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL