



## **WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING About Friday NIGHT LIGHTS in New Madison, Ohio**

“The most important things we can pass on to our kids, especially in today's world, are hard work, respect and working as a team. Those qualities aren't always reinforced properly in society but there's no escaping them in the game of football. **I'm excited for the Tri-Village community and the opportunities young people will now have due to their new football program.**”

***-Matt Light, Purdue, New England Patriots 2001-2011, 3x Pro Bowl Selection, 3x Super Bowl Champion***

“The game of football has impacted my life in so many ways. Learning how to sacrifice for my teammates and overcoming adversity are probably the most important lessons I learned while playing football at St. Henry. Maybe most important, it helped bring our community together during autumn Friday nights. The teams we have had in the past and the Championships we have won are something our community shares together and has forever.”

***-Bob Hoying, Ohio State 1992-95, Philadelphia Eagles 1996-98, Oakland Raiders 1999-2001***

“Many of us have our favorite college or professional football team. We are often even passionate as we root for these teams from afar. We rarely actually know any of those players. But with our hometown high school team, it is much more intimate. Out there on the field, playing the game in its purest form, is the boy next door, the kid from down the street, the boy who has mowed our lawn, and our own sons. We know them. We know their families. It is personal.”

“For ten Friday nights in the fall, we come together as a community. We sit in the stands as one community, our senses filled with the smell of the grass, the hot dogs and popcorn. It matters not that we are Democrats, Republicans, farmers, shopkeepers or lawyers. We are, for three hours, united as we watch with pride “our boys” battle “the other guys”.

“As the pageantry unfolds on the field, perhaps we think back to the glory and legend of past seasons. It is this tradition that serves as a bond from one generation to the next. We embrace that notion as, in many ways, it helps define us. As we take it all in we ask ourselves, while the

“Boys of Fall” leave it all on the field simply for the love of the game, where would you rather be on a Friday night in the fall?”

“Is there anything more “American” than this?”

***- Ed Domsitz, Alter High School Football Coach, Overall Record of 295-142, Division IV State Title in 2008-09***

“There’s nothing that galvanizes the start of a school year and its community like high school football. That was true 50 years ago and it’ll remain ingrained in our culture 50 years from now. No breaking news there; but now the residents of New Madison can join in all the fun. Well done Patriots fans; you’ve earned this.”

***-Marc Pendleton, sports staff writer, Cox Ohio Media Group, Dayton Daily News***

“As a former college coach and administrator, I have watched current Superintendent Josh Sagester grow from a student-athlete into a fine educator and community leader. His vision is to be commended. Tri Village already sets the gold standard for athletics in the Cross County Conference, and boasts one of the most well respected athletic departments in all of Southwest Ohio. Adding football to this already proud and ultra-supportive community will be huge. It won’t take long for the Patriot football team to contend for titles, just like in all other sports.”

***-Mike Gillespie, former NCAA Division I Basketball Coach***

“A well supported high school football program, in both urban areas and small towns, can play a large role in the development of young men. Football has opened many doors in my life, but it all started with community support and positive role models at the middle school and high school level. I still remember the pride I felt wearing my high schools colors every Friday night. **I wish the newly formed Tri-Village HS football program unlimited success.**”

***-Tony Carter, 6 year NFL veteran, Denver Broncos***

“High School football can often times be the life blood of a community, a source of pride for a school, and an immeasurable tool used in building and shaping the lives of young men. A well-disciplined high school football program can teach lessons that the boys will carry with them for years to come. Wins that will be noticed in the future, as these boys turn into the men that become husbands, fathers, and disciplined leaders in our communities. But very little can be achieved in high school athletics without parental and community support.”

***-Gordie Gillespie, Former Head Football Coach, Joliet Catholic (IL) HS. 222-54 record. Five state championships, selected by the [Chicago Tribune](#) as the head coach of the newspaper's All-Time Illinois High School Football Team.***

“Friday night high school football has been a part of America’s fabric for a long time. In my opinion there is no better venue for the game than in small towns and communities. In those places, a high school football game can become more than just an athletic contest. In those small towns, Friday night’s game can become a gathering place for the entire community. It is an event where a community’s core values can be demonstrated through the fans, cheerleaders, band members and players on the field. It is an event where the town’s folks can become united to support their community’s children, and to exhibit their community’s pride. There is nothing better than Friday night football in small town America!”

***-Craig Turner, University of Dayton Special Teams Coordinator***