

Joe McLaughlin

Class of 1975 - Football, Hockey, Wrestling & Track



Not many people get to continue playing a sport beyond the high school level, but Stoneham's Joe McLaughlin did just that, playing at the highest level, the National Football League.

The 1975 Stoneham High School graduate also played hockey, track and wrestled in his three-year Spartan stint, but it was on the football field that McLaughlin's physical abilities and leadership qualities shone their brightest.

As captain of the football team, McLaughlin played fullback and linebacker, being named a Middlesex League All-Star and Boston Globe All-Scholastic his senior year.

"Joe was arguably the best linebacker we ever had," said his former football coach, Bob Margarita. "He had great speed and he had a great sense of intuition. He seemed to just know where the play was going to be and then just met it at the crossroads. He had great leadership qualities and he was a good "team man" and was well-liked by his teammates."

Having been moved to tight end at the beginning of his senior season, McLaughlin returned to play fullback against Watertown and racked up 160 yards to go along with three touchdowns. Ever the dominant defensive player, McLaughlin blocked two punts against Lexington.

Upon graduation McLaughlin attended the University of Massachusetts – Amherst where he captained the Minutemen and was named UPI All-New England along with his brother Mike, also being inducted into the SHS Hall of Fame this year.

McLaughlin then made the jump to the professional level, spending a season with the Green Bay Packers before moving to the N.Y. Giants for five seasons where he played linebacker and was named Special Teams Captain.

McLaughlin now owns a successful business, Pro Fence with his brother Mike and lives in Brewster, MA with his wife Diane and sons Joe and Bob.