



***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.***

## Dante Benvenuti 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 Dante Benvenuti, a senior at Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls, NJ. Benvenuti does it all for the Hornets, playing WR, OLB, K, and P. In Passaic Valley's season opener against Caldwell, Benvenuti kicked a game-winning field goal as time expired to secure a 23-21 victory for Passaic Valley. The 45-yard kick was a career long for Benvenuti. In addition to his performance on special teams, Benvenuti put up impressive numbers on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. He had seven receptions for 86 yards and a touchdown, and recorded nine tackles with a forced fumble. Benvenuti and the Hornets look to add a win in their upcoming matchup against Wayne Valley.

## Tom Giorgio Named Jets High School Coach of the Week

Tom Giorgio of Red Hook High School in Red Hook, NY, has been named this week's New York Jets High School Coach of the Week for the 2025 season. Coach Giorgio will receive a \$1,000 donation to benefit the school's football program. Along with the monetary award, Red Hook will receive an automatic bid to compete in the 2026 New York Jets 11-ON Tournament.

Giorgio 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 30th 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 Red Hook Raiders went on the road and opened their season with an 18-6 win at Hudson. This victory comes after a 1-7 finish for the Raiders in 2024. In addition to football, Giorgio also serves as the head coach for Red Hook's baseball team. A native of Farmingville, NY, Giorgio attended Sachem High School and went on to play football at Ithaca College, where he earned senior captain honors. Giorgio and the Raiders face Spackenkill in their next matchup this Friday at 6 p.m.





## New York Jets Announce Latino Youth Honors Nominations

The New York Jets have selected Offensive/Defensive Lineman Andy Paulino from New Utrecht High School and Wide Receiver/Defensive Back Kisha Garcia-Castillo from the High School for Media and Communications at George Washington Campus as nominees for the NFL Latino Youth Honors.

NFL Latino Youth Honors presented by Procter & Gamble, in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF), recognizes outstanding high school tackle and flag football athletes from around the country for their academic and athletic excellence.

Paulino and Garcia-Castillo will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the New York Jets and be honored on-field at the Jets Hispanic Heritage game on Sunday, September 14 against the Buffalo Bills.

The NFL and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation have a great history of celebrating excellence within Latino communities and the NFL Latino Youth Honors celebrates high school seniors from across NFL club markets who excel both in the classroom and on the field.

All 32 NFL teams are invited to select one male and one female high school senior football player to represent their team and submit these exemplary student-athletes to be considered for this year's program. From the 64 nominees, a panel will convene to select eight outstanding finalists, each representing one of the NFL's eight divisions.

This elite group will each receive a grant award that can be used for college, including \$25,000 grants for both the male and female national winners and \$5,000 grants for each of the six other finalists. They will also participate in a variety of special events taking place in San Francisco during Super Bowl LX Week. Activities will be designed to provide mentorship, guidance, and resources to pursue careers in the sports industry. During that week, a male and female national winner will be announced, with the recipients receiving an invitation to HHF's National Youth Awards ceremony later in 2026.







## New York Jets and Lupus Research Alliance to Host Lupus Awareness Day on Sunday, September 14

The New York Jets and Lupus Research Alliance will host **Lupus Awareness Day** on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at MetLife Stadium when the Jets take on the Buffalo Bills. This event, designed to increase awareness of the devastating autoimmune disease, will help raise funds supporting the lupus research needed to deliver new treatments and ultimately a cure.

To further this goal, the Jets 50/50 Raffle presented by Helix Wireless, an official IoT Provider of the New York Jets, will benefit the **Lupus Research Alliance**. At each Jets home game, fans can purchase 50/50 raffle tickets three hours prior to kick off until the two-minute warning of the fourth quarter. At the Sept. 14 Game, one lucky fan will split the jackpot with the Lupus Research Alliance. For rules and more information go to [nyjets.com/5050raffle](https://nyjets.com/5050raffle).

Additionally, several representatives of the Lupus Research Alliance will be recognized at the Game. Serving as honorary team captain for the game is Lupus Research Alliance Board Member, **Julius Williams**. The donation from the 50/50 Raffle will be presented to the New York City Walk with Us to Cure Lupus Ambassador, **Stephanie Patti**. 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. To date, the organization has committed over \$260 million to more than 560 research projects. Each of these efforts is designed with one goal in mind: improving the lives of people with lupus by accelerating discoveries, advancing new therapies, and ultimately delivering a cure. Because the Lupus Research Alliance Board of Directors funds all administrative and fundraising costs, 100% of all donations received goes to support lupus research programs.

[Lupus](#) is a chronic, complex autoimmune disease that affects millions of people worldwide. In lupus, the immune system, meant to defend against infections, produces autoantibodies that mistake the body's own cells as foreign, causing other immune cells to attack organs such as the kidneys, brain, heart, lungs and skin, as well as blood and joints. Ninety percent of people with lupus are women, most often diagnosed between the ages of 15-45. Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander people are disproportionately affected by lupus.

For more information or to donate to lupus research, visit the LRA at [LupusResearch.org](https://LupusResearch.org) and on social media at: [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).