

Wilson Football

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Wilson Football Tradition Club

Wilson Football Alumni, Parents and Friends:

What a strange year it has been. Hopefully you have not been affected health-wise by the pandemic but it certainly has affected all of us in many ways. After a year without winter workouts and many of the summer workouts, no summer camp, and a very limited practice schedule, we are hoping to return to normalcy. We are currently planning spring ball and summer workouts though we'll still have to take safety precautions. Summer camp has been scheduled and hopefully school next year will be much more normal.

From a program standpoint, money was tight last year. Many of our fundraisers were curtailed but the cost of running the program continued to increase. There's so much planned and happening this year so read carefully. It's that time of the year again to renew memberships. Once again we'll have the new History of Wilson Football 1946-2020 for all members. It will contain new pictures and more up-to-date stats. You can get one at any of our home games. Seventy-seven years ago, football arrived at Wilson High School. Thus started a program which has become legendary. Fifty-eight years ago, John Gurski arrived in West Lawn and changed the face of Wilson and Pennsylvania football forever. He started a winning tradition that continues and thrives today! Since football came to Wilson, 100's of young men have become part of the tradition known as Wilson Football. This past season marked the 577th win in our program's history, and the 57th consecutive winning season. Our coaching staff will remain the same this year, so the continuity and familiarity should make the players comfortable.

Football has changed significantly but the tenets upon which Wilson football was built, remain the same. Blocking is still blocking and tackling is still tackling. Technology, however, is another story. Sixteen MM projectors were replaced by VHS which was replaced by DVD's which were replaced by mini-DV's which were replaced by hard drives which were replaced by the internet. High-tech scouting software, HUDL, end zone cameras, I-pads, I-phones, digital video editing systems, as well as wireless headset & communication systems are now the norm. None of this comes cheap however. The HUDL licensing software (must be re-issued each year) for all of this as well as the extra camera man add to our costs. Unfortunately, the cost of running a top notch program has escalated beyond the funds our school can provide. Each year, the Wilson coaching staff has to raise over \$25,000 to help keep our program first class! As I said before, this will be very difficult this year. The football staff has fundraised extensively to supplement many of these technology upgrades as well as a variety of other necessities for the program including: scholarship awards for players, payment of camp fees for players unable to afford them, transportation to summer camp & 7-on-7's, pre-game meals, and much, much more. The "senior jacket" tradition continues, but the cost to do so also continues to rise. This past year the jackets cost the football parent's club over \$5000. With 27 seniors on this year's roster that cost will again be significant. But who could forget the look on their mother's face as they put that jacket on their son at the banquet. We also have taken over many of the costs associated with the Century Club Awards given at the banquet. We'll also be updating the Gurski Monument with new plaques around its base with the new records as we do annually and we need more flagpoles at the top of Gurski stadium and a new championship flag.

The team has been working hard since the season ended and will start working hard this summer at lifting, conditioning and skills. We will be oing back to team camp at Lebanon Valley July 17-20 and will start August 9th with the mandatory 5 day heat acclimatization period. Three-a-days begin August 16th at 6:30 a.m. The troops are psyched. This year we must again play "week zero" which is Friday August 28th. That gives us only one scrimmage so the summer workouts have

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become even more important. Our first game week 0 is against Central Dauphin, followed by Governor Mifflin, followed by Exeter, and then week 4 against Martin Luther King, and week 5 against Manheim Central. What an exciting non-league schedule! Last year's players are heading to school to play as follows: Jack Wagner-Seton Hill; Ethan Ashcroft-Gettysburg; Kaleb Brown-Penn State; Chase Walters-East Stroudsburg. The rest are playing other sports in college, either track, baseball, or lacrosse.

We now enter our fifteenth year as a Tradition Club. Membership in the Wilson Football Tradition Club is open to all former Wilson football players, former players' parents and families, as well as the many dedicated fans and friends of the program. **We'd also like to invite our youth program families and secondary program families to become a part of the Tradition Club.** If you would like your parents or friends to receive this opportunity, please include their data as well. As soon as we receive your donation you will begin receiving the email updates (please make sure you include your email on the form). Please help us continue the Wilson football tradition. Monies donated will be used to help the Wilson football program maintain the standard of excellence we've all come to expect. ALL donations are tax deductible. Plus, if your company is involved in a matching donations plan, the funds can grow rapidly. If you would like to become a member of Wilson Football Tradition Club, there are many levels at which you may join. Please see information on the attached form. With your generous membership donation (if you so choose), you will receive weekly email updates from me during the season and quarterly updates in the off-season. With dedicated members like you, we hope these funds will allow us to supplement and/or cover many of the normal operating expenses mentioned above. Payments can be made by mail or on line. Go to the Wilson Football Tradition Club website.

There will be a Wilson Football Tradition meeting place at the banner between the 30 and 40 yard line for all home games. Look for it and join all your old friends. Feel free to join each other after the game to rehash the old legends. I've also attached information on our 23rd annual football golf tournament at the Manor, Saturday, June 19 at 1:30. Please consider sponsoring a hole and get a foursome and join us and have some fun.

Sincerely,



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2021 WILSON FOOTBALL TRADITION CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check if this address is different from the one we have on file

Name		Senior Year Played (not graduation year)
Address		
E-mail (need this to send weekly updates during the season)		
Home Telephone		
Place of Employment		Other Telephone
\$25 Regular Individual Membership	<p>All donations should be made to: "Wilson Football Tradition Club" and mailed to:</p> <p>Doug Dahms Head Football Coach/Wilson HS 2601 Grandview Boulevard West Lawn, PA 19609</p> <p>We include a membership list in the program but need your donations by August 15th if you want your name included in the program. Donations after that will still get all other perks.</p>	
\$58 "Keep the Streak Alive" Individual Membership		
\$150 Ticket Club Membership (will receive 10 use ticket for home athletic events)		
\$250 Business/Corporate Regular Membership (will receive 10 use ticket for home athletic events)		
(Name of Business)		
\$500 Business/Corporate "Streak" Membership (will receive 10 use ticket for home athletic events)		
(Name of Business)		
\$1000+ Foundation Member (will receive 10 use ticket for home athletic events)		
Other		