

Steinert Alumni Stars Send Their Shout-Outs To Football Team



Whether he was serving as Grand Marshall of the Trenton St. Patrick's Day Parade or being inducted into the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame with luminaries such as Mia Hamm, 1969 graduate and former NASL star Bobby Smith has never lost his pride in Steinert's athletic achievements and is fired up for Saturday's CJ III final against Neptune.

Renowned alumni, township leaders and former Spartan coaches send encouraging words as Steinert football team goes after state title

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

The Steinert football team's run to the state championship game has created a buzz in the school and county, and is also bringing Spartan pride to some of the greatest athletes and personalities to ever walk the school's hallways.

Here are some good luck wishes and words of encouragement from well known alumni, along with former Spartan head football coaches and township leaders, as Steinert goes for the first state football title in school history against Neptune, 4 p.m. this Saturday, at Rutgers.

ESTEEMED ALUMNI

Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

(Class of '68, Supreme Court Justice)

(Note: In response to a Fish4Scores request for a shout-out, Justice Samuel Alito was kind enough to take it a step further and compose a letter to Steinert Principal Kelly Mattis, which his chambers also forwarded to us to use on this page as his response. The following is an abridged version of that letter).

Dear Ms. Mattis:

I am writing to extend my very best wishes to head coach Dan Caruso and the Steinert football team as the team prepares for the upcoming championship game against Neptune on Saturday, December 3. I regret that I will not be able to attend, but I will be rooting for the team from afar.

I have read about the team's great season online, and I was especially pleased by the victory on Thanksgiving Day against rival Hamilton West. . . .

I wish the team members success next Saturday. I hope that it will be a memorable, victorious, and injury-free game that all of the Steinert students will long remember with satisfaction and pride.

Sincerely yours,
(Justice Alito's signature)



Dahntay Jones

(Class of '98; current Indiana Pacer guard/forward)

Congratulations on your outstanding effort. You're making us all proud and I wish you guys all the best against Neptune. Always remember, if you want it bad enough, you can get it. Bring it home!

James Pugliese

(Class of '10; current pitcher in the Chicago Cubs' organization)

Good luck Steinert football team. Bring home a state championship.

Dahntay Jones says anything is possible if the Spartans want it enough.

Bruce Garland
(Class of '67; star running back of undefeated 1966 Spartans)

We send congratulations to a great team, we hope you keep it going. It is especially great to be in uncharted territory and to be setting new goals and breaking barriers. I like to think our team would have won every game we played, playoff or not, but your team has won playoff games and deserves all the credit. Great job!

Gary Hohman
(Class of '67; star quarterback of undefeated 1966 Spartans)

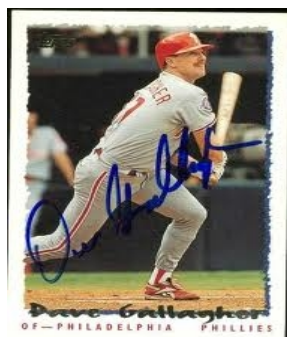
As quarterback of the only undefeated Spartan football team we were able to do something no one else has done in Spartan history. Now it's YOUR time!!!!

Getting in position to win a state championship doesn't happen often. Put a smile on your face, soak it all in and go out there and enjoy every minute of the championship game. You will talk about it with your teammates and coaches for the rest of your lives.

I wish the very, very best of luck to you and the coaches. Go ahead, make history and bring the first state football championship to Steinert High School!!



Gary Hohman (left) and Bruce Garland, two of the driving forces behind the undefeated 1966 team, want the 2011 Spartans to reach new levels.



Gallagher encourages lifelong memories.

Dave Gallagher
(Class of '78; former Major League baseball player)

I am pulling for you guys to turn what has been a great season into a lifelong memory. GO SPARTANS!!

Dan Donigan
(Class of '85; Rutgers soccer coach)

I coach soccer, but I'm a huge football fan. I'm obviously very proud to see our football program do so well and obviously wish them luck and hope they bring home the title against Neptune. I'll be the first one leading the parade down Klockner Road.



Dan Donigan is ready to strike up the band and lead the parade.

I'm a proud Steinert alum. I never stop talking about Steinert. It's awesome. Any time any team does this well you get excited about it. Hopefully people jump on the bandwagon if they haven't been on it already, and get out and support them.

We won our state championship at Rutgers in 1984. I'd love nothing more than to watch our football team win a state championship right outside my office, at the same place we won ours."

Bobby Smith
(Class of '69, former pro soccer player and member of U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame)

I went to every Steinert football game when I was a student there and we had 10 people at our soccer games. They had 2,000, plus most of my friends were on the football team so I love to see Steinert football do well.

I just want to say congratulations and good luck to this year's team against Neptune. Just a great job this season by you guys.

Jon "Big Dawg" Adams
(Class of '82, Nottingham coach; school record-holder for receptions in game/season)

I think it's great. Steinert is an excellent team. They have improved every week that I have

seen them play.

I can say this from experience: There is no feeling - and Spartans, I mean NO FEELING -- like running out of the tunnel at Rutgers to play in the state championship game. However, DON'T let that feeling cloud your purpose! You are there to WIN a state title! Focus on your assignment and job!

Best of luck to all of you! And hey number 14 -- YOU DA MAN! Go get 'em son!!!

Chris Pittaro

(Class of '79, former Major League Baseball Player/Oakland A's Scout)

Congratulations Steinert coaches and players! Bring it on home! Go Spartans!

Rich Giallella

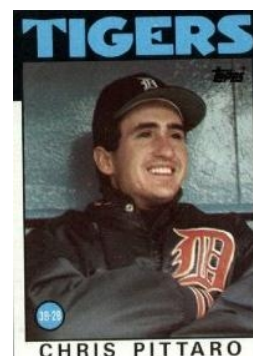
(Class of '65, former player/coach/athletic director; former player in Phillies organization)

Destiny is before us. There was a reason I was brought back as the acting Athletic Director. That was to enjoy watching this highly successful and talented football team achieve new heights of athletic history at Steinert High School.

You have made the community proud. You have made the Steinert student population proud and most of all, you have uplifted the reputation of football in the CVC throughout the state of New Jersey.

The chemistry has been contagious and your ability to overcome obstacles is what makes your legend extremely unique. I know you have had a history of firsts this year, and the most exciting would be putting a football banner in our gym.

Good luck from Big G and Family.



CHRIS PITTARO
Pittaro wants trophy to call Hamilton home.

TOWNSHIP LEADERS

Mayor John Bencivengo



Hamilton Township Mayor John Bencivengo would love to announce to the world that the CJ III Football Champions live in his town.

I am so very proud of our Steinert team. Never before has the determination and drive meant so much. People in the community have mentioned to me about this great opportunity for Steinert to be number one.

Cheers from the top and at every level for your stamina and I am sure a successful win!

Jim Collins, Hamilton Township Chief of Police

Congratulations to the Steinert football team and what you've accomplished so far. I wish you the best of luck in the championship game. Go Spartans! (Chief Collins daughter Arielle is Steinert's all-time leading scorer in basketball).

FORMER STEINERT HEAD FOOTBALL COACHES

Pete Brescia (Retired)

It's great to see not only a Mercer County team make it to the finals, but outside of Hightstown, there is no other team I would like to see represented in the finals but Steinert. (Note, Brescia's son Pete is the Rams head coach).

Frank Lugossy (Retired, Co-Chair Steinert HOF Committee)

Congratulations for making Steinert football history. All Hamiltonians are cheering you on. We are very proud of your march



'66 coach Pete Brescia is rooting for the new breed of Spartans.

toward the State Championship; especially anyone who has been part of the Spartan athletic family.
GO SPARTANS!!!

Kevin Hardiman (Steinert Counselor)

We are all very proud of the team's performance this year. I wish them all the best in the state title game. I am particularly happy for them, because the hard work of the coaching staff and team members is paying off for them.

Frank Gatto (Steinert Teacher/Nottingham Defensive Coordinator)

I am very proud of the coaching staff at Steinert High School. They are outstanding role models for the team. It was an honor to have coached five of the coaches on the staff. Good Luck! Go Spartans!

Steve Simek (Steinert Vice-Principal/Steinert Hall of Fame Committee Member)

You have put Steinert H.S. football on the map. Now bring home the trophy and let's hang up a banner in the gym! Thanks for making us proud.

ONE MORE ESTEEMED ALUM



Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo

(Class of '83, Representative of 14th Legislative District; Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore)

I'm very proud to be a Spartan. Now, more than ever! Good luck Saturday. We are all proud of your great season.