

# Jamestown's Mistretta wins Trench Trophy

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Joe Mistretta's last win of the season did not come on the turf at the Syracuse Carrier Dome on Saturday.

The two-way tackle from state champion Jamestown picked up another big victory on Tuesday, this time as the winner of the 12th annual Trench Trophy.

The 6-foot-2, 290-pound Mistretta was presented the award, given annually to the top lineman in Western New York, by retired NFL offensive line coach Jim McNally and NFL Hall of Famer Joe DeLamielleure before 220 at the Lancaster Elks.



*James P. McCoy/Buffalo News*

Jamestown's Joe Mistretta is presented the Trench Trophy by former Bills offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure, left, and longtime offensive line coach Jim McNally.

"When I was a freshman I was watching some of the guys at my school get nominated and I always wanted to be the young guy coming through and finally getting there, it's a really big honor," Mistretta said. "There's the Connolly Cup and it's always about the skill players, and that's understandable, but linemen do work, too ... it's nice to have that incentive out there."

Mistretta had 86 tackles, including five sacks. He's been a starter in the Red Raiders' lineup for the past three years.

Winning the Trench Trophy also comes with a \$1,000 scholarship named for the late John Gebhardt, one of the Trench Trophy's founders. Mistretta is undecided on his college choice but is strongly considering Edinboro, along with Denison, the University at Buffalo and Syracuse.

He is leaning toward a degree in business or criminal justice. Academically he carries a 93 average.

Mistretta becomes the first player from Jamestown to win the honor. The Red Raiders finished 12-1, beating Henninger of Section III for the Class AA state title. Its 5-0 record in Class AA South earned them their third straight league title.

A Trench Trophy committee of 50-plus members chose Mistretta after scouting games during the season. Trench Trophy scout Daryle Gustavel said he saw Mistretta play in person and also watched plenty of film.

"A couple of years ago when Cortland Haines and John Czech were good linemen, we still noticed Mistretta," Gustavel said.

“He’s such an aggressive player, he’s strong, at defensive tackle he sheds off blocks, and he’s in the backfield before you know it. As an offensive lineman, he’s one of the reasons Jamestown are what they are.”

Linemen from all 74 high school football teams in Western New York were eligible.

Other nominees for the top honor were: George Attea (Williamsville North), Chandler Baker (Maple Grove/Chautauqua Lake), Michael Bowers (Randolph), Keyshawn Crawford (Cleveland Hill), Mike Kelleher (Maryvale), Evin Ksiezarczyk (West Seneca East), Matt Rymarczyk (Kenmore East), TJ Wheatley (Canisius) and Rob Wilson (Cheektowaga).