



Vinny Donato Named Jets High School Coach of the Year

Vinny Donato of William Cullen Bryant High School in Queens, N.Y. has been named the 2025 New York Jets High School Coach of the Year. Coach Donato will receive a \$2,000 donation to benefit the school's football program, and Bryant will receive an automatic bid to compete in the 2026 New York Jets 11-ON Tournament.

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

In its 30th year, the Jets High School Coach of the Year 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.

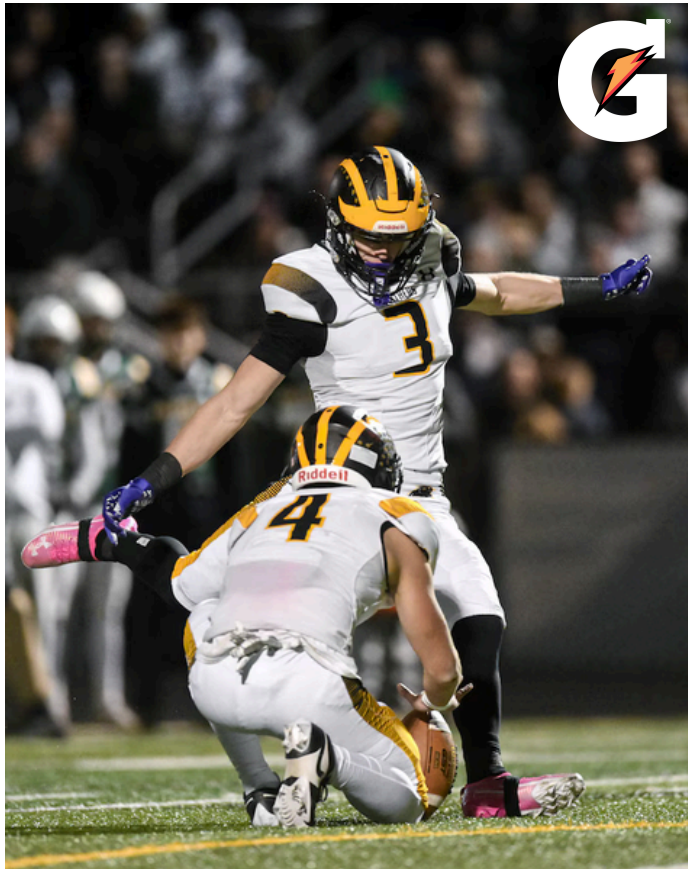
Coach Donato led William Cullen Bryant to victory in the 2025 New York City Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) 2A State Tournament—marking not only the school's first-ever state title in football, but the first year the program has won a playoff game in its 130-year history. During their postseason run, the Bryant Owls defeated second-seeded Boys and Girls High School and the top-seeded defending 2A champions Eagle Academy III. The Owls finished their historic season with a 10-1 record.

A native of Astoria, N.Y., Donato was the quarterback of Bryant's football team before earning a degree in political science from Queens College. In 2018, Donato returned to his alma mater to pursue a career in teaching and coaching at Bryant. Over the course of just six seasons, Donato has played a pivotal role in turning the Owls' football program around, as the team went from recording zero points or wins in 2020, to now having won this year's state championship. Donato also currently serves as Bryant's girls' flag football coach. Coach Donato looks to bring continued success to both the flag and tackle programs at Bryant.





Sebastian Kovacs 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 7th, where they will be honored on-field at MetLife Stadium.

The final recipient of the 2025 season is junior kicker Sebastian Kovacs of Cedar Grove High School in Cedar Grove, NJ. In the semifinals of the North 2 Group 1 NJSIAA playoffs, Kovacs drilled a career-long 49-yard field goal as time expired to lift Cedar Grove over Butler and send the Panthers to the state championship game.



Cedar Grove trailed 21-14 heading into the fourth quarter with their season on the line. After a dramatic drive to even the score and a clutch fourth-down stop by the defense, the Panthers put Kovacs in position for the game-winning attempt. Kovacs' kick secured the 24-21 victory for Cedar Grove, and shattered his previous career-long of 42-yards. Cedar Grove head coach Rob Gogerty described the moment Kovacs won it for the Panthers as "a culmination of how much he has meant to the program" in his career thus far. Kovacs and the Panthers finished their season with a 10-4 record and will look to continue to break records in 2026.



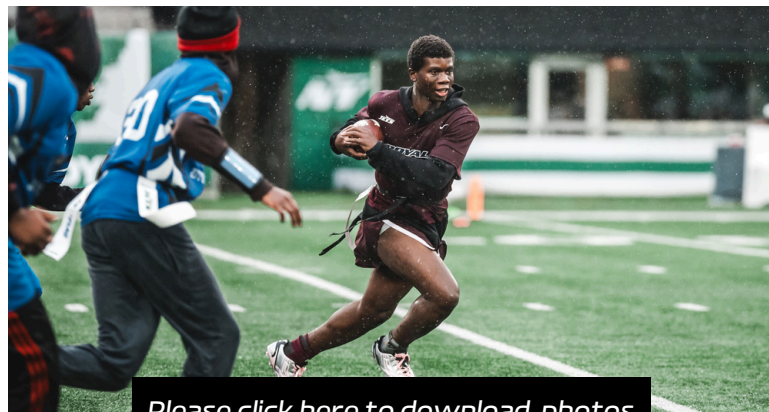
New York Jets Host New York City High School Unified Flag Football League Championships

Blue Knights, Royal Blue Jays, and Truman Warriors crowned champions

Dec. 4, 2025 - The New York Jets, in collaboration with Special Olympics New York, hosted the NYC Unified High School Flag Football League Playoffs and Championship on Tuesday, December 2nd at MetLife Stadium. 12 participating high schools, Truman, Harvest Collegiate, Business Technology, School for Teaching, Edward R. Murrow, InfoTech, Frank Sinatra, Academy for Careers in Film & Television, Law and Public Service, Law Enforcement & Public Safety, Renaissance, and 35M competed in the league's second season that culminated in Tuesday's championship games. At the conclusion of the championships, the 35M Blue Knights, the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Royal Blue Jays, and the Truman Warriors were crowned the 2025 champions of Divisions A, B, and C. Jets players Quincy Williams and Harrison Phillips attended the games and served as honorary coaches.

Special Olympics Unified Sports® joins individuals with and without disabilities (known as Unified partners) on the same team. Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, it was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

All 12 participating teams received uniforms, footballs, flag belts, and practice jerseys, along with grants to help offset any costs associated with participating from the Jets and Moody's. The Jets, Moody's, and Special Olympics New York hope this league serves as a pilot for New York City to offer Unified Flag Football as an official sport for all high schools in the future. The Jets will look to expand and add teams to the league in 2026.



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