

# FOOTBALL IN THE ATHLETICS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Division II level. After helping the team to a 4-6 mark his freshman year, Bill developed into a major force on offense as a sophomore when he led the team in rushing with 634 yards on 131 carries with four touchdowns. Bill entered his senior season in good health and capped off his four years in a Charger uniform with a career high 832 yards on 171 carries with six TD's. For his career, he ranks sixth on the all-time New Haven rushing list gaining 1,840 yards on 392 carries, an average of 4.7 yards per carry.

## Jesse Showerda '96 - Inducted 2007

Showerda took over the starting quarterback role for his final two seasons and led UNH to a 17-4-1 record during that time - including a 10-1-1 mark in 1995. That season as a junior under head coach Tony Sparano, Showerda guided UNH back to the national stage as the Chargers advanced to the NCAA Division II national quarterfinals and a No. 5 final national ranking. One of the 1996 team captains, he threw a school-record 280 straight passes without an interception, and was the NCAA Division II passing efficiency leader with a 165.6 rating. He threw for 2,625 yards, 31 touchdowns and just three interceptions. That season, he was also ECAC Player of the Year, an AFCA Division II All-America selection, and a finalist for the Harlon Hill trophy. A native of Meriden, Conn. and a graduate of Platt High School, Showerda completed 59.9 percent of his passes for 5,703 yards, 57 touchdowns and just 17 interceptions in his four seasons at UNH.

## Cazzie Kosciulek '97 - Inducted 2008

Cazzie Kosciulek quarterbacked the UNH football team to new heights in 1997, helping bring UNH into the national spotlight by leading the Chargers to the NCAA championship game in his only season in the blue and gold. UNH became the first school from the State of Connecticut to play in a college football title game and was at that time the smallest school in terms of enrollment to play for the national title. In 1997, Kosciulek finished third in the voting for the Harlon Hill Trophy after passing for 3,232 yards and 32 touchdowns to lead the NCAA's highest-scoring offense (43.3 points per game). Cazzie amassed 905 yards and nine touchdown passes in the playoffs, and UNH finished that season 12-2 overall as the national runners-up. Kosciulek was named to the Associated Press Small College All-America Team and was also an All-New England and All-ECAC selection. Despite playing just the one season, Cazzie's passing numbers put him in the career top 10 at UNH in completions, yardage and touchdowns. When including playoff statistics in his totals, no one in UNH history has passed for more yards in a season than Kosciulek, who earned his undergraduate degree at Boston University before transferring to UNH to finish out his eligibility.

## Rob Thompson '88 - Inducted 2009

An All-American offensive lineman in 1988, Thompson helped guide New Haven to a 29-11 record during his four seasons. In 1987 Thompson's offensive line, including Hall of Fame member Harry Boatwain, allowed only 16 sacks, while UNH threw for nearly 2,000 yards. In 1987, Thompson was named to the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference team and a year later received All-New England Collegiate Conference and All-American honors. Thompson went on to play professional football for two years after graduating from New Haven in 1989.

## Michael Horton '88 - Inducted 2010

A three-year starter, Michael Horton is one of the most prolific University of New Haven quarterbacks to ever wear a Chargers' uniform. Posting a 23-7 record as a starter and three seasons with over 2,000 yards of total offense, the Vauxhall, N.J. native helped lead the Chargers to three consecutive seasons with seven or more wins. During his four seasons, the quarterback completed 509-of-998 pass attempts for 6,836 yards and 43 touchdowns. His 50.9 career completion percentage also ranks as one of the best in UNH history. His career set the stage for a very successful line of UNH quarterbacks in the years to follow. At the time of his graduation, Horton held every single UNH passing record.

## Greg Ortman '86 - Inducted 2010

The 1986 University of New Haven football captain, Greg Ortman helped turn the Chargers from a 2-8 record his freshman year to an 8-2 record as a senior. A running back at Glen Ridge High School, Ortman eventually made the transition to an outstanding receiver during his four years at UNH. Ortman's four-year totals include over 1,600 receiving yards, 129 receptions and 14 touchdowns. He's one of only eight Chargers to amass over 1,600 receiving yards and at the time of his induction he ranked fifth at UNH in career receptions, eighth in career receiving touchdowns and ninth in receiving yards. Ortman also helped kick start a winning tradition at UNH. Including his senior season, the Chargers recorded five seasons with seven or more wins.

## John Raba '92 - Inducted 2010

A standout student-athlete on both the football and men's lacrosse teams, John Raba always competed at a high level. He was a feared runner and returner on the football field. In 1991, Raba enjoyed a career season on the gridiron. Raba led the team with 850 all purpose yards during his senior season as the team posted a record-tying 12 wins. He was a captain in 1992 and once again haunted kickoff teams with over 600 yards on 24 returns. The Massapequa, N.Y. native was named to the All-New England Second Team as a senior after leading the Chargers to their first appearance in the NCAA Division II postseason. Raba boasted a four-year football record of 30-13, while amassing over 1,300 return yards, 1,000 rushing yards and 850 receiving yards.

## Tony Willis '93 - Inducted 2011

The most decorated wide receiver in Charger football history, Tony Willis haunted opposing defenses from 1990-93. Willis enjoyed record-setting seasons, while the Chargers posted a 23-2 record and two NCAA Division II postseason appearances during his final two seasons. He was named to the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference Team and the All-New England First Team three-straight seasons. As a senior, he posted 71 catches for 1,074 yards and 11 touchdowns. Willis is also the only student-athlete to record back-to-back 1,000-yard receiving seasons in 1992 and 1993. In total, Willis holds all three of UNH's career receiving records and ranks third in most points scored (228).

## Roger Graham '94 - Inducted 2000

Graham captured the 1993 Harlon Hill Trophy. He was a three-time All-American and a two-time Eastern College Athletic Conference Player of the Year. Named the Sports Illustrated College Player of the Week seven times during his career. He was a three-team First-Team All-New England, capturing the All-New England Rookie of the Year honor in 1991. Graham holds New Haven's game, season and career

record for most points and offensive touchdowns. The NCAA individual statistical champion in scoring (13.8 pts/game) and rushing (171.1 yds/game).

## Pierre Fils '90 - Inducted 2012

A four-year member of the Charger football team, Pierre Fils helped lead the UNH receiving corps from 1987-90. An All-American selection as a senior, he was one of the most talented receivers and returners to ever wear a New Haven uniform. Throughout his career, Fils amassed 127 catches for 2,218 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns. He currently ranks fourth in career receiving yards, fifth in receiving touchdowns and sixth in receptions at New Haven. As a return specialist, the Monsey, N.Y. product added over 1,300 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Fils led the team his final three seasons in all-purpose yards and guided the Chargers up the Division II national rankings. The team also boasted a 30-10 overall record during his four seasons.

## Ken Suhl '92 - Inducted 2012

Ken Suhl helped lead the New Haven football team from 1989-92 and anchored the program to its first-ever NCAA Division II postseason appearance. During his career, Suhl quarterbacked the most potent passing attack in the nation and became a legend to Charger football. Throughout his career, Suhl passed for over 4,000 yards and led New Haven on a NCAA Division II postseason run to the national semifinals. The Greenfield, Mass. product currently ranks all over the UNH passing records, including eighth in career passing yards with 4,355, fourth in career passing touchdowns with 48 and eighth in career completions with 302. Along with his individual accolades, Suhl anchored a team which posted a four-year record of 30-13.

## Mark Whipple - Inducted 2012

The winningest coach in New Haven football history, Mark Whipple guided the Chargers from 1988 to 1993. In 1988 Whipple was named the fifth head coach in Charger football history, his first career head coaching position. Five years later, he took the Chargers to their first NCAA postseason and finished the season with program-best 12 wins. In total, Whipple amassed a 48-17 record in six seasons at the helm of the Chargers. He coached nine All-Americans and nearly 75 All-New England honorees. Since leaving UNH, Coach Whipple has continued to have great success at the collegiate and professional ranks.

## Pat Fitzpatrick '90 - Inducted 2013

One of the finest kickers to don a New Haven uniform, Pat Fitzpatrick ranks sixth all-time at UNH with 169 career points. He connected on 127 extra points and 14 field goals during his illustrious career from 1987-90. At the time of his graduation, Fitzpatrick held New Haven's all-time record for points and was the first kicker to cross the 150-point plateau. Not only did Fitzpatrick enjoy individual success during his four-year career, but the Chargers posted a remarkable 30-10 overall record from 1987-90.

## Mike Forte '94 - Inducted 2013

A standout football player, Mike Forte played both sides of the ball during his career which spanned from 1990-94. He amassed 144 total tackles and over 200 yards of total offense. After graduating in the spring of 1994, Forte returned for his final year of eligibility as a graduate student in the fall. In his second year starting at linebacker, he enjoyed a very successful season. Forte's numbers included 90 tackles, one fumble recovery and an interception in his final year. The Mansfield, Mass. native put together one of

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the most outstanding individual performances in a game at Abilene Christian on September 24, 1994. He made a single-game record 27 tackles against the Wildcats, a mark that still stands 20 years later. Just as impressive as his individual statistics are the accomplishments of the team during Forte's tenure. He was a member of two teams that qualified for the NCAA playoffs and posted a career record of 40-15.

### Shane McNeeley '97 - Inducted 2014

The first-ever two-year captain for New Haven football, Shane McNeeley suited up at linebacker on four of the most successful teams in program history. McNeeley, who recorded 13 sacks, four interceptions and five forced fumbles in addition to over 300 tackles for the Blue and Gold, anchored the Chargers' defense and served as team captain on the squad's run to the 1997 National Championship Game. He was a two-time All-New England honoree and a 1997 First Team All-Northeast Region selection. In four seasons on the gridiron at New Haven, McNeeley helped guide the Chargers to a record of 36-9-1 that stands as one of the best four-year spans in program history.

### Walt Oko '88 - Inducted 2014

A four-year starter in the secondary for New Haven football, Walt Oko accumulated 209 tackles and nine interceptions from 1985-88. He also found the end zone via interception return, fumble recovery and a pair of punt return touchdowns in his career en route to All-New England honors as both a junior and senior. The Chargers posted a four-year record of 31-12-1 with Oko helming the defensive backfield and under the guidance of New Haven Hall of Fame coaches Chris Palmer and Mark Whipple. Oko capped his career with a second consecutive First Team All-New England nod in 1988 as the Chargers finished with a record of 7-3. He made 61 tackles in his senior season and hauled in an interception – the ninth of his career. Oko also found the endzone for the fourth time as a member of the Blue and Gold, returning a punt 56 yards to paydirt against in-state foe Central Connecticut State.

### Elvert Elden '00 - Inducted 2015

One of the best receivers in Charger football history, Elvert Elden ranks near the top of every receiving record at the University of New Haven after concluding his four-year career in 2000. Elden made an immediate impact his rookie season, finishing second on the team with 29 catches for 498 yards and four touchdowns. He finished top on the team in 1999 with 62 receptions for 1,006 yards, the fourth UNH player to post 1,000 receiving yards in a single season, and added seven touchdowns. Elden capped off his career with an outstanding senior season, leading the team with 42 catches and a career-high eight touchdowns for 540 yards. His eight touchdowns ranks seventh all-time in a single season. He ranks second all-time with 163 receptions, fifth all-time with 22 touchdowns and third all-time with 2,455 receiving yards.

### Jay McLucas '90 - Inducted 2015

One of the most prolific passers in New Haven football history, Jay McLucas donned the Blue and Gold from 1987-90. As an All-New England selection his junior year, he completed 161-of-297 passes for 2,025 yards and 14 touchdowns. The total included four different games with more than 200 passing yards and a season-high 278 yards against CCSU. As a senior, McLucas enjoyed one of the finest seasons by any New Haven signal caller tallying a remarkable 3,114

yards and 23 touchdowns on 209-of-402 passing. As a result, the Chargers led all of Division II in passing offense with over 335 yards per game. Following that year, he became the first quarterback to earn All-America honors and the New England Player of the Year. He was also named to the All-ECAC Team and All-New England Team for the second time of his career. With 5,192 passing yards, 378 completions and 37 touchdowns in his career, McLucas ranked second all-time at UNH in each category at the time of his graduation.

### Steve Cedor '88 - Inducted 2016

One of the best tacklers in school history, Steve Cedor was a two-time team captain that helped lead the New Haven football team to a 27-17 four-year record and an appearance in the 1997 National Championship game. Cedor broke out as a sophomore, finishing with a career-high 111 tackles, one of only seven players in school history to record 100 or more in a single season. Included that year was a school record 19 solo tackles against Western Kentucky, a record that still stands today. Following that season, Cedor received All-New England and All-ECAC accolades. He followed that with 92 tackles as a junior, again leading the team and earning back-to-back All-New England honors. Cedor would cap off his career earning a pair of All-America accolades from the Don Hanson Football Gazette and the American Football Coaches Association. In addition to All-America honors as a senior, Cedor was also named the New England Player of the Year following his senior season. At the time of his graduation, Cedor was fifth all-time with 315 career tackles, a number which remains among the top-10 today. He is also third in career forced fumbles with seven and eighth in single season tackles with 111 in 1998.

### Dwayne Brown '02 - Inducted 2017

A 2001 All-American defensive lineman, Dwayne Brown remains the all-time leader in career sacks over his four-year career. A force on the defensive line from his freshman season, Brown led the Chargers to 20 victories over the span of his time at New Haven. Brown played in every game during his rookie campaign, closing out the season with 22 tackles and six sacks while forcing a fumble. He followed that up with a career-best 57 tackles as a sophomore and matched his six sacks from 1998. He also forced four fumbles as a sophomore, recovering one. As a junior, Brown finished with 42 tackles, eight sacks and a pair of interceptions. Following his sophomore and junior seasons, he collected All-ECAC honors as well as All-New England accolades as a junior. During his senior campaign, Brown got to the quarterback 10.5 times, a number that still stands as the fifth-best in single-season program history. His 10.5 sacks were also tied for the seventh most in the nation. Brown ended his career not only as the all-time sacks leader (30.5), but also the all-time leader in tackles for loss with 44.5 and second in forced fumbles with nine. All total, Brown collected 153 tackles, nine forced fumbles, a pair of fumble recoveries and picked off three passes during his tenure.

### David Peterson '88 - Inducted 2017

A former defensive end, Peterson is a member of the University's Board of Governors and an owner and operator of a number of successful businesses over the past two decades. On the gridiron, Peterson's career began as an outside linebacker in 1983 before redshirting his sophomore season due to injury. He would return with a vengeance to anchor the defensive line from 1985 to 1987. All total, Peterson collected 152 tackles including a career-high 77 as a

senior. Among his 77 tackles were 10 sacks, a number that remains sixth highest in the single season record books. His leadership helped the Chargers to back-to-back eight win seasons, the most wins in a single season since joining the ranks of NCAA Division II. Overall, the Chargers combined for 24 wins during Peterson's tenure.

### Michael Murphy '87 - Inducted 2019

A linebacker with the Chargers, Michael Murphy collected 297 total tackles which remains among the top-10 in program history, while helping lead New Haven to 27 wins, including back-to-back 8-2 seasons under Athletics Hall of Fame Head Coach Chris Palmer. Murphy spent his first season with the Blue and Gold on the offensive side of the ball, leading the team with 310 rushing yards on 81 carries with a pair of touchdowns. He opened up his collegiate career with a 100-yard rushing game on 16 carries against UMass Lowell. In addition, Murphy completed six catches for 61 yards and returned a pair of kickoffs for 22 yards. After transitioning to the linebacker position during the spring of his freshman season, Murphy collected 80 total tackles, including 50 solo, in his first season on defense. He also added a forced fumble. A menace to opponent's offensive plans, Murphy became known as a player who would make the big plays and step up when needed. In his junior season, Murphy collected 99 total tackles, second most on the team, which included 51 solo. Also among his tally was four sacks, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries as the Chargers defense was ranked 12th in total defense and 21st in scoring defense in all of NCAA Division II. His senior campaign proved one for the record books as he closed out the season second on the team with 118 tackles, a number that remains sixth most in a single season. One of two captains that season, Murphy capped off his career earning New England Football Writer's All-New England accolades as one of three members of the defense to earn that distinction in 1987. In addition to his 118 single season tackles ranking sixth all-time, Murphy's name can be found in three career record top-10's; total tackles (7th, 297), assisted tackles (4th, 139) and solo tackles (7th, 158).

### Tom Bell (Head Coach 1976-82) - Inducted 2022

After leading the New Haven football team to its first ever winning season, Tom Bell becomes the fourth Charger football head coach to earn a spot in the New Haven Athletics Hall of Fame. As the longest tenured head coach until this season, Bell racked up 32 wins at the helm of the program, including leading New Haven to its only undefeated season and eight-win campaign in 1979. Just three years later, he would lead the Chargers in their transition to Division II which came in 1982. Overall, he finished four seasons with a .500 or better record. Individually, Bell coached the Chargers first ever All-American and first ever player taken in the NFL Amateur Draft, Miles McPherson who went on to play four seasons with the San Diego Chargers.).