

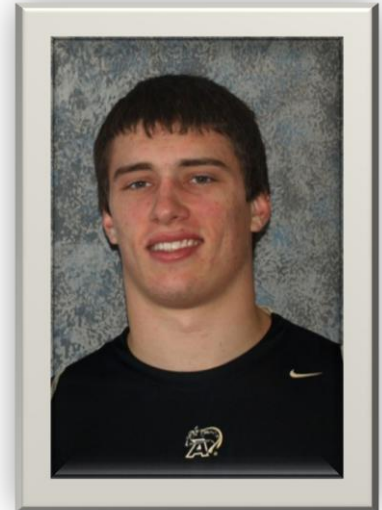
Robert Basile honored by prestigious Maxwell Football Club

By Ricki Stein, QCSD Community Relations Coordinator

Robert Basile wrestled with his options: Go to Princeton on an ROTC scholarship or go to West Point.

The highly decorated QCHS senior football captain verbally committed to Ivy League Princeton University because he figures he'll be able to spend more time with his parents, four younger brothers and friends than he would at West Point. No matter where he enrolls, his goals will be the same: Serve in the Army, earn a law degree and work for either the FBI or CIA.

Honestly, Robert could gain acceptance to just about any school in the country. He carries a 4.67 weighted GPA as a Distinguished Honors Student and earned high scores on his SATs. Last night Robert was honored by the prestigious Maxwell Football Club as one of its 50 Mini Max award winners. In attendance was Ron Jaworski, Dick Vermeil and Vince Papale (inspiration for the movie, *Invincible*). Players were nominated by their coaches throughout the 2009 season and were evaluated based on academics, football performance, and community service.



"I'm driven," Robert admitted. "No one in my immediate family served in the armed forces, but from a young age, I've always wanted to go in the Army and work for the government. I guess it's just from seeing what goes on the world. We live comfortably our whole lives while others die to allow us to do that. If I am able, I want to help others that way by serving."

During his QCHS football seasons, Robert set four school records: All Time Leading Tackler (253 career tackles), Single Season Tackle Leader (120), Single Season Tackle For Loss (20), and Career Tackle for Loss leader (26). The 6-foot-1, 215-pound inside linebacker was a three-year starter and Co-Captain his senior year.

Coach John Donnelly said, "Robert's effort is non-stop from whistle to whistle. He really has an aggressive defensive demeanor. He plays with an attacking style and never takes plays off."

Just this week, Robert was named Second Team All-State by the Associated Press. In his junior and senior years, he was named Top 15 for the Philadelphia Inquirer; second team linebacker for the Suburban One League. In his senior year he broke school record for career tackles (253) and tackles in a single season (120) and set school records for Career Tackles for Loss (26) and single season Tackle for Loss (20). In his junior year, he was named second Team All Area LB by the Intelligencer and the Panthers Defensive MVP for his 99 tackles (133 career tackles and third all time for tackles in a single season); nine tackles for loss, three sacks, three fumble recoveries and one pass hurry.

Right now he's in the middle of the wrestling season. He recently took 4th at the 102-team Beast of the East tournament in Delaware, hailed as one of the country's toughest wrestling tournaments. He qualified for the District Wrestling tournament last year and played an important role in helping the Panthers win the first District I wrestling team title in Quakertown history!

In between the sports, Robert fits in plenty of other activities. He's a National Honor Society officer, former TSA officer, President of Best Buddies, member of the Anti-Smoking Committee and Student Congress. He helps with Student Council and says he tries to be a genuine leader among his peers.

"My mom pushed me at first to get involved with as many activities as possible, but my friends have been a big influence on me," Robert said. "I'm a product of my environment and I strive to be like my peers in the classroom and on the football field."

Robert said he and his friends relieve stress by playing video games, which he also plays with his brothers. Nick, who Robert described as athletic, is in 6th grade at Milford; Matt, a "number cruncher" is in 8th grade at Milford; Sean, a sophomore is "creative" and one of Robert's closest friends. Adam, 3, is a "handful." Robert said his mother, Beth, stays at home and handles them all! His father, Joseph, works very hard in sales.

"The only way I've been able to do everything I do is because of my family, friends and teachers," Robert said. "They've all been supportive. We have a great school. For the most part, people are welcoming and it's not as cliquy as it could be. There are good opportunities here if kids want to capitalize on them."

Noted Coach Donnelly, "We are all so proud of Rob's many accomplishments in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. This [Mini Maxwell] is a special award for a special individual. Rob's ability to juggle all of those things with such tremendous success is a tribute to his work ethic. His future is bright and I know he will accomplish many great things down the line."