



Josh Gannon

Director of Athletics & Physical Education
Vestal High School
205 Woodlawn Dr., Vestal, NY 13850
jtannon@vestal.k12.ny.us
607-757-2350

Press Release/For Immediate Release

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Contacts:

Josh Gannon, Director of Athletics, 757-2350, jtannon@vestal.k12.ny.us
Regina Felice, Public Information Coordinator, 757-2205, rmfelice@vestal.k12.ny.us
Gary Kaschak, GB Class of 1973 Media Liaison, 609-280-1645, gkaschak@comcast.net

Golden Bear Athletics announce Golden Bears Golden Anniversary Event

Vestal Central School District and Golden Bear Athletics will welcome football players from all over the country to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Vestal High School's first New York State Football Championship in 1973! Golden Bears from this team will be returning to Dick Hoover Stadium on Friday, September 22, 2023, to honor the school, the coaches, and the six players who have passed away.

Highlights include a pre-game team meeting* in the Vestal High School cafeteria. Guests of honor include Jeffrey Ahearn, Superintendent of Vestal Schools; Josh Gannon, Director of Golden Bear Athletics; Jim Hoover, son of legendary football coach Dick Hoover; and Chuck and Dave Ferris, sons of another legendary Vestal coach, Abe Ferris. The 1973 NYS Championship team photo will be reenacted.

Before the game against the Union-Endicott Tigers, the 1973 players will dedicate a new team monument.** A special commemorative coin will be tossed by the four honorary captains from the '73 Golden Bears to open the game. At half-time, members of the 1973 NYS Championship Team in attendance will be recognized on the field, and a check will be presented to the District, a legacy donation, to fund a new stadium scoreboard.

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***Note to media:** The team meeting in the high school cafeteria is not open to the public. Media representatives are welcome to cover, but please omit this event in the press release.

****Monument to the 1973 NYS Football Championship Team was funded entirely by donations from the 1973 GB '73 Team.**

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1973 Golden Bears

NYS Championship Team

Player Name	Jersey No.	Attending	Player Name	Jersey No.	Attending
John Knapp	10	✓	Barry Inman	25	?
Pat Gillard	11	✓	Tony Santare	41	?
Jim Gyles	12	✓	Pierre Labonte	66	?
Bernie Donachie	20	✓	Dave Labonte	67	?
Marty Rozboril	22	✓	Ray Cady	87	?
Dave Westfall	24	✓	Mike Gyles	89	?
Pete Riolo	26	✓			
Tim Dougherty	27	✓			
Bill Brown	30	✓	Bill Selsmeyer	42	Not attending
John Simek	31	✓	Calvin Cambridge	44	Not attending
Dave Opie	33	✓	Ron Lewis	50	Not attending
Jack Donachie	40	✓	Kell Purdy	51	Not attending
Jim Westfall	43	✓	Al Terpolilli	55	Not attending
Bruce Davie	45	✓	Gavin Kerr	71	Not attending
Don Kurey	46	✓			
Bruce Dunnett	47	✓			
Frank Valetta	53	✓	Jeff Cook	21	Deceased
Mike Ferris	54	✓	Tim Throup	32	Deceased
Rich McPherson	55	✓	Tom Grannis	52	Deceased
Carl Rathje	60	✓	Dave Dickenson	62	Deceased
Dave Walter	61	✓	Doug McGrossen	70	Deceased
Freddie Goodall	63	✓	Dave Lewis	82	Deceased
Jeff Kennicutt	64	✓			
Jon Bursch	65	✓			
Tom VanGorder	65	✓			
Mark Chubbuck	68	✓			
Bruce Machlica	72	✓			
Jay Evans	73	✓			
Duncan McCormick	74	✓			
Wyatt Rozboril	76	✓			
Ed Harmon	77	✓			
John Mattimore	78	✓			
Tom Roloson	80	✓			
Dave Kilmer	80	✓			
Mike Sabitus	81	✓			
Vince Bousa	83	✓			
Paul Sutton	84	✓			
Dave Engle	85	✓			
Jim McCormick	85	✓			

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