



*Welcome to this week's edition of the New York Jets Community Relations press release. We're excited to share the latest initiatives and events that highlight our commitment to making a positive impact in our community. From growing youth football to providing opportunities for disadvantaged populations, the Jets are dedicated to fostering a spirit of unity and support. Stay tuned for inspiring stories and updates on how we're working together to create lasting change both on and off the field.*

## Dakota Lasater Named Jets High School Player of the Week Fueled by Gatorade



Each week during the 2025 high school football season, the New York Jets and Gatorade will recognize a player of the week from the tri-state area. All players will receive a \$1,000 donation from the Jets and Gatorade to support their high school football program. Along with the monetary award, each recipient will be invited to attend the Jets vs. Dolphins game on December 7<sup>th</sup>, where they will be honored on-field at MetLife Stadium.

This week's recipient is Dakota Lasater, a junior quarterback out of Freehold Township High School in Freehold, NJ. In his first career start, Lasater led the Patriots to a 35-28 season-opening victory over Neptune. Lasater recorded 355 total yards and threw for four touchdowns. He also picked up a late-game rushing touchdown to seal the win for the Patriots. Lasater and his team will look to add to the win column in their upcoming matchup vs Colts Neck High School.

## Mark Certo Named Jets High School Coach of the Week

Mark Certo of Hopatcong High School in Hopatcong, NJ, has been named the first New York Jets High School Coach of the Week for the 2025 season. Coach Certo will receive a \$1,000 donation to benefit the school's football program. Along with the monetary award, Hopatcong High School will receive an automatic bid to compete in the 2026 New York Jets 11-ON Tournament.

Certo will be invited to attend the New York Jets vs. Miami Dolphins game on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, where he will be honored on-field at MetLife Stadium.

In its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the Jets High School Coach of the Week award is given to a coach in the tri-state area who serves the best interests of the game through the teaching of sound football fundamentals, the motivation of young players to achieve, and the promotion of youth football by way of dedication to their community, their school, and their student-athletes.

The Hopatcong Chiefs opened their season with a monumental 10-7 win over Elmwood Park, marking Certo's first victory as the head coach at Hopatcong. Entering his second season leading the Chiefs' football program, Certo also serves as the freshmen basketball coach and a fourth grade teacher in Hopatcong. Certo grew up in Middletown, NJ, and attended Mater Dei High School in Monmouth County. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University before going on to obtain master's degrees in both Elementary Education and Educational Administration. Certo's team, which includes two of his sons, looks to continue the momentum into their upcoming game against Manville.



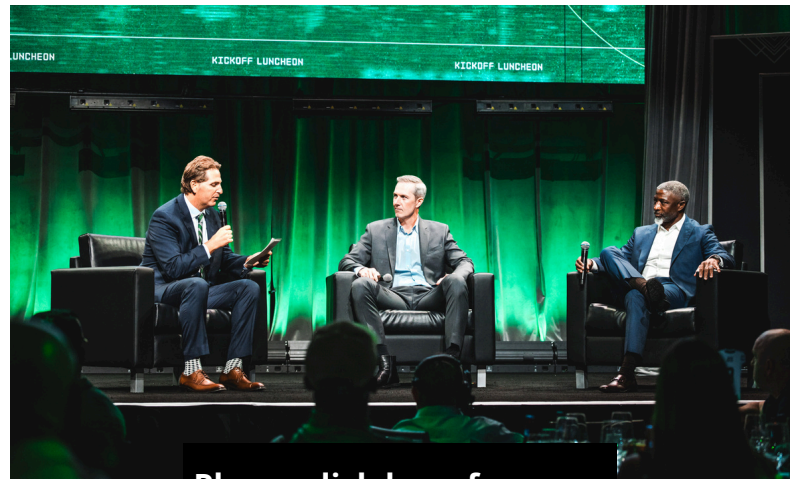




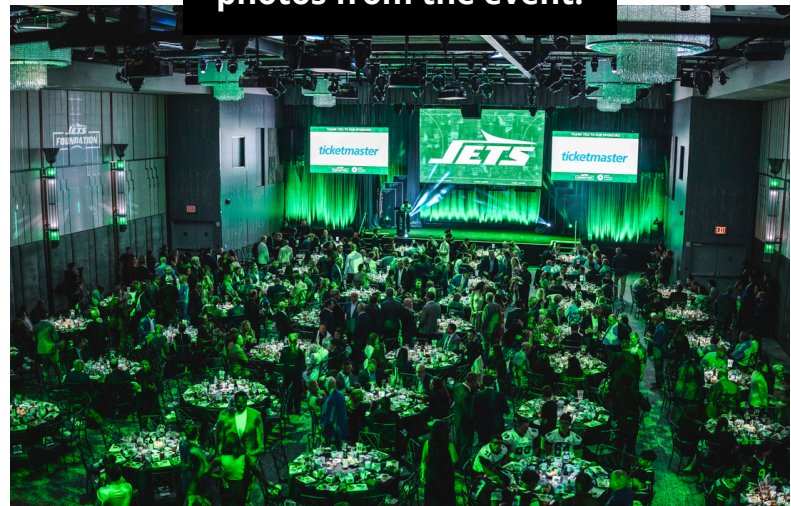
## Jets Head to Manhattan For Annual Kickoff Luncheon Benefiting the Lupus Research Alliance and Jets Foundation

The Annual New York Jets Kickoff Luncheon, held on August 28th, united players, coaches, staff, and fans in celebration of the upcoming football season while raising funds for two meaningful causes. Thanks to the incredible support of more than 600 enthusiastic attendees, the event generated over eight hundred fifty thousand dollars benefiting both the Lupus Research Alliance and the New York Jets Foundation.

Albert T. Roy, LRA President and Chief Executive Officer, had the honor of presenting the Game Ball Award to 2025 Luncheon Honoree General Atlantic Foundation, in recognition of the company's two decades of collaboration with the Jets. Kara Barnett, Managing Director, Head of General Atlantic Foundation, accepted the award on behalf of the company.



Please click [here](#) for more photos from the event.



We create impactful programming that leaves lasting legacies for our community. Initiatives funded by the New York Jets Foundation positively influence the lives of young people in the tri-state area and provide opportunity for disadvantaged communities.

The Jets are deeply committed to supporting the Lupus Research Alliance, the world's leading private funder of innovative research that can make a difference for people living with lupus. The Lupus Research Alliance has invested \$270+ million to more than 660+ lupus research projects at the most prestigious universities, medical schools, and hospitals throughout the world. As the Board of Directors covers all administrative and fundraising costs of the organization, 100% of all donations go directly to funding research programs. By pushing the limits of scientific exploration and shepherding new discoveries into potential treatments, the organization seizes every opportunity that will help ease the burden of people living with this difficult disease.



## Jets and STOMP Out Bullying Donate Wellness Room to Orange High School

The Jets unveiled their completed Wellness Room at Orange High School, which was outfitted with sensory-friendly items for its student body.

The Wellness room will provide a welcoming space that allows students to work through their emotions and manage stress in a calm and supportive environment.

In October of 2024, the New York Jets, in collaboration with STOMP Out Bullying, and former Jets defensive tackle Solomon Thomas - the team's 2024 Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee and co-founder of The Defensive Line - donated \$22,500 to furnish the custom Wellness Room for Orange High School's students.

Thomas spoke to students at Orange High School in October, sharing his mental health journey and the reasons behind founding The Defensive Line. He also discussed how students can cope with their mental health and become more emotionally intelligent.



End The Hate...  
Change The Culture

## Jets and SNY Host Linden Youth Tigers for Playball Clinic

The Jets and SNY hosted a local youth football team, the Linden Youth Tigers, for a clinic and a practice at the Atlantic Health Jets Training Center. Jets linebacker **Quincy Williams** helped run stations and held a Q&A session with the team following the clinic. Tune into SNY's SportsNite on Saturday, September 6 at 11 p.m. to watch the story air.

Each season, youth tackle programs can become eligible to participate in this experience by applying for an equipment grant. SNY accepts grant applications from youth football programs in the New York tri-state area with opportunities that may include a \$5,000 grant award, donation of footballs, football clinic, tickets to see the New York Jets, and more. For more information on how to apply, visit [sny.tv/events/playball](https://sny.tv/events/playball).

