

Letter about Coach “Rippy” Philipps

My name is Coach Andrew Verboys, 31 years ago I started teaching and coaching in Scarsdale. It has been an amazing opportunity being part of the Scarsdale community. I have been very fortunate over my career at Scarsdale having won a national teaching award and a national coaching award for the school district. Although it is my name on those awards, I am the first to realize that I have had some great people supporting me along the way that has led too much of my success as an educator. But, there is one name that stands out at the top of that list of people who have supported me throughout my career here at Scarsdale and that is, Richard Philipps, best known as Rippy.

I would like to share a true story that I was part of. The year was 1994 and Scarsdale High School announced to the community that the following fall the high school would not have a varsity football team. Due to the numbers being so low in the program, they decided to only have the football program consist of a JV team. Rippy, at the time was living the dream in New York City when his Dad called him with the news. The next day Rippy packed up his apartment and moved to Scarsdale, buying a house and starting his plan to bring back varsity football for the community and the kids. Rippy, knowing the numbers were down in the younger grades, knew he had to create excitement in those grades so that the High school would eventually have the numbers they needed. In 1995, Rippy took over the youth program and for the last 25 years has been the beacon of light, growing the program every year to heights it would have never reached without him. His countless hours and energy has been the fuel that has driven so many student athletes to great feats over the years. I have had a front row seat in watching how Rippy operates, with such energy and passion. His energy has been contagious for many, including myself. He has inspired me as a varsity coach to do more for my program every year. I came back to Scarsdale as head coach in 2006. Prior, Scarsdale had gone 14 years with only one winning season. Now, to date, Scarsdale in the last 15 years has only had one losing season. But, more importantly we have seen many players go on to play college football. The success of my high school program stems from the hard work Rippy has done with the youth program, the foundation he laid 25 years ago. For no pay and countless hours, Rippy has held a position over the years that not many are knocking down doors to sign up for. He has held it out of choice and has held it proudly, serving the community members of Scarsdale.

Sincerely
Andrew T Verboys
Head Football Coach
Scarsdale High School