

Easton to hold 2nd Annual Easton Football “Night of Champions”

(Red Rover Football Program to honor championship teams from 1962, 1967, 1987, 2012 prior to the October 6, 2017 game versus East Stroudsburg North High School)

June 29, 2017

EASTON, PA. – The Easton Area School District Department of Athletics is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Easton Football “Night of Champions” to be held prior to the Friday, October 6 game versus East Stroudsburg North High School at Cottingham Stadium. The “Night of Champions” is an opportunity to annually honor significant championship teams from Easton’s storied football history on a milestone anniversary. As part of the 2017 ceremony, four past championship teams will be honored, two teams from the Bob Rute era, one from Bob Shriver’s tenure, and one of Steve Shiffert’s title-winning squads. The 2nd annual pregame event (6:35pm) will honor the 1962, 1967, 1987, 2012 Red Rover Football teams.

The 1962 football team is celebrating the 55th anniversary of their shared Big 5 (Dieruff, Liberty, Allen, Phillipsburg, Easton) championship. This Bob Rute coached team completed the season 6-2 and shared the championship with William Allen. The Rovers’ biggest win was a 13-6 victory over the William Allen Canaries, with Steve Lisinichia and Fred Vinson scoring touchdowns for Easton.

50 years have passed since Coach Bob Rute’s last squad, the 1967 Red Rovers, won the Big 5 and Big 6 (Allen, Dieruff, Liberty, Neshaminy, Pennsbury, Easton) Championships with a record of 9-0-1. The Rovers scored 343 points and posted 5 shutouts. The team posted big wins over Neshaminy, Pennsbury, and Dieruff, which was coached by former Rute assistant Jeep Bednarik. Standout members of the team included Phil Noto, who was named 1st Team All-State (AP), Daryl Woodring, Mike Jones, Bob Pilz, and Art Seymore. The 1967 team contributed to a 24 game unbeaten streak for the Rovers that began in 1966 and lasted into the 1969 season.

The 1987 team is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The Bob Shriver coached Rovers finished the season 11-2, winning the East Penn Conference title. Big victories during the season included Allentown Central Catholic, Bethlehem Catholic, and Dieruff. Steve Bookwalter was 3rd team All-State and Fred Simmons (RB/DE), Ted Horvath (LB), Jeff Staton (DB, PR), Derrick Moore (TE), and Tony Guadagnino (K) were all named 1st team All EPC. Current Head Coach Jeff Braidon was the program’s scholar-athlete. The team was part of a 19 game EPC winning streak.

The 2012 Red Rover Football Squad is celebrating its 5th anniversary. Coached by Steve Shiffert, the team finished their season 10-2, earning a share of the Lehigh Valley Conference Championship. The team was led by senior captains Austin Brown, Tyler Greene, and Matt Mowad. Brown, an impact running back and linebacker ended his senior year by participating in the PSFCA East-West Game and the Big 33 Football Classic. He continued his football career at the University of Maine. Tyler Greene, a two-way lineman, was selected as 3rd Team All-State by the Pennsylvania Football News and went on to wrestling at Bucknell University. Matt

Mowad, a tight end and defensive end, continued his football career at the collegiate level at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Other standouts on the team included wide receiver and defensive back Xavier Jenkins, who continued his career at Central Connecticut State University and Millersville University, as well as current Towson player and record-setting Easton running back, Shane Simpson. With their season cut short in the District XI playoffs, the 2012 Rovers rebounded to defeat Phillipsburg, 35-18 on Thanksgiving Day, behind an Easton record-tying 5 touchdown passes from QB Brad Wilkins.

The Easton-East Stroudsburg North Eastern Pennsylvania Conference football game will kickoff, Friday, October 6, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. ET. Those planning on being part of the pregame ceremony should report to the Bob Rute Memorial Field House by 6:05 p.m.

Former players, coaches, and staff members interested in being honored and attending the event should RSVP to the athletic office (610-250-2575), Matt Baltz (baltzm@eastonsd.org) by Friday, September 29.

Purchase Easton Area High School football tickets by visiting www.eastonrovertickets.com or calling the Easton Area School District Athletic office at 610-250-2575.



Order of events for the evening:

- Honorees meet outside Bob Rute Field House by 6:05PM(tentative)
- Timeline
 - 6:30(tentative)
 - Teams take the field as Greg Hess gives introduction on the “Night of Champions”
 - 6:32(tentative)
 - Greg will go through the written summaries of each team’s accomplishments and acknowledge each team with a round of applause from the spectators
 - 1962 on Field House 35 yard line
 - 1967 on Field House 45 yard line
 - 1987 on Scoreboard 45 yard line
 - 2012 on Scoreboard 35 yard line
 - Following a closing recognition/applause for all teams, teams will be invited to create human tunnel to welcome the current Rovers onto the field