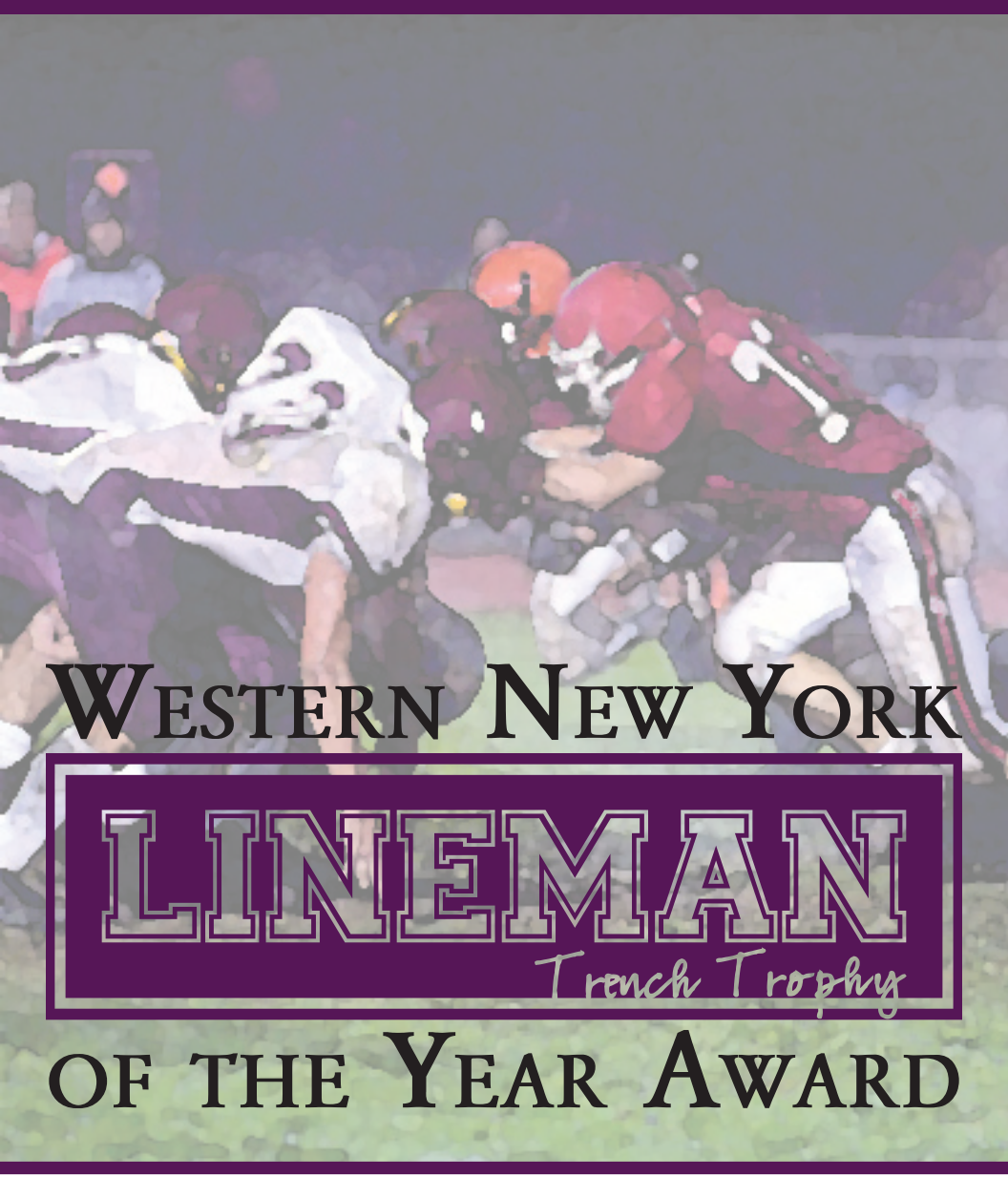


Western New York

LINEMAN

Trench Trophy

of the Year Award

#51 Troy Bigelow
Eden High School

#56 Jasen Carlson
Southwestern High School

#55 Dillon Gallagher
Williamsville South High School

#77 Eric Harnden
Grand Island High School

#78 Matt Hornung
Cheektowaga High School

2009 Finalists

#80 Desmond Howard
St. Francis High School

#91 Zack Marsh
Panama High School

#55 Sean Mulhern
Riverside High School

#51 Casey Shreve
North Tonawanda High School

#71 Kyle Shreve
North Tonawanda High School

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Tonight's Program

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

6:00 PM	Arrivals Welcome
6:30 PM	Opening Pledge of Allegiance *ER Bernard Wirth*
6:30 PM	Dinner by *All Occasions Catering LLC.* Salad Roast Beef Potato Vegetable Rolls and Butter Dessert Coffee and Soft Drinks
7:15 PM	Introductions and Acknowledgements History and Explanation of the Trench Trophy *Carl Kuras* Reading of Special Messages Guest Remarks *Kirk Chambers* Award Presentations *Executive Committee*
8:15 PM	2009 Trench Trophy Awarded
8:30 PM	Closing Remarks *ER Bernard Wirth and Committee*

2009 Trench Trophy Finalists

#51 Troy Bigelow
Eden High School

#56 Jasen Carlson
Southwestern High School

#55 Dillon Gallagher
Williamsville South High School

#77 Eric Harnden
Grand Island High School

#78 Matt Hornung
Cheektowaga High School

#80 Desmond Howard
St. Francis High School

#91 Zack Marsh
Panama High School

#55 Sean Mulhern
Riverside High School

#51 Casey Shreve
North Tonawanda High School

#71 Kyle Shreve
North Tonawanda High School

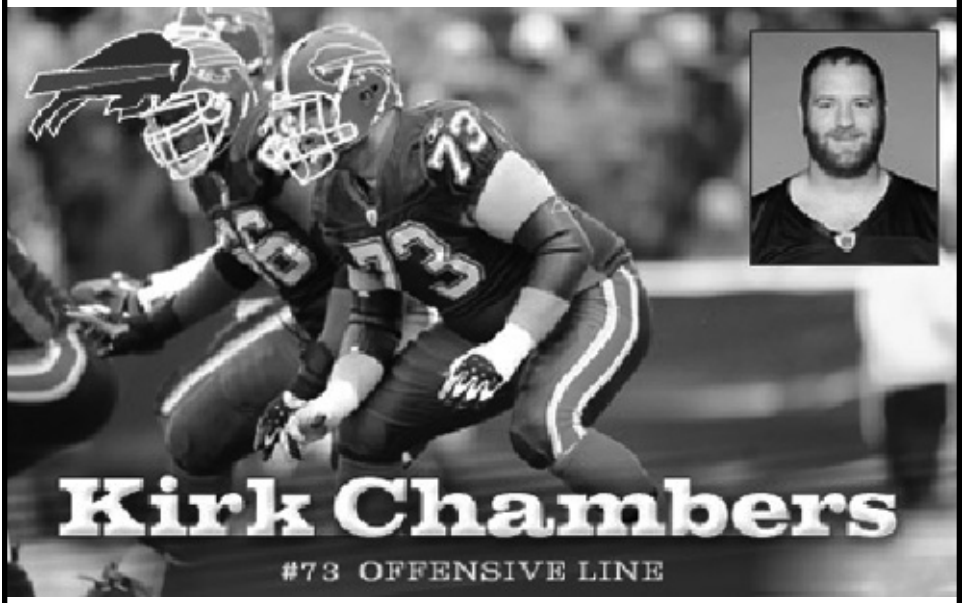
Trench Trophy Executive Committee

Kuras	Carl	Co-Chairman/Founder
Rizzi	Phil	Co-Chairman
Sciera	Ed	Co-Chairman
Zajac	Jerry	Secretary
Rizzi	Victor	Treasurer
Braun	Gary	Trustee
Cronin	Dennis	Trustee
Graver	Chuck	Trustee
Hajduk	David	Trustee
Keicher	Robert	Trustee
Pukalo	Bill	Trustee
Constantino	Sibby	Administrative Assistant
Kuhn	Len	Co-Founder

Trench Trophy Committee Members

Aldinger, Richard
Baccari, Dan
Barczykowski, Tom
Catanzaro, Jack
Damiani, Dave
Delzer, Bob Sr.
Delzer, Bob Jr.
DeYoung, Dave
DiRienzo, Lou
Eicheldinger, Rick
Fleischman, Jim
Gebhardt, John
Gesse, Ken
Graham, Glenn
Grffin, Steve
Hack, Dave
Huber, Chuck
Jankiewicz, Len
Klinger, Mark
Kolb, Jason
Kuhn, Jim
Kuras, Chad
Labenski, Tim
Maciejewski, Ken
Mason, Dennis
McGrath, Dan
O'Brien, Ken
Ozolins, Bernie
Palma, Matt
Rath, Mike
Schrantz, Mark
Sciandra, Angelo
Sugg, Harry
Terhart, Tom
Wegner, Brian
Wegner, Gary
Wegner, Ken
Whelan, Paul
Wilson, Brian
Zicittella, Bob
Zieziula, John

Guest Speaker



#73 Kirk Chambers
Offensive Lineman Buffalo Bills

Born March 19, 1979 in Provo, Utah, Mr. Chambers became a distinguished high school athlete, starting both on offense and defense in football, and was a member of championship winning basketball teams in 1995 and 1997. He also participated in Track and Field, graduating in 1997. He was heavily recruited by Stanford and Brigham Young University, ultimately choosing Stanford. Before attending and playing at Stanford Mr. Chambers served a two year Church mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Berlin, Germany.

Mr. Chambers started all 45 games he played for Stanford, before being drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the 6th round of the 2004 NFL draft. He spent 2 years with the Browns before joining the Buffalo Bills in 2006.

Mr. Chambers married Marilyn Ord on June 23, 2001. The couple has four daughters–Marianne, Katie, Allison, and Claire.

Special Guests

Chuck Amo
President-Elect Section 6 Athletic Council

Jack Catanzaro
Union College All American

Milt Dickerson
Kensington Lions Club

Joe Foyle
Coaching Great and Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

Chuck Funke
Section 6 Football

Dick Gallagher
Editor and Founder of Western New York High School Sports

John Gebhardt
Former Maryland Football Standout and Lancaster Athletic Hall of Fame Member

Dennis Greene
Head Coach ECC Kats

Dave Hack
All-CFL Hamilton Tiger Cats Lineman and 1999 Grey Cup Champion

Jim McNally
Former NFL Offensive Line Coach

Wayne Philbrick
Former CFL Lineman

Dennis Sarow
Connolly Cup

Tom Terhart
Former NFL and CFL Lineman

Dave Thomas
Buffalo City Schools Athletic Director

Dick Wojciechowski
Monsignor Martin Athletic Chairman

Village of Lancaster Elected Officials

WGR Sports Radio 550 - Inside High School Sports
Tony Caligiuri with Sean, Roger, and Mike

'09 - '10 Lodge Officers

Victor Rizzi
Secretary

Gerald Zajac
Treasurer

Robert Wilde
Leading Knight

John Frelock
Loyal Knight

Mark Hubbard
Lecturing Knight

Lou Di Rienzo
Esquire

Sebastian Constantino
Inner Guard

Bernard Wirth
Exalted Ruler

Donald Massino
Chaplain

Paul Welker
Tiler

Calr Kuras
Don Airey
Bob Delzer
Robert Thomson
Bob Keicher
Trustees

Carl Kuras
Manager

With nearly 1 million members in more than 2,000 local lodges nationwide, the Elks is one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the world. The Lancaster Elks Lodge donates to numerous charitable causes on the local, state, and national levels. We offer numerous activities and services to not only our members and their families, but also the community. This great organization always welcomes new members with open arms, so if you're interested, let us know. Elks believe in the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, Fidelity, God, and Patriotism.

A few examples of what the Elks do for the community:

Hoop Shoot – Free Throw Program
Over 3 million boys and girls participated in 2009.
The largest co-educational sports program in the country.
Open and free to all boys and girls, ages 8-13.

Drug Awareness Programs
Provides resources to help educate children about the dangers of drugs.
Helps to support educators, parents, and community leaders, in their fight against youth drug use.

Scholarship Programs
Awards over $3.65 million in scholarships EVERY year, second only to United States Government.

Veterans Services
All 172 VA Medical Centers have a committee of Elks which helps to enhance the lives of our ill and aging veterans.

Elks National Foundation
The charitable trust has total net assets of over $390 million.
The ENF will distribute more than $17 million during the 2008-09 year.

2003 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Brandon Randle - Burgard
Alex Haney - Lockport
Justin Kindt - Depew
LaMar Russel - Cardinal O'Hara
Rich Zee - East Aurora

Week Two Nominations:
Matt Gioia - West Seneca West
Mike Enouch - Fredonia
Jerid Bradley - Catt. / Little Valley
John Domres - Amherst
Chris Smith - St. Francis

Week Three Nominations:
Doug Ingraham - Grand Island
John Wood - St. Joes
Gary Coughlin - Timon St. Jude
Eric Rogers - Burgard
Garvie Freeman - South Park

Week Four Nominations:
Ryan Amos - Cleveland Hill
David Filighera - West Valley
Adam Lake - Albion
Alex Port - North Tonawanda
Adam Rosner - Depew
Doug Worthington - St. Francis

Week Five Nominations:
Andy Benk - Lockport
Robert Colpoys - Niagara-Wheatfield
Keith Domon - Tonawanda
Gary Maull - Olean
Mike Rathbun - Maryvale

Trophy Finalists:
Class AA:
Alex Haney - Lockport
Class A:
Doug Ingraham - Grand Island
Class B:
John Livingston Eden
Class C:
Ryan Amos - Cleveland Hill
Class D:
Any Sickles - Randolph
Monsignor Martin:
Chris Smith - St. Francis
Harvard Cup:
Garvie Freeman - South Park
Brandon Randle - Burgard

Week Six Nominations:
Jerod Allen - Medina
Matt Graham - Orchard Park
John Livingston - Eden
Pat Neligh - Southwestern
Kyle Van de Velde - Lancaster

Week Seven Nominations:
Andrew Daines - Niagara Falls
Brad Maderer - Alden
Mike McGuire - Williamsville North
Joe Sadari - Medina
Josh Solem - Springville

Week Eight Nominations:
Mat Derx - Portville
David Dix - Hamburg
Steve Gaiser - West Seneca West
Justin Oddo - St. Joe's
Rob Webb - Lewiston-Porter
Justin Weber - Orchard Park

Week Nine Nominations:
Jerome Chambers - Lockport
Anthony Symanski - Lafayette
Matt Langsworthy - Southwestern
Jake Keller - Eden
Mike Antonelli - Grand Island

Week Ten Nominations:
Andy Sickles - Randolph
Joe Podlucky - Grand Island
Matt Miller - Portville
John Boyd - Orchard Park
Kevin Thie - St. Francis
Damon Fortner - Burgard

Trophy Finalists:
Ryan Amos - Cleveland Hill
Garvie Freeman - South Park
Matt Graham - Orchard Park
Alex Haney - Lockport
Doug Ingraham - Grand Island
Justin Kindt - Depew
John Livingston - Eden
Gary Maull - Olean
Brandon Randle - Burgard
Chris Smith - St. Francis
Doug Worthington - St. Francis

2004 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Joe Sidari - Medina
Chris Smith - St. Francis
Mike Rathbun - Maryvale
Jason Weber - Orchard Park
Chad Brooks - Albion

Week Two Nominations:
Matt Miller - Portville
John Gemza - West Seneca West
Darby Leroy - Lake Shore
Nick Sczczepanski - Canisius
Nick Rubert - Lockport

Week Three Nominations:
Adam Cruz - Tonawanda
Chris Murphy - Orchard Park
Carson Calabria - Albion
Tim Brown - Burgard
Matt Gartler - Iroquois
Jim Griffin - Timon

Week Four Nominations:
Adam Rosner - Depew
Adriel Santiago - South Park
Doug Worthington - St. Francis
Matt Sanscrainte - Cheektowaga
Josh Brant - Sweet Home
Steve Coan - Frewsburg

Week Five Nominations:
Peter Bittner - Williamsville North
Tom Cich - Williamsville East
John Pomarzynski - St. Mary's
Jim Nicotta - Eden
Nick Schmidt - West Seneca West

Trophy Finalists:
Tim Brown - Burgard
Steve Coan - Frewsburg
Matt Langworthy - Southwestern
Ian Margerum - Hamburg
Matt Miller - Portville
Jason Weber - Orchard Park
Alex Port - North Tonawanda
Adam Rosner - Depew
Adriel Santiago - South Park
Chris Smith - St. Francis
Doug Worthington - St. Francis

Week Six Nominations:
Jake Brant - Starpoint
Jaik Halpainy - Panama
Matt Henry - Alden
Robert Humes - Riverside
Justin Piershalski- St. Joe's
Alex Port - North Tonawanda

Week Seven Nominations:
Kyle Reeb - Cheektowaga
Ian Margerum - Hamburg
Scott Guenther - Lancaster
Mike Farraca - Williamsville East
Maurice Randle - Burgard

Week Eight Nominations:
John Hoog - McKinley
Chris Ryberg - Panama
Colin Thompon - Grand Island
Rob Gronkowski - Williamsville North
Kevin Wild - Amherst

Week Nine Nominations:
Jason Weber - Orchard Park
Alex Port - North Tonawanda
Doug Worthington - St. Francis
Adriel Santiago - South Park
Matt Miller - Portville

2005 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Jeffrey Beaver - Burgard
Ryan Mruk - Lancaster
Dan Warner - St. Mary's
Jeremy Kelley - West Seneca West
Ben Hendrick - Orchard Park

Week Two Nominations:
Andy Dlugosz - Timon/St. Jude
Matt Lodestro - Falconer
Pat Nowak - Cheektowaga
Matt Piazza - St. Joe's
Kevin Wild - Amherst
Rob Gronkowski - Williamsville North

Week Three Nominations:
Jacob Brant - East High School
Brandon Farrell - Cleveland Hill
Alex Herman - Hamburg
Brian Malak - Frontier
Terry Mimms - Mckinley
Joe Webb - Lackawanna

Week Four Nominations:
Drew Graziadei - Sweet Home
Andy Holland - Albion
Max Annis - North Tonawanda
Pat Garrity - Canisius
T J Bootey - Jamestown
Justin King - Grand Island
Nick Borgosz - Clarence

Week Five Nominations:
Mike Faracca - Williamsville East
John Milks - East Aurora
Greg Michaels - Orchard Park
Mike Appenheimer - Maryvale
Chris Pawlowski - West Seneca East
Jessie Jesonowski - Iroquois

Trophy Finalists:
Max Annis - North Tonawanda
Pete Bittner - Williamsville North
Abdullah Hadi - Lackawanna
Jesse Jesonowski - Iroquois
Justin King - Grand Island
Blake Eaton - Allegany Limestone
Tim McElwain - Randolph
John Hogg - McKinley
Jeffrey Beaver - Burgard
Jeff Papia - St Joe's

Week Six Nominations:
Dave Meadows - Ohara
Phil Budzinski - Depew
Jeff Papia - St. Joe
Julio Rivera - Riverside
Randy Pike - Panama
Jake Button - Niagara Falls
Marcus Bynes - Burgard

Week Seven Nominations:
Chad Boskat - Jamestown
Brad Braun - Starpoint
Trevor Henderson - Casadaga Valley
Kevin Eppinger - Silver Creek
Pete Bittner - Williamsville North

Week Eight Nominations:
Aaron Barczak - St. Mary's
Matt Sanscrainte - Cheektowaga
Brian Monaco - Amherst
Blake Easton - Alleghany Limestone
Brandon Antonelli - Grand Island

Week Nine Nominations:
Jim Lougen - St. Joe's
Ben Hallock - Pioneer
Jacob Brant - Starpoint
Mike Durwald - Lancaster
Joe Perlino - Sweet Home

Week Ten Nominations:
Justin King - Grand Island
Jeffrey Papia - St. Joe's
Abdullah Hadi - Lackawanna
Kevin Eppinger - Silver Creek
Tim McElwain - Randolph
Carlton Byrum - Depew

2006 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Brent Atkinson - Lewiston-Porter
Joe Inglut - Lake Shore
Mike Appenheimer - Maryvale
Nick Chrisman - Sweet Home
Sam Mantesanti - Medina

Week Two Nominations:
Nick Azzarelli - Tonawanda
Tyler Durinaa - Williamsville East
Dave Eron - St. Mary's
David Skrip - Albion
Phil Tardivo - Depew

Week Three Nominations:
Anthony Benson - Grover Cleveland
Randy Bloom - Orchard Park
Scott Boyer - Amherst
Colin Byrne - West Seneca East
Blake Eaton - Allegany-Limestone
Harrison Steinwald - St. Joe's

Week Four Nominations:
Carlton Byrum - Depew
Andy Dlugosz - Timon/ St. Jude
Kyle Gibas - Starpoint
Bob Giovino - Cleveland Hill
Abdullah Hadi - Lackawanna
Phil Ryan - West Seneca West

Week Five Nominations:
Pat Blizniak - East Aurora
Randy Colling - Pioneer
Anthony Crispo - Cardinal O'Hara
Neal Nelson - Falconer
Joe Rizzuto - Canisius
Gil Rodriguez - Frontier

Week Six Nominations:
Joe Depalma - Silver Creek
Nick Kakavand - Iroquois
Neil Raddu - West Seneca West
C.J. Ryan - St. Joe's
Maurice Tossah - Burgard
Joe Webb - Lackawanna

"Snow Storm" Nominees:
Corey Balcerzak - Lockport
Brad Dolce - Orchard Park
Nick Halett - Pine Valley
Tim McElwain - Randolph
Greg Michaels - Orchard Park
James Rayhill - Grand Island
Peter Violante - Lewiston-Porter
Andy Apperson - Maple Grove
Marcus Bynes - Burgard
Clifton Crotz - Catt./Little Valley
Cameron Hutcherson - East
Josh Jesonowski - Iroquois
Pat Linnane - Lew-Port
Jim Litz - Maryvale
Alex Mueller - Lackawanna
Chris Skubis - Clarence
John Urshel - Canisius

Trophy Finalists:
Mike Appenheimer - Maryvale
Andrew Apperson - Maple Grove
Anthony Benson - Grover Cleveland
Carlton Byrum - Depew
Joseph DePalma - Silver Creek
Abdullah Hadi - Lackawanna
Nicholas Kakavand - Iroquois
Gil Rodriguez - Frontier
Christopher Skubis - Clarence
Harrison Steinwald - St. Joe's

2007 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Randy Bloom - Orchard Park
Nick Christman - Sweet Home
Randy Colling - Pioneer
Tyler Durinka - Williamsville East
Paul Eaton - St. Francis

Week Two Nominations:
Corey Balcerzak - Lockport
Curtis Hairston - Cleveland Hill
Josh Jesonowski - Iroquois
James Skura - Clarence
Joe Webb - Lackawanna

Week Three Nominations:
Kevin Dudkowski - Depew
Niel Nelson - Falconer
Chris Schart - J.F.K.
Dan Skinner - Timon/St. Jude
Mike Smith - Grover

Week Four Nominations:
Mike Brown - St. Mary's
Tim Kopp - Maryvale
David Skrip - Albion
Drew Westcott - Hamburg
Randell Wilkie - East

Week Five Nominations:
Tim Boorady - Grand Island
Randolf Diamon - Ken. West
Tyler Freeman - Westfield
Marcellus Jones - Lancaster
Neil Raddu - West Seneca West
Aaron Roy - North Tonawanda

Week Six Nominations:
Jon Bayerl - Depew
Collin Byme - West Seneca East
Colton Erickson - Falconer
Jerome Fields - Williamsville North
Corey Hymes - St. Francis

Week Seven Nominations:
Anthony Christopher - Cardinal O'Hara
Zack Eldridge - Cleveland Hill
Jake Havernick - Cheektowaga
Sean Mulhem - St. Joe's
Sean Painter - West Seneca West

Week Eight Nominations:
Jared Falkenrath - Cardinal O'Hara
Art Garvey - East Aurora
Brenden Hammer - Cheektowaga
Robert Reed - Wilson
Dustin Synder - West Seneca West

Week Nine Nominations:
Anthony Benson - Grover Cleveland
Marquis Davis - McKinley
Peter Ewing - Nichols
Alex Golda - Lackawanna
Marcus McKoy - Lockport

Week Ten Nominations:
Nicholas Bonacquitti - Orchard Park
Mike Golombek - Cleveland Hill
Jon King - Southwestern
William Middlebooks - McKinley
Jose Rosario - Randolph

Trophy Finalists:
Corey Balcerzak - Lockport
Anthony Benson - Grover Cleveland
Randy Bloom - Orchard Park
Nicholas Christman - Sweet Home
Kevin Dudkowski - Depew
Zack Eldridge - Cleveland Hill
Art Garvey - East Aurora
Corey Hymes - St. Francis
Joshua "Mooch" Jesonowski - Iroquois
Jose Rosario - Randolph

Lancaster Elks Lodge Lineman Awards:
Colton Erickson - Falconer
Small School Underclassman of the Year

Nicholas Bonacquisti - Orchard Park
Large School Underclassman of the Year

2008 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Kevin Gerlach - Williamsville South
Xavier Hodge - Burgard
Dylan Kawalec - J.F.K.
Kevin Kieliszek - Lancaster
Don Rohauer - Alden

Week Two Nominations:
Nick Bonaquisti - Orchard Park
Boomer Brock - Iroquois
Chris Buck - Frontier
Curtis Hairston - Cleveland Hill
Josh Stockwell - Medina

Week Three Nominations:
Andrew Alvira - Timon/St. Jude
Blair Bell - Cheektowaga
Dillon Gallagher - Williamsville South
Corey Gens - Maple Grove
Jason Pazda - Clarence

Week Four Nominations:
Zack Alabadi - Lackawanna
Michael Crage - Starpoint
John Heisler - Maryvale
Justin Mesi - Orchard Park
Zach Weiland - North Tonawanda

Week Five Nominations:
Mark Biersbach - Depew
Ben Bunker - North Tonawanda
Sean Mulhern Jr. - St. Joe's
Xavier Robinson - Jamestown
Demetrious Smith - Cleveland Hill
John Urschel - Canisius

Trophy Finalists:
Chris Buck - Frontier High School
Ben Bunker - North Tonawanda High School
Corey Gens - Maple Grove High School
Reggie Green - Lackawanna High School
Curtis Hairston - Cleveland Hill High School
Ryan Harnden - Grand Island High School
Kevin Kieliszek - Lancaster High School
Justin Mesi - Orchard Park High School
Steve Phillips - Sweet Home High School
Donald Rohauer - Alden High School
Mike Smith - Grover Cleveland High School
John Urschel - Canisius High School

Week Six Nominations:
Kyle Colling - Pioneer
Jeremy Ferguson - Burgard
Reggie Green - Lackawanna
Nick Muscarella - Alden
Mike Smith - Grover Cleveland

Week Seven Nominations:
Jonathan Connors - West Seneca East
Jerome Fields - Williamsville North
Ryan Harnden - Grand Island
William Middlebrooks - McKinley
Mike Myers - J.F.K.
Brandon Potyok - Lancaster

Week Eight Nominations:
Stephen Jacobson - Salamanca
Zach Roberts - Silver Creek
Randall Wilkie - East
Pat Wilson - Canisius
Ryan Wilson - Sweet Home

Week Nine Nominations:
Jasen Carlson - Southwestern
Ryan DiFlavio - West Seneca West
Steve Phillips - Sweet Home
Gorden Schubert - West Seneca East
Jordan Smith - Riverside

Week Ten Nominations:
Chris Akromas - Sweet Home
Corey King - Fredonia
Aaron Kostrewa - North Tonawanda
Dan Lombardozzi - Clymer
Andrew Wascher - Maple Grove

Week Eleven Nominations:
Nathan Longbine - Orchard Park
Justin Love - St. Francis
Jordan Sisti - St. Francis
Dante Williams - Riverside
Andrew Zdrojewski - Canisius

2009 Nominees and Finalists

Week One Nominations:
Troy Bigelow - Eden
Brad Bowen - Iroquois
Brian Duquette - St. Joe's
Jeremiah Luderman - Lancaster
Dion Merrell - Amherst

Week Two Nominations:
Christian Barczykowski - Alden
Dillon Gallagher - Williamsville South
Matt Hornung - Cheektowaga
Matt Knotts - Niagara-Wheatfield
Zack Marsh - Panama
Tysean Rodgers - Sweet Home

Week Three Nominations:
Andrew Alvira - Timon/St.Jude
Jason Carlson - Southwestern
Sean Mulhern - Riverside
Matt Smolarek - Depew
Andrew Pingitore - Cassadaga Valley
Adonte Williams - Riverside

Week Four Nominations:
Ari Goldfarb - Nichols
Richie Massaro - Williamsville East
Mike Miller - Lafayette
Ryan Shanahan - Cleveland Hill
Casey Shreve - North Tonawanda
Kyle Shreve - North Tonawanda

Week Five Nominations:
Ryan DiFlavio - West Seneca West
Anthony Durno - Sweet Home
Deshawn Evans - Burgard
Kevin Gerloch - Williamsville South
Michael Gilmartin - Cardinal O'Hara
Willy Ruiz - Canisius

Week Six Nominations:
Andrew Becker - Williamsville North
Chad Ewanic - Hamburg
Alexander Jordan - Burgard
Zach Roberts - Silver Creek
Jeff Sley - Iroquois
Jasen Watts - East Aurora

Week Seven Nominations:
Keith Bykowski - Cheektowaga
Brandon Hite - Fredonia
Desmond Howard - St. Francis
Sean Kennedy - Lancaster
Kyle Moore - Albion
Marquan Myles - Niagara Falls

Week Eight Nominations:
Joe Boyd - Orchard Park
Eric Harnden - Grand Island
Paul Kenno - Niagara Falls
Weston Lederhaus - Lockport
Jesse Skubis - St. Mary's
Sam Tarasek - Hutch Tech

Week Nine and Ten Nominations:
John Holland - Canisius
Jeremy Keesler - Randolph
Domenic Principale - Clarence
Trevor Shutte - Southwestern
Alex Walczak - Cheektowaga
Andrew Wascher - Maple Grove

Trophy Finalists:
Troy Bigelow - Eden
Jasen Carlson - Southwestern
Dillon Gallagher - Williamsville South
Eric Harnden - Grand Island
Matt Hornung - Cheektowaga
Desmond Howard - St. Francis
Zack Marsh - Panama
Sean Mulhern - Riverside
Casey Shreve - North Tonawanda
Kyle Shreve - North Tonawanda

Livingston Wins Award as Top Lineman

The Buffalo News
December 7, 2003

John Livingston of Eden has been named winner of the inaugural lineman of the year award by members of the Trench Trophy Committee. The award, sponsored by the Lancaster Elks Lodge, takes into account a player's performance on and off the field, as well as attitude.

Livingston, a 6-foot-1, 285-pound senior tackle, helped open holes for an Eden backfield that averaged 267 yards per game. Eden finished 11-1, reaching the New York State Class B semifinals losing to Chenango Forks.

"Our committee felt Livingston kind of portrayed the intensity that carried Eden as far as they got," said committee chairman Len Kuhn. "We felt like he dominated on both sides of the ball, even against Chenango Forks, and that's what made him stand out above anyone else."

Livingston was chosen from a group of finalists that included Ryan Amos (Cleveland Hill), Matt Graham (Orchard Park), Alex Haney (Lockport), Doug Ingraham (Grand Island), Garvie Freeman (South Park), Justin Kindt (Depew), Gary Maull (Olean), Brandon Randle (Burgard), Chris Smith (St. Francis), and Doug Worthington (St. Francis).

Weber Wins Trench Trophy

The Buffalo News
December 5, 2004

Jason Weber, whose work in the trenches helped lead the Orchard Park football team to the Section VI Class AA championship, is this year's winner of the Trench Trophy as Western New York's superior lineman.

Weber was a three-year starter for the Quakers and was named to the All-Western New York first team. At defensive tackle, the 6- foot, 265-pound senior captain led OP in tackles with 90, and at right guard he helped create openings for running back Andy Pace (1,277 yards). Weber also finished fourth in the state as a heavyweight wrestler last year, is a shot put and discus thrower in track and is an Eagle Scout.

The Trench Trophy was created last year by the Lancaster Elks Club, which will host an award ceremony Dec. 14 at which Weber will be presented with a $500 scholarship. He will also be honored at Saturday's Western New York football banquet.

The Trench Trophy Committee, which included more than 50 scouts and coaches who attended games and viewed films throughout the season, picked an honor roll of top linemen each week before selecting 11 finalists.

The other finalists were: Tim Brown (Burgard), Steve Coan (Frewsburg), Matt Langworthy (Southwestern), Ian Margerum (Hamburg), Matt Miller (Portville), Alex Port (North Tonawanda), Adam Rosner (Depew), Adriel Santiago (South Park), Chris Smith (St. Francis) and Doug Worthington (St. Francis).

Trench Award: Jesonowski is Top Lineman

The Buffalo News
December 8, 2005

Jesse Jesonowski of Iroquois High School was awarded the third Trench Trophy as Western New York's most outstanding lineman Wednesday evening at the Lancaster Elks Lodge.

Other finalists were: North Tonawanda senior Max Annis, Williamsville North senior Pete Bittner, Grand Island senior Justin King, Lackawanna junior Abdullah Hadi, Allegany-Limestone junior Blake Eaton, Randolph junior Tim McElwain, St. Joe's senior Jeff Papia, McKinley senior John Hogg and Burgard junior Jeffrey Beaver.

Rodriguez Wins Hardware

The Buffalo News
December 14, 2006

The 2006 football season continues to get better for Gil Rodriguez of Frontier. Rodriguez was selected Wednesday as the winner of the Trench Trophy, which goes to the top lineman in Western New York. The presentation was made at the Lancaster Elks Lodge.

Rodriguez, a 250-pounder, was part of a Frontier team that made a break-through in his senior year. He suffered through two losing seasons with the Falcons before they finished 5-3 in 2006.

"He plays both ways, whistle to whistle," said Phil Rizzi, co-chairman of the selection committee. "He's known for his pancake blocks. He hustles and enjoys blocking."

The other finalists were: Mike Appenheimer (Maryvale), Andrew Apperson (Maple Grove), Anthony Benson (Grover Cleveland), Carlton Byrum (Depew), Joseph DePalma (Silver Creek), Abdullah Hadi (Lackawanna), Nicholas Kakavand (Iroquois), Christopher Skubis (Clarence), and Harrison Steinwald (St. Joe's).

Christman Wins Trench Trophy

The Buffalo News
December 6, 2007

John Hickey/Buffalo News
Carl Kuras, co-chairman of the Trench Trophy executive committee, joins winner Nick Christman of Sweet Home

The notion that Sweet Home had an exceptional line this season got a big boost Wednesday when two-way standout Nick Christman was named winner of the fifth annual Trench Trophy. The award, sponsored by Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1478, recognizes the top lineman in Western New York.

"I'm really excited because this is a really big thing and there are a lot of good kids out there," said Christman.

Christman was presented the award during a banquet attended by over 200 at the Lancaster Elks Club on Broadway. The event's guest speaker was Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame member Joe Foyle of Lancaster.

Christman, a 6-foot-2, 285- pound senior, was an offensive guard and defensive tackle. With Christman dominating on both sides of the ball, Sweet Home won Section VI's Class A title finishing with a 10-1 record. The Panthers' only loss was in the Far West Regionals to Aquinas of Section V. In that game Christman was named Defensive MVP.

"My goal on defense is to run sideline-to-sideline on every play and on offensive it's to knock the kid across from me on his butt. That keeps me going every play," said Christman. "You play as hard as you can and never give up."

The annual winner of the Trench Trophy is determined by a 51-man committee of qualified Elks Lodge members, local coaches and former players. During all 11 weeks of the football season, Trench Trophy scouts attended select games of all 87 teams in Western New York to rate and grade players for nominations. An original list of over 300 lineman was whittled down to a top 10.

Carl Kuras, a Trench Trophy co-chairman, said Christman was the top vote-getter on most ballots.

"The committee felt his tenacity on both sides of the ball was the deciding factor," said Kuras. "He had stamina to go both ways. He had a motor on both sides of the ball and displayed leadership. Being the MVP on a losing team in the Regionals is pretty impressive."

Christman played four seasons on Sweet Home's varsity team. For the past two seasons he was a first-team All-Western New York selection.

Previous winners of the award have been Gil Rodriguez (Frontier, 2006), Jesse Jesonowski (Iroquois, '05), Jason Weber (Orchard Park, '04) and John Livingston (Eden, '03).

Urschel wins Trench Trophy

Canisius tackle is top lineman

By Mary Jo Monnin
The Buffalo News
December 11, 2008

John Hickey/Buffalo News
High grades on the field and in the classroom helped two-way tackle John Urschel of Canisius earn the Trench Trophy, recognizing WNY's top lineman.

Seeing John Urschel compete against Aquinas and St. Francis was all Charlie Graver needed to convince him he was looking at this year's Trench Trophy winner.

The organization's head scout and 30 other committee members agreed as the Canisius senior was named winner of the sixth annual award Wednesday night before 200 at the Lancaster Elks.

"Considering Aquinas' reputation and the linemen and the size they had, even though Canisius lost the game, he was dominant," said Graver. "He was all over the field on every play on offense and every play on defense. He had that never-quit attitude."

The award, sponsored by the Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1478, recognizes the top lineman in Western New York. The committee includes members of the Elks Lodge, local coaches and former players. During the 13-week season, the committee scouted all 87 teams in WNY. Urschel was chosen from an original list of more than 300 candidates.

The 6-foot-4, 275-pound Urschel was a two-way tackle for the Crusaders (6-4), runners-up to St. Francis in the Monsignor Martin Association's League AA. Urschel was named to the All-Catholic first team in all three of his years as a starter.

His tremendous skills, along with a 94 academic average, has allowed him to consider Stanford, Princeton, Cornell and the University at Buffalo.

The timing of the award couldn't have been better for Urschel, who had an in-home visit with Princeton's head coach after the award presentation.

"This is a great feeling," said Urschel, who wanted to recognize his line coach Rich Robbins and head coach Brandon Harris. "I wasn't sure I was going to win it; these are all great players. It could have been any of us."

The event's guest speaker was longtime NFL offensive line coach and Kenmore native Jim McNally. He encouraged the athletes and their parents to "enjoy the journey" their high school years offer.

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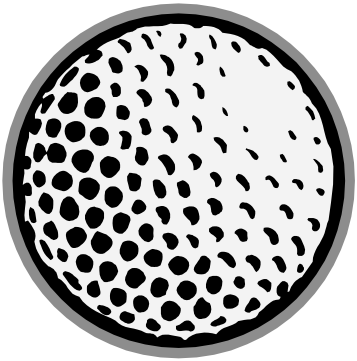

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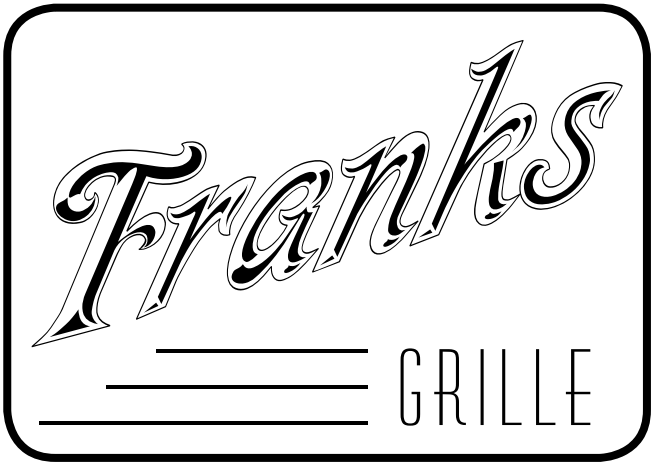

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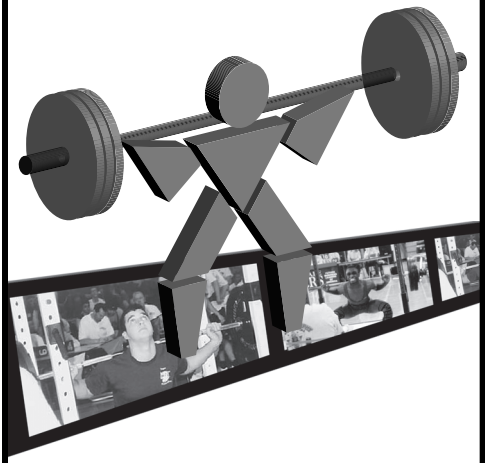

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