



IN ALL NEWARK FINAL, WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL BEATS OUT MALCOLM X. SHABAZZ FOR STATE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Weequahic's football team finishes undefeated season to take home first sectional championship in 10 years



Weequahic's coach, Brian Logan raises the championship plaque with his team (left). Weequahic's Iimir Marsette (6) evades a Malcom X. Shabazz tackle (right).

[Newark, NJ – December 6, 2016] – On Saturday, December 3, for the first time in the history of the New Jersey High School Championships, two football teams from Newark faced off for the title. Newark Public Schools (NPS) teams Weequahic High School and Malcolm X. Shabazz met in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 final at Kean University's Alumni Stadium, where Weequahic prevailed 18 – 8 over their long-time rival. This was Weequahic's fifth appearance in the sectional championships and their first title win since 2006.

“On behalf of Newark Public Schools, I want to congratulate both Weequahic High School and Malcolm X. Shabazz on their successful football seasons. Our student athletes and their families should be proud of their remarkable achievements this year,” said Superintendent Christopher D. Cerf. “Making it to sectional championships is a major accomplishment, and this year, it happened to be historic. The fact that both teams competing for the title this year call Newark home is truly special and serves as an important reminder of how talented the young people are in our community.”

The victory, and the matchup in the game, was particularly noteworthy because of the historic and intense rivalry between the two teams. Weequahic and Shabazz meet every year on Thanksgiving in the “Soul Bowl” and played each other just one week prior to the final – with Weequahic prevailing in that game 22 – 8. Both victories capped off a great year for Weequahic, who finished their season with 12 wins and 0 losses.

“Our championship was built on a sense of family and sticking together,” said Brian Logan, head coach of the Weequahic High School Football team. “I am incredibly proud of our team for rallying around each other through the good and the bad times this season, and overcoming many obstacles to achieve this victory.”

In addition to Weequahic’s success, Malcolm X. Shabazz had quite a year of its own. After winning only four games last year, Shabazz held an 8 – 3 record this year and stormed through the playoffs, winning their semifinal game 67 – 16.

“The New Jersey High School Championships was historic for the State of New Jersey and the City of Newark,” said Keith Veltre, Special Assistant in charge of Athletics for Newark Public Schools. “We are so proud of all of our players for such a strong showing at sectionals and for performing so well all season long. These coaches and players truly showed the state what Newark Football is all about.”

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