**Generals knock off unbeaten Amesbury for third straight victory
By Jean DePlacido Correspondent, *Salem News*
Sep 29, 2018

HAMILTON** — When opportunity knocks, you have to not only answer the door — but also capitalize.

Hamilton-Wenham did just that In an old school, hard-hitting football battle Saturday afternoon. The host Generals thrived on big plays with a come-from-behind 14-6 victory over previously unbeaten Amesbury in its Cape Ann League Baker Division opener.

The visitors had the advantage in time of possession, first downs and rushing yards by a wide margin. But the Indians made mistakes that led to points for Hamilton-Wenham, which is what ultimately counts.

"This is a great win for the program," said Hamilton-Wenham head coach Jim Pugh, whose team won its third straight. "I've been here three years and know the Generals have an established tradition for playing hard-nosed football. Our athletic director, Craig Genualdo (who played and later coached at St. John's Prep) gave them an inspiring pep talk before the game."

Trailing by six at intermission, Hamilton-Wenham (3-1) scored twice in the third quarter.

The turning point in the game came with 6:52 remaining in the third stanza. Amesbury was forced to punt, but the snap from center sailed over the kicker's head and into the end zone. The Generals' Thomas Monahan quickly fell on it for his first career touchdown to tie the game. After quarterback Billy Whelan passed to Aidan Nistl for the 2-point conversion, the hosts were on top (8-6).

"I think at the end of the first half we settled down, and our team really came together," said Whelan, the senior captain who had a strong outing at both QB and defensive back, including a big interception in the late stages. "Amesbury loves to run it right down your throat, and I think we might've come out too fired up. This was definitely hard-nosed football."

The hosts added another touchdown on their next possession. Whelan called for a fair catch on a punt, but was run into and the Indians were assessed a 15-yard penalty. Five plays later Amesbury was called for a holding penalty, putting the ball on their 3-yard line. Captain Sam Webber, a hard charging fullback, then crashed in for a touchdown with seconds remaining in the quarter.

"I love any chance to put the team on my back," said Webber. "I really have to thank my line, because they did the job opening holes all game. We have great chemistry since a lot of us have been playing together since the fifth grade."

"It was that great play by Monahan that got us going," added Whelan. "We were in control from that point on."

The visitors mounted a 70-yard, 11-play scoring drive to open the game, most of it coming via the ground. But a 12-yard pass from West Point-bound Blake Bennett to Austin Hallisey on 4th-and-long gave the Indians a first down, and on the next play Patrick Birmingham barreled into the end zone from eight yards out. The 2-point rush, however, was stopped.

Both teams played outstanding bend-don't-break defense that stalled drives in the red zone before Hamilton-Wenham got untracked after the break.

Ian Coffey, the Generals leading running back, tried to play through an injury, but after two carries on the first drive was unable to continue. Pugh said he knew coming in it was doubtful he would be able to go.

When the game was on the line late in the fourth quarter Whelan called Webber's number. He took some hard hits but hung onto the ball and picked up a key first down in the late minute before Whelan took a knee to end it.

Other big breaks for Hamilton-Wenham occurred when Amesbury was forced to punt from its own 20 in the first quarter, but the ball was fumbled and Jack Mulvihill recovered for the hosts. Then, after H-W's second touchdown, Amesbury's Bennett completed a 13-yard pass to Jacob Robinson, but a hard hit caused the ball to come loose and the Generals' Even Bucci pounced on it. The Indians fumbled again late in the game, and Nistl recovered for H-W.

Now 3-1 on the season, the Generals now travel to Norwell for a non-league game Friday night.

**Thursday's area roundup: H-W soccer squad records clean sheets
Sep 27, 2018

GIRLS SOCCER**

**Hamilton-Wenham 2, North Reading 0**: Senior captain Shae Granese scored a goal and helped set up senior Eliza Campbell’s marker later in the first half as the Generals improved to 4-1-1. Keeper Addie Condon earned her fourth shutout of the season while senior Shannon O’Toole, junior Jordan Story and sophomore Maddy Rostad played well in the central midfield.

**BOYS SOCCER**

**Hamilton-Wenham 2, North Reading 1:** Senior center midfielder Gabe Berthoud scored a pair of first half goals to power the Generals (3-2-1) to a home win. Assists went to Ryan Woodin and Clint Gourdeau, with goalkeeper Tom Flynn making a number of terrific saves to help secure the victory.

**GOLF**

**Hamilton-Wenham 131, Amesbury 86**: Aidan Daly had 31 points to power the Generals (7-0) to victory and clinch a tournament berth in the process. Jake Harrison added 28 points, while Mark Roselli and Will Hogan each had 18 in the win.

**Football roundup: Essex North Shore earns first win; Swampscott, H-W roll
Sep 21, 2018**

 **Hamilton-Wenham 26, Greater Lawrence 16**: Junior Ian Coffey ran for well over 100 yards and three touchdowns as the Generals (2-1) made it two straight wins with a road triumph. Quinlan Kelly hauled in a 15-yard touchdown pass from Billy Whelan to jump start H-W, whcih let it 26-0 at halftime. Coffey’s scored came on jaunts of 61, 48 and 5-yards.

**Friday's area roundup: Hamilton-Wenham girls blank Amesbury
Sep 21, 2018**

**GIRLS SOCCER**

**Hamilton-Wenham 3, Georgetown 0:** Senior Megan Peterson scored on a free kick set up by Shae Granese and Addie Condon had her third shutout of the season as the Generals (3-1-1) prevailed. Eliza Campbell also scored, with Peterson assisting, and sophomore Abby Sturim scored her first varsity goal assisted by freshman Kara O’Shea.

**BOYS SOCCER**

**Hamilton Wenham 2, Georgetown 1**: Eli Leonard and Clint Gourdeau provided the offense with a goal apiece in the Generals’ win. Gabe Berthoud tallied an assist on Gourdeau’s score while keeper Tom Flynn and center midfielder Conor Evers played well too.

**Gridiron Gems for Week 2 of the high school football season
Sep 17, 2018**

**THOMAS MONAHAN \* HAMILTON-WENHAM**
**Senior defensive end**

The most memorable play of Saturday's 27-22 win over North Reading was Hamilton-Wenham's double reverse touchdown pass for its first lead of the game, and the entire season. The most important? It might have come two snaps earlier — made by senior captain Thomas Monahan.

The Hornets had a 3rd-and-5 early in the fourth quarter, and Monahan shook off his blocker to take down the quarterback for his second sack of the day. That set up a short punt and on the first play of H-W's ensuing drive, the trick play went the distance to totally change the game.

Overall, Monahan had a monster second half with a half dozen tackles. He did a tremendous job setting the edge and making the QB uncomfortable as H-W held the Hornets to 2-of-12 passing after halftime. He also rushed a couple of throws near his own goal line when the Generals' defense turned the Hornets over on downs without allowing points three times in the fourth quarter.

**Razzle-dazzle TD toss, Nistl's big day lead Hamilton-Wenham to its first win**[**By Matt Williams Staff writer**](https://www.salemnews.com/users/profile/Matt%20Williams) **Sep 15, 2018

SOUTH HAMILTON** — There's always an element of risk on a trick play. And since Hamilton-Wenham hadn't taken a lead yet this season, there was a temptation to be cautious when they got the ball on the North Reading side of the field in the fourth quarter of a tie game.

Veteran head coach Jim Pugh took one look at senior quarterback Billy Whelan and knew immediately it was the perfect time to go all in.

The Generals dialed up a double-reverse pass, with junior Ian Coffey lofting a 45-yard touchdown to Whelan for the go-ahead score in Saturday's 27-22 come-from behind win over North Reading.

"Coach looked at me like 'You think we should run it?' I just smiled," said Whelan, who flipped a shotgun snap to captain Sam Webber, who then flipped it back to Coffey as Whelan peeled around the right end and darted downfield behind the defense

"We practice trick plays every Friday. It was kind of the perfect opportunity to catch them by surprise — and Ian put it right on the money."

The winning points came with 10:38 to play, and the defense had to make three stops the rest of the way to seal the win for Hamilton-Wenham (1-1).

North Reading (1-1) started the next drive in the red zone at the H-W 20-yard line after a big return plus a personal foul. Three incomplete passes later, Hamilton-Wenham had the ball back, but fumbled to give the Hornets another chance. The visitors had 2nd-and-goal at the 2-yard line with 2:39 to go, but Generals captain Henry Smith came up with a tackle-for-loss, Finn Brophy had a third down sack, and the fourth down pass was incomplete to hold the lead.

The hosts could've punted from their own end zone with 1:19 to go, but Pugh elected to take an intentional safety to pin North Reading deeper on the free kick. Four incomplete passes later, the Generals were victorious for the first time this year.

"We took a punch and we were able to come back," said Pugh, whose team trailed 14-0 in the second quarter and 20-14 in the third. "Defensively, we weren't getting off our blocks and weren't doing the job. I don't know what got into them in the second half, but they played much better. It's a great win."

It was also a coming out party for senior Aidan Nistl, back on the team after playing as a freshman and stepping away for two seasons. He used breakaway speed to find seams in the Hornets' defense for touchdowns runs of 48 and 64 yards. Overall, he ran for 120 yards on just four carries while also playing a significant role on defense at cornerback.

"It feels great to be back. I wanted to help these boys and it feels great to be back out here with them," said Nistl. "I look for a hole and try to turn it on — just find that pylon and run to it."

A touchdown run by Will O'Leary and a third down scoring pass to Jack Keller from Matt Selecki (127 yards, 2 TDs) put the Generals in the early 14-0 hole. Whelan hit Sam Webber for a 12-yard touchdown midway through the second and Nistl's first score came with 1:15 to go before halftime to even things at 14-14.

"We know we can't bury our heads if we get behind. We have to keep going, try to drive the ball and make some plays," Nistl said.

North Reading took its final lead when Selecki hit Alex D'Ambrosio for a 22-yard score with 4:35 left in the third. After Nistl broke free for his 64-yard score to tie it, 20-20, the Generals defense was spotless the rest of the way.

Any number of Hamilton players contributed. Henry Schibli had two sacks, one on a crucial third down, and Thomas Monahan had two tackles for loss. Coffey, who rushed for 63 yards on 11 carries, also had a tackle-for-loss and sophomore Jack Mulvihill had a big pass breakup in his own end zone.

"It's just gritty football. A couple of plays we lost our middle linebackers because their helmets popped off, and Giles Hubbard and Marty Cooke are in there making plays," said Whelan. "Everybody has to be on the same page down near the end zone. You fight to get to fourth down, and when it's fourth down it's game time."

Whelan finished 8-of-11 passing for 75 yards, hooking up with Webber three times and finding Cam Guyer twice. H-W had a 323-263 edge in yards from scrimmage, holding North Reading to 93 in the second half.

"I don't know if people were expecting much with all we lost from last year. This is a different team, and we're starting to form our own identity," Pugh said.

**Masconomet gets out early, rolls by Generals
By Nick Giannino Staff Writer**

**Sep 13, 2018**

**BOXFORD —** The Masconomet boys soccer squad was shut out by North Andover on Wednesday afternoon. A week before that, they fell by a goal to St. John’s Prep in the season opener.

Suffering a pair of early season losses like that is rare territory for the Chieftains — but it also may be just the recipe they needed to finish out the rest of the fall at the highest level.

With defensive minded Hamilton-Wenham coming to town on Thursday, Masco used what they learned in the afforementioned setbacks and put it to work, downing the vistors in dominant fashion, 5-0.

“We lost to the Prep, we lost to North Andover, but we’re still playing the same soccer. We had the same possession against North Andover, same possession against St. John’s Prep, so we’re playing really consistent,” said Masconomet (2-2) head coach Jared Scarpaci. “We’ve had a tougher road thus far but I’m really happy with how we’re playing, and they know that.”

Scarpaci had every reason to be happy with his team’s play in Thursday’s drubbing, as the Chieftains controlled possession for the majority of the afternoon and out-shot their opponent by a significant margin.

Harry Kessel got things started quickly, firing one home off a feed from Matt Dzwil to open the scoring. Matt O’Brien followed suit with a beautiful shot of his own midway through the half, playing the ball up in the air off his own foot and heading one in the back of the net.

It remained 2-0 until the break, but Masco was eager for more.

“There was some frowns at halftime and I had to tell them, ‘guys, your’re up 2-0. You would’ve been happy if you were up 2-0 against St. John’s or North Andover and some of these other teams’,” said Scarpaci. “I like that they have a higher standard for themselves; they want to play better, want to finish every opportunity.”

Two minutes into the second half, leading scorer Josh Rubin got in on the action with a top shelf, lefty boot to far post that tucked into the back of the twine.

Devin Ralph added a fourth goal on a Rubin assist no more than 16 minutes later, and Haolan Zahn put the nail in the coffin with a pretty finish off the foot of Connor Fitzgerald.

Hamilton-Wenham managed just two shots on goal in the contest and struggled to keep the ball at their feet and generate chances on the other end. It was an uncharacteristic performance for the usual stout defensive squad, but one they’ll certainly bounce back from with the amount of talent they possess.

“We try to put our best effort each and every day; today it just wasn’t our day,” said Hamilton-Wenham coach Matt Gauron. “I though every facet of our game showed a little weakness today. We tried to play as quick as we could against them but we got a little careless with it and gave it away from time to time. That was the fastest team we’ve played yet, and we just weren’t fast enough today. Hopefully we can learn from this and go forward with it.”

Scarpaci also highlighted the play of reserve goal keeper Kenneth Thompson, who came in for starter Zach Rock in the second half and made two nice saves in his first action of the year. Bryson Barraclough and Payton Ralph also played well off the bench, giving Masco some nice minutes down the stretch.

**Unbeaten Chieftains sweep H-W to continue dominant start
By Austin Woolman
Sep 12, 2018**

SOUTH HAMILTON — Masconomet's girls volleyball program had lofty expectations coming into the season. A number of coaches throughout the North Shore believe the Chieftains will be the team to beat come tournament time — with some even saying they could be the best squad in the state.

So far, they've backed up these prognostications.

The Chieftains continued that trend in Wednesday's Cape Ann League matchup against Hamilton-Wenham, producing a straight set 25-14, 25-15 and 25-13 victory. Senior captain Brianna Kelly led the way with 12 digs, three blocks and three kills.

"It was good to come here and get it in three games," said Kelly, her team improving to 3-0. "We've come out slow against (Hamilton Wenham) in the past, but today we opened strong. It feels good to take three from the (defending) CAL champs."

"We have a crew that's playing really well together," added Chieftains head coach Alyssa Schatzel. "There's a lot of energy and good skill out there on the court ... and the sky is the limit for them."

While the final score suggests a rough night for Hamilton Wenham, head coach Jennifer Flynn was pleased with her team's effort. The Generals graduated seven seniors from last season, including CAL Player of the Year Lauren Flynn, and are in the midst of rebuilding their roster.

"We have a relatively young team," said Flynn. "They've been great about seeing what went wrong, understanding the mistakes and applying them on the court. We got to go against a high-end team with tons of experience and I'm proud of how we played."

A few of the standout Generals included senior Tori Belise with eight digs, senior Rose Wosepka with three blocks and freshman Mia Flynn with five kills. The Hamilton Wenham coach was also wildly impressed with her sophomore setter, Emma Day.

"She's been so calm and collective early on," Flynn said of Day. "She does a great job and we're very pleased with what she's given us so far."

The Chieftains find themselves on the opposite side of the experience spectrum. Senior captains Kelly, Emiliana Olafsdottir and Grace Salisbury have been varsity players for four years and have been captains for three of those campaigns.

"We've all played together for so long," said Kelly. "It's absolutely helped us create chemistry and bond with the rest of the team. Our new players have also made a huge impact so far and it's been awesome."

Some of the younger Chieftains include juniors Sarah Buckley and Rheanna Murrary, who combined for 13 service points Wednesday night. Buckley ended the game with three aces, three assists and seven kills while Murray dished out an impressive 36 assists.

While Schatzel was pleased with the two juniors, she couldn't help but talk about her captains.

"Everyone's contributed and helped improve our team each match," said Schatzel. "But the seniors have been really special so far; they make sure everyone plays together and are supportive when mistakes happen — it's an unbelievably talented group of girls."

Through the first three matches, the Chieftains haven't dropped a single set so far. Both Kelly and Schatzel took a moment to reflect on the eye-popping tidbit and were cautious to broach the subject.

"I don't really want to talk about it or jinx anything," Kelly said while trying to hide a smile. "But I do think we have a chance to be really good this year."

"We do have something special here," said Schatzel. "But more importantly, this is such a great group of girls. They are caring, kind and sincere above all else, and I think that will carry us to success."

**Hamilton-Wenham to induct four athletes, two coaches & a team into Athletic Hall of Fame
Sep 12, 2018**

The Hamilton Wenham Athletic Hall of Fame has selected a quartet of former student-athletes, two legendary coaches and an all-time great team as part of its Class of 2018 inductees.

Those who will go into the H-W Hall of Fame are former basketball great **Bill Poehler** (Class of 1965), volleyball and basketball standout **Jennifer Winslow Flynn** (Class of 1989), soccer and swim superstar **Susie Herrick Lizotte**(Class of 1995), track and soccer all-star **Katie Chen** (Class of 2000), former football coach **Dan Kadaris**, ex-boys soccer and softball coach **Cliff Mello**, and the 1965 Generals' boys basketball team.

The Class of 2018 induction ceremony will take place Tuesday, Nov. 20 at the Myopia Hunt Club in South Hamilton beginning at 6:30 pm. Information regarding ticket purchase for the event will be posted to the athletic section of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School web site in the near future.

Monday's area roundup Falcons volleyball bounces back, tops H-W

**Sep 10, 2018
VOLLEYBALL**

**Danvers 3, Hamilton-Wenham 0:** The Falcons moved to 3-1 with a 25-18, 25-14, 25-14 triumph on Monday, getting five aces and 17 assists from sophomore Lily Eldridge to lead the way. Classmate Carly Goodhue added three aces and five kills in the win, while junior Maddie Montanari had three blocks and five kills. Though the Generals (2-1) took their first loss, captain Vanessa Brown had 10 digs, captain Rose Wosepka had four blocks and Tori Belise served six straight points with an ace.

**Fenwick blanks Hamilton-Wenham to give Woods 150th career win
By Dan Harrison Correspondent
Sep 7, 2018**

PEABODY — When a football team loses its starting senior quarterback early in the first quarter on opening night, it helps to have a punishing, smothering defense.

It helps even more when your sophomore back up signal caller steps in and plays with the patience and poise of a seasoned veteran.

Bishop Fenwick shut out Hamilton-Wenham, 28-0, at home thanks to a stellar defensive performance and the offensive command of sophomore quarterback Chrys Wilson, who stepped in for the injured Cory Bright after the latter suffered an injury on the opening drive.

“He’s a tough kid; he’s a winner,” Fenwick (1-0) head coach Dave Woods said of Wilson, who played most of the game at linebacker. “To come off the bench and step in like that ... Chris is a winner and a great kid.”

The victory was the 150th of Woods' career as Fenwick's head coach.

Bright, a four-year starter who has battled injuries in the past, appeared to suffer an upper body injury on the first drive and did not return.

The Crusaders opened the scoring on their second drive when Wilson took a keeper two yards to paydirt to make it 7-0 before Wilson showed some next-level patience to make it a two-score game before half.

The hosts had run a lot of quick screens throughout the night when, with just over 30 seconds in the half, Wilson faked a quick screen and then waited for senior captain Derek DelVecchio to get a step on his man before firing a strike to a slanting DelVecchio, who fought his way across the goal line.

H-W (0-1) allowed 161 yards on 13-of-16 passing from the sophomore. Freshman Jason Romans was 2-for-2 for 39 yards, including a 12-yard TD to Jordan Maurice in the fourth quarter.

“Not a good showing for us,” said Generals skipper Jim Pugh. “Couple of big plays and penalties hurt us. But hats of to Dave and his players; they’re a good football team.”

As for his own players and the outlook for Hamilton-Wenham, Pugh emphasized one thing over and over.

“It’s Week 1. We will get better,” he said.

Ahead 14-0 at the half but missing their offensive maestro, Fenwick went into the locker room — where Woods credited his remaining captains Keegan O’Connor, DelVecchio and Tom MacDonald for rallying the team.

The three captains were immense with DelVecchio and O'Connor dominating in the secondary while MacDonald was a force in the trenches on both sides of the ball. DelVecchio capped the sterling performance by ripping the ball away from a receiver to intercept the opposing quarterback late in the fourth.

"They kicked our butt," Pugh said of the Crusaders. "They beat us in all three phases of the game."

Junior Joe Rivers also sparked the second half defensive showing for Fenwick, which allowed only 85 yards of offense on the night.

“Credit the captains; they got the kids fired up," said Woods. 'We came out and played some intense defense in the second half. We laid some nice sticks. It was fun to watch.”

David Cifuentes (4-for-4 on extra points) added a 1-yard TD rush in the third, which was set up by a 39-yard seam pass from Wilson to Rivers.