

December 20, 2021

Dear Board of Trustees,

My name is Andrew Verboys Jr. and I am writing to you all on behalf of renaming Crossways field in Rippy Philipps name.

I have been a football player my whole life. Growing up in a football family of coaches, all I have ever known is football in the fall. My Dad has been a high school football coach my entire life. When I was younger, Armonk, the town I lived in, did not have youth football. From the time I started playing flag football in pre-school to the time I was in 3rd grade, my parents were always scrambling to find a town I could play football in. They usually went with whatever town my Dad was coaching in at the time. To start my youth football career, I never felt a real feeling of team or community and never had a sense of what unity was like on the football field, largely because every fall I was playing for a new team, with new teammates and new coaches. That all changed for me when my Dad made a call to Rippy and he welcomed me to the Scarsdale youth football program he had been running.

That first year I had in the Scarsdale youth football program was a year I will always remember as a turning point of my football career. It was also a year in which I will always remember because I enjoyed football like I never have before up to that point in my life. The Scarsdale community welcomed me with open arms, the coaches grew my confidence, the kids became my best friends, the parents cheered me on before and after the games, and I finally felt like I belonged to a team. I felt like I was part of a program and I was only in the 3rd grade at the time. I remember thinking to myself, "I can't wait to get older and play for that big guy that yells a lot, his teams never lose." That big guy that yelled a lot that I dreamed of playing for in 3rd grade was Rippy. After that 3rd grade season I told my parents I never want to play anywhere again, I want to be a Scarsdale Raider. My dream as a 3rd grader came true a couple years later and I got to play for that big guy that yelled a lot. We lost two games in two years together but we made memories together that we still talk about to this day. A couple years after that my other dream came true, I got to play at the varsity level for my Dad...as a Scarsdale Raider.

Rippy was a huge part of my childhood memories growing up playing the game I love. At a young age, he gave me something that is very hard to come by in this sport of football, and that is opportunity. He gave me an opportunity that created memories and feelings through a sport that will last a lifetime. He helped my mindset, he helped me grow, he created relationships for me and he made me focus on the positive outlook. He created unity and respect amongst the players on his teams and he gave me a youth career that helped direct my future. There was a certain, special pride Rippy instilled in his players in wanting to be a Scarsdale Raider.

I have been fortunate enough to play football at every level from youth to high school to prep school to college division 1a to college division 1-aa to finally, professionally. I did not travel up those ranks of playing because of pure skill; I traveled up those ranks because I worked hard at my skill. But there is one other important thing that took me to the heights of playing professional football and that is my love of the game. My parents created my love of the game with how they raised me and how they sacrificed for my career and I throughout my life, I owe them everything and then some. But behind my parents impact, there comes Rippy. I would not have the experiences and memories of football I have today if it was not for Rippy. The man that has always supported me everywhere I have been since 3rd grade when I met him and the man that has enhanced my love of football for years, I could not think of a bigger honor to Rippy than have the field in which he started his program on named after him. A program that impacted so many kids lives, including my own, in such a positive way. Him and I have always said to each other, there was always something special when #7, the old coach and Crossways Field got together on Saturday mornings in the fall. I hope one day another kid and Rippy could say the same thing but with one difference...the Richard "Rippy" Philipps Field at Crossways.

Thank you,

Andrew Verboys Jr.