

Letters on Coach Rob Trifone's Suspension

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Darien High School Football Coach Rob Trifone [has been suspended](#) through the upcoming game on Saturday after school district officials determined he had improperly slapped the helmet of a Darien team player.

These letters to the editor have been sent in to support him:

To the editor,

We are writing in support of Rob Trifone in light of the Darien school district's decision to suspend him as Darien High School's Head Football Coach. Rob has coached many of our sons from Youth Football through Darien High School.

We know him to be not only a skilled and championship coach, but also a dedicated educator and leader who has helped our sons become responsible young men, upstanding citizens and strong, confident, respectful members of society.

Rob has been a successful high school football coach for 38 years without any issues of this sort. He is the man singly responsible for the popularity and success of the Darien High School Football Program that currently includes over 100 players. Generations of young Darien football players have strived to play for

him.

In situations like this, it is important to understand context. It is our understanding that in this instance, Rob's action was in response to a player committing an unsportsmanlike act of taunting the opponent in a game in which Darien was winning by a lopsided margin. This action is very different than that of an out of control coach overreacting to player error or performance.

Rob is a principled man who has always taught Darien players to act properly and respectfully at all times, especially in a one-sided victory. This is one of the things we all have most appreciated in Rob's influence with our sons. None of us has ever seen Rob act inappropriately when coaching our boys, including when they needed to be disciplined.

Most people outside of the Football family don't realize just how much Rob does for his players off the field. Rob repeatedly shows the importance of family and community through his everyday actions that include community service, commitment to charities, importance of brotherhood and teamwork and personal commitment to each player through his pregame letters and "links" meetings.

We hope that the Darien school district will recognize just how lucky we are to have Rob at Darien High School and that the community not misinterpret this ruling.

Captains' parents 2013: Kathy and Tom Gunn, Ruth and Mike Gasparino, Karen and Scott Harrison, Laura Lombardo, Pam and Myles Ridder, and Susan and George Wyper

Captains' parents 2014: Joy and Dick Hamernick, Nancy and Tom Lochtefeld, Curtis Reed and Kerry Ross

Captains' parents 2015: Chris and Joe Evanchick, Susan and Peter Graham, Susan and Jeff Hamill, Mo and Kevin Minicus

To the editor,

We are writing in support of our football coach, Rob Trifone. For many of us, he coached us from our DJFL days through our years at Darien High School. We enjoyed great success on the field, but for Coach T it was always about more than just winning championships.

He expected us to represent our school and our community properly and taught us by example--he was a leader, mentor, father figure and friend. Coach T taught us more than just how to play football.

He taught us the importance of hard work, discipline, dedication and teamwork. We are all so proud of and loved our days as Darien High School football players and we owe it all to Coach T.

Darienite

News for Darien

<http://darienite.com>

With much respect and appreciation,

Captains 2013: Tommy Gasparino, Nick Lombardo, Myles Ridder, Jay Harrison, Alex Gunn and Silas Wyper

Captains 2014: Will Hamernick, Tim Lochtefeld, George Reed, Griffin Ross and Jack Tyrrell

Captains 2015: Mark Evanchick, Tim Graham, Hudson Hamill, Colin Minicus, Bobby Trifone and Christian Trifone