

## PRESS RELEASE

December 19, 2013

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE MONTCLAIR H. S. FOOTBALL TEAM 2013 NORTH JERSEY SECTION 1, GROUP 5 STATE CHAMPIONS**

**Undefeated Team Captured Its 2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive State Championship at MetLife Stadium**



Freeholder Brendan Gill (front row, far left) sponsored and presented the Board's commendation to members of the 2013 State Champion Montclair High School Football Team and staff. He was joined by his freeholder colleagues Blonnie Watson, Freeholder President (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Leonard Luciano (2<sup>nd</sup> row, far right). Also pictured above are Head Coach John Fiore (front row, far right) and Jeff Gannon, Interim Assistant Principal for Athletics and Student Affairs (front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right). PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – The 2013 State Champion Montclair High School Football Team was honored by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders during its Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the Hall of Records. The Mounties won the North Jersey Section 1, Group 5, state championship and finished their season undefeated for the second consecutive year when they defeated previously-unbeaten Ridgewood High School, 33-0, at MetLife Stadium on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board's commendation was sponsored and presented to the team by District 5 Freeholder Brendan Gill who resides in Montclair and is a Montclair High School alumnus (Class of '92).

“It is my honor to have you here tonight for the second year in a row to recognize you for your amazing undefeated season, your back-to-back championships, and for representing ‘Montclair Pride’ so well”, said Freeholder Gill. He went on to explain that football is deeply ingrained in Montclair's identity and is

passed-on from generation to generation, “as my father did with me when he brought me to games at Woodman Field as far back as the early 1980’s, and as I am now doing with my 5-year old son.” “You should be very proud of all you’ve accomplished and for bringing so much pride to the community, and to people you will probably never know”, said Gill, “and I look forward to making it a new Freeholder Board tradition to have you back here every year. Congratulations!”

The Mounties won the school’s 24<sup>th</sup> state championship title overall, its 6<sup>th</sup> since the establishment of the current playoff system, and have won more interscholastic football games than any other public high school in New Jersey history. The team is currently enjoying a 24-game winning streak and this year outscored its opponents by the combined score of 464-97, an average score-per-game of 39-8. In final season-end rankings, Montclair is ranked #6 in the state (the highest of any public high school) and as the #1 Group 5 team in the state and the #1 team in Essex County.

Head Coach John Fiore thanked Freeholder Gill and the Board for their support as well as for their work on behalf of the residents of Essex County. He also thanked Montclair Superintendent Dr. Penny MacCormack, Principal James Earle and Athletic Directors John Porcelli (retired) and Jeff Gannon (interim) because, “without their support we wouldn’t have been able to achieve this.” Fiore also introduced members of the team who attended the presentation: Elijah Robinson, Kevin Robinson, Jack Giordano, Zach Jones, Sterling McAndrew, Darius Slade, DeAndre Smith, Kenny Rosario, Will Kline, Ibn Wallace and Greg DeFranco.

Speaking on behalf of his teammates, senior Will Kline thanked Freeholder Gill and the entire Freeholder Board “...for hosting and honoring the team, as well as Coach Fiore and his staff for working more than overtime to help this team succeed.” He also expressed the team’s appreciation to Interim Athletic Director Jeff Gannon and the entire Montclair community for their support.

The Montclair High School Football Team was coached by Head Coach John Fiore and Assistant Coaches Jamie Bittner, Kevin Batty, Pete Ramiccio, Daniel Roberts, George Sanguiliano, Eugene Kline, Rae Oliver, Doug Moore, Vinny Pelli, Garland Thorton, Dan Gonzalez, Robert Ferraro, Michael Maffucci, Anthony Maffucci, Michele Chemidlin, Sean Rothenburger and Mike Stoia, and is comprised of the following members: **Seniors** Tauqeer Boyd, Rae Oliver, DeAndre Smith, Gerard Brown, Will Sanders, Ibn Wallace, Wyatt Bigley, Stefan Henry, Kenny Rosario, Will Kline, Donovan McDonald, Alan Nelson, Sterling McAndrew, Jacob Vogel, Jahmille Campbell, Ross Emad Miller, Zach Jones, Austin Stevens, Darius Slade, Chris Striker, Andre Staton, Delano Henry, Shaq Jones, Greg DeFranco, James Geathers, Michael Giles, Jonah Oliver, Kenneth Davis and Jean-Pierre Ullrich; **Juniors** Kevin Robinson, Elijah Robinson, Oji Balija, Jamil Best, Parker McGowan, Amir Karim, Chanse Riley, Tyler Riley, Sam Crutchfield, Ian Leong, Alfred Lumpkin, Jr., Richard Christian, Patrick Spencer, Anthony Cody, Altereque Jones, Shaquan Oliver, Taymar Walters, John Mulgrew, Chris Mangrum, Marcell Brown, Jack Giordano, Krys Diaz, Mario Sokolic, Ben Crawley, Jordan Tassy, Moises Rodriguez, Jahlil Rice and Joshua Harris; and **Sophomores** Zaire Pratt, Austin Reichard, Khalid Branch, Joe Valentine, Josh Nelson, Thomas Iovine, Jason Campbell, Chris Gonzalez, Isaiah Smith, Stanley Charles, Devin Alonzo, Emerald Byers, Isaiah Hines Allen, Tiaron Jenkins and Elijah J. Robinson; and **Freshmen** Chris McCoy, Liam Devine-Carter, Chris Toone, Randon Pascall, Brandon Doggett, Charles Edwards, Jeremiah Chinn, AJ Brown, Tyler Diggs, Dallas Young, Robert Nicolas, Junior Desir and Gerald Futrell, Jr.

Freeholder Gill is currently serving his first three-year term as District 5 Freeholder, which includes the towns of Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair and Nutley. The other eight members of the Freeholder Board are: Blonnie R. Watson, President, of Newark; Patricia Sebold, Vice President, of Livingston; D. Bilal Beasley of Irvington; Rolando Bobadilla of Newark; Carol Y. Clark of East Orange; Rufus I. Johnson of Newark; Leonard M. Luciano of West Caldwell; and Gerald W. Owens of South Orange.

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**For Additional Information:**  
**Gary Kroessig, Public Information**  
**Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
**973-621-4452**  
[Gkroessig@freeholders.essexcountynj.org](mailto:Gkroessig@freeholders.essexcountynj.org)