

December 12, 1988

Councillor Denehy

Councillor Russell

Whereas : The upcoming 1988-1989 Matignon High School Varsity Hockey Season marks the 25th Anniversary of Coach Marty Pierce behind the "Warriors" Bench ; and

Whereas : Coach Pierce has compiled a win-loss record of 395-79-29, seven state and nine Eastern Massachusetts titles, 13 League Championships, 19 tournament appearances, 24 winning seasons and a perfect mark of 24-0 last season ; and

Whereas : Coach Pierce has guided his warrior squads with diligence, hard work, organization and pride ; and

Whereas : Coach Pierce has instilled in his players a commitment to excellence

both on and off the ice in the areas of academics and community; now therefore be it

Resolved : That this City Council go on record extending its sincerest congratulations to Coach Pierce as he approaches this coaching milestone and wish for him continued success in his endeavors; and be it further

Resolved : That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Coach Marty Pierce on behalf of the entire City Council

Credit Matignon's hockey success to talent, work, Mohawks and ...

Marty's magic

By John Powers
Globe Staff

Marty Pierce has his career record scribbled on a scrap of paper somewhere around here. "Three-six-four ..." he begins. "No, that's a phone number."

The figure is 395-79-29. Not to mention seven state and nine Eastern Mass. titles, 13 league championships, 19 tournament appearances, 24 (out of 24) winning seasons and a perfect mark (24-0) last winter. All by a hockey team from a small Catholic high school in Cambridge.

"I don't think any of us realized at the beginning that we'd ever have those kinds of numbers," says Pierce, who's coached every game Matignon has ever played. "It wasn't that they were looking for a high-powered program."

Pierce was 24 then, working for Edison



Globe photo/Brooks Kraft

MARTY PIERCE
395-79-29

and coaching CYO hockey in Charlestown when the curate from St. Catherine's called one day in 1964. Matignon was starting a hockey team and was looking for a coach. "So I was interviewed and got the job," he says. "And they haven't gotten rid of me yet."

Pierce is a deputy Boston fire chief now, starting his 25th season at 1 Matignon Road this month. What he's put together in his quiet way is the most dominant hockey varsity the state has ever seen.

Nobody can pronounce them - variations range from the classic French (Mah-ti-NYOH) to the phonetic English (MATT-ignon) to the practical (MATT-non). And nobody can beat them, either. Since 1975, Matignon (MATT-in-yon) has reached the Eastern Mass. or sectional finals 11 times. When they play for a state title, they win it. Always.

So dominant were Pierce's squads (and the Catholic varsities in general) that their public school rivals pushed for an enrollment rule (Matignon has 650 students, half of them girls) to break up the league in 1984 and get the Warriors moved from Division 1 to Division 2.

MATIGNON, Page 56

Every time trade rumors surface, Minnesota's high-scoring right winger is involved.

Although trades sometimes can cure a team that is slumping, don't expect Bruins general manager Harry Sinden to panic. And don't expect him to trade a 14th player for a 14th player. His patience is wearing thin, however, and yesterday he spent about 40 minutes with coaches Terry O'Reilly and John Cuniff behind closed doors. They weren't talking trades.

— FRANCIS ROSA

ehan, Haas lead Penney Classic

an, No. 2 on the t, combined with five consecutive to an opening-one-shot lead in Classic at Largo, from the PGA and ing an alternate-ttled swirling 20 d falling tempera-3,957-yard north dmoor CC. One t 6-under-par 66 lster combination aurie Rinker and y Mize and Mar- ed Couples holed -foot bunker shot for a 6-under 66 ead after the first

round of the Australian Bicentennial Classic in Melbourne. . . **Ken Green** and **Don Pooley** fired 5-under 67s, sharing a four-stroke lead over the rest of the eight-man field after the first round of the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa . . . **Robert Thomas** of Huntsville, Texas, shot a 4-under 68 for a two-day total of 133 and a three-stroke lead after two rounds in the six-round PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament in La Quinta, Calif. **Billy Andrade** of Bristol, R.I., shot a 68 for a 141. **Andy Morse** of South Weymouth (73) was at 142 as were **Bill Buttner** of Plymouth (69) and **Pat Horgan** of Newport, R.I. (73). **Olin Browne** (74) of Brookline was at 150.

y: Curry gets vote of confidence

will be Alabama's r at least the next interim university Sayers said. "His or sale," said Say-at Curry would be un Bowl Dec. 24 . Sayers called ast week that an p of alumni had to buy out Cur-psurd" . . . Senior ion Sanders of among 10 finalists the Jim Thorpe es to the top de- college football. te-getters will be 13. Sanders also e 45th All-Amer- Football Writers merica . . . **Mark** University corner-ed to the Kodak n for Division 1- Holy Cross offen-nis Golden and assachusetts line-

backer **John McKeown**. Central Connecticut defensive lineman **Doug Magazu** of Taunton was among those named to the Division 2 team . . . Pennsylvania (9-1) was selected the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division 1-AA football team of the year Senior linebacker **Rob McGovern**, who set a Holy Cross season record for tackles with 182, has been named the Coca-Cola Gold Helmet Division 1-AA New England Player of the Year. Tufts senior halfback **Paul Dresens** won the Division 2-3 award . . . Former featherweight champion **Barry McGuigan** survived two eye cuts before stopping Argentina's Julio Miranda in the eighth round of a super featherweight bout in London. Referee Larry O'Connell called a halt to the fight at 1:12 of the round just as Miranda's corner threw in the towel . . . A state judge has cleared the NHL's Buffalo Sabres and their former coach of legal responsibility for the career-shortening knee injury suffered by **Rick Martin**. State Supreme Court Justice Henry G. Gossel dropped the hockey team and coach **Scotty Bowman** from Martin's 6-year-old, \$10 million suit.

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Credit high school's hockey dynasty to talent, hard work, Mohawks, and the legend of ...

Matignon's magic Marty

■ MATIGNON

Continued from Page 47

All that meant was that Matignon would beat different people (Duxbury instead of St. John's) in a different building (the Centrum instead of the Garden) for a different trophy. But nothing else changed. Not the Mohawk haircuts the players sport every March. Not the fire truck ride up Massachusetts Avenue to the school after they win a state title. Not those green-and-gold uniforms.

And not the coach. Winter after winter, he wears the same green overcoat (occasionally a newer version, Pierce insists), indulges the same superstitions and worries about each game, each season, until the end. "I kind of don't take things for granted," says Pierce. "That's my nature."

He never played the game in high school - Cathedral didn't have a team - and he didn't get beyond the JV at Boston College. Pierce learned his hockey by growing up in Charlestown, and by watching and talking to coaches he respected.

Pierce went over to the Arena to observe former Boston University coach Jack Kelley conduct his crisply organized practices. He attended every clinic he could. He even read "They Call Me Coach" by UCLA basketball legend John Wooden, because he admired Wooden's philosophy.

Nobody extracts more from a given batch of material than Pierce does. "He gets everything out of his players," says BC High coach Joe McCabe, who was Pierce's assistant for 13 years. "They give him everything they have." Nobody prepares a team more meticulously - and nobody sweats games more, either.

Doesn't matter whom his Warriors are playing, doesn't matter how much they're leading by or how much time is left. These are high school kids playing with a frozen object on a slippery surface. Anything can happen, Pierce believes.

Even when Matignon has been leading by four goals with a minute to play in the state finals, nobody has been allowed to phone the Cambridge Fire Dept. and give it a few extra minutes to get the engines ready for The Ride.

"The call wouldn't go in until the final buzzer," testifies McCabe. "Didn't matter if we were playing some girls' prep school team. That's the way Marty went into a game."

Part of it is Pierce's nature. "I guess I am a worrier, yeah," he admits. But much of it is the competition. Before Matignon was unceremoniously plunked into the Catholic Central League, they played in the 10-team Catholic Conference, by far the toughest hockey league in the country. It was MC one night, CM the next, all these Archies and Boscos waiting to eat your lunch if you took a night off.

"You didn't see many teams who went undefeated," says Pierce. "Any night could be a tough game. Everybody was just waiting for you."

Play a sloppy game and you would lose - to anybody. The difference between first and last place wasn't all that profound.

So Pierce's Warriors were - and are - always superbly conditioned. They play defense. They don't take cheap penalties. They are where they're supposed to be. They look for each other, and execute the way they've been taught. "Opposing coaches have told me, 'We know where the puck is going,'" says Matignon principal John Twombly, whose son coaches Pierce's JV. "We just can't stop it."

Pierce insists on discipline and unselfishness. If he gets that, he doesn't bother about his squad's idiosyncrasies. Like the Mohawks.

Eight years ago during the playoffs, some of his players got on the team bus wearing hoods over their heads. No big deal, Pierce thought. It's still winter, it's cold out, why wouldn't they be wearing hoods?

Then McCabe came out of the dressing room, jaw agape. "Wait till you see what's in there," he told Pierce, who groaned inwardly when he saw the whitewalled heads. "What are the nuns going to say?" he wondered.

Nothing. Matignon went on to win the state title, and the nuns let it ride, and have ever since. "They're kids," Pierce figures, "and if that's their idea of having fun, I didn't think it hurt anything. It really didn't bother me, as long as they kept their helmets on. I thought it brought a sense of closeness, of camaraderie. Anyway, when the tournament's done, they just shave it off and they have whiffles."

The whole point about the Mohawks, of course, is that they are not automatic. They have to be earned. The Warriors have to make it to the quarterfinals, or the hair stays on. The fire truck isn't even taken out of the station until the state title is wrapped up.

That's Pierce's rule. It is also his superstition, of which he has no more than your average Druid. Like the overcoat. His wife, Ellen, finally chucked it out. "But I found it in the ashcan and brought it back in," Pierce says. "She threw it out again, though, and I never saw it after that."

If Pierce starts the tournament wearing a certain shirt or sweater, he'll use it as long as Matignon wins. He'll ask for the same bus driver, and have him take the same route to the rink.

"The kids will say, 'Here he goes,'" Pierce says. "But kids are superstitious, too. There's always one who has to be the last one off the ice, the last one out of the locker room."

And at Matignon, there's always one player who doesn't get the Mohawk. The superstitions, naturally, are based on success. You don't change when things are going well, and they've always gone well at 1 Matignon Road.

The Warriors have never had a losing season, not even when Pierce built his first varsity from scratch. They were 7-6-2 that year, and won a piece of the league title the next.

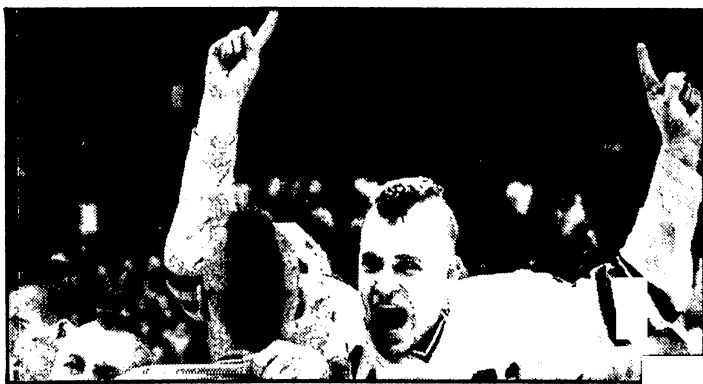
They made the Eastern Mass. finals for the first time in 1973, losing to Arlington. Two years later, they were state champs, and the lore - and the burden - began.

Certain things are assumed if you play for Matignon. It is assumed you'll have a winning season. It is assumed you'll make the playoffs. Once there, it is assumed you'll make the finals and, once there, win them.

The Warriors are 61-10 in tournament play, 7-0 in state finals. Pierce goes lightly on the tradition during the regular season, but once March arrives, he reaches for the lore book.

"I really stress it in the big games," Pierce says. "I try to bring out the legacy that preceded them - and now it's their turn. But they have to pay the price."

All of their predecessors did - Duke Walsh, Steve Leach, Artie Yeomelakis, Mark Fidler, Tom O'Regan, John McCarthy, Joe Flaherty, Shawn McEachern and hundreds of others. Whole families - the Walshes, Ga-



Globe file photo/Rick Huibert

Two Matignon traditions: Mohawks and title-winning goals such as this one against Acton-Boxboro in 1982.

vins, Reardons - have become Warriors.

"I remember watching my brothers play in the Garden before a packed house," says Yeomelakis, who went on to Providence and is now one of Pierce's assistants. "I was in awe. I couldn't wait for the day."

They come from Cambridge and Medford and Somerville and Arlington and Woburn. Pierce says he doesn't have to recruit. "I've never gone to youth groups and said, 'Here's 25 applications and I'll leave them with you,'" Pierce says. "The attraction was the lure of the Garden. Kids are impressionable. They see 20 kids with Mohawks and 9,000 people watching them and they say, 'That's where I want to go to school.'"

They know there's a ride on a fire truck in their future and a good shot at a scholarship. Nearly 200 of Pierce's kids have gone on to play in college, from Harvard and BU and New Hampshire to Princeton and Michigan and West Point.

So the talent turns up and the titles keep coming. Finally, after Matignon won five straight Eastern Mass. crowns, the public schools said, "Enough." If you couldn't beat them, then banish them.

"If the name of the bus going to the Garden was different, maybe it wouldn't have happened," Pierce muses. "I feel it really didn't prove anything."

Catholic Memorial simply stepped in and won the last three Division 1 state titles, and Matignon has won the last two in Division 2. This year, though, Pierce may face his greatest challenge.

"Definitely a rebuilding year," he says. "I know what other coaches are going to say when they read that - 'What's Pierce talking about?' But you lose 11 players from a 24-0 team ... You certainly weren't 24-0 because you drank the right water. We only have about six people back who played very much. We're untested in the goal, untested on defense. We'll be very inexperienced. But we're still going to come out with the traditional attitude that Matignon has had."

The uniforms haven't changed. Cambridge barbers still know how to carve a Mohawk. And Pierce will still be wearing the green overcoat, splashed with water marks and coffee stains, walking the bench, sweating it out.

There have been chances to move on to a college job. "Different times someone would ask me," Pierce says. "They'd feel me out when we were at banquets. But I've enjoyed it at Matignon. My assistants have been great, the support from the school has been fantastic. And I've been blessed with some great kids."

Pierce leaving Matignon would be like Ed die Burns leaving Arlington. Inconceivable. "You think Marty Pierce," says Tom Fitzgerald, who's kept the stats for years, "you think Matignon."

That's one reason Pierce's son Marty went to BC High, where he's assistant captain. It was a long haul from Hyde Park to Cambridge every day. But it also made sense for the son to make his own name somewhere else. At 1 Matignon Road, there's been only one Marty Pierce for 24 years.

He's 48 now, and has toyed with the idea of retiring from time to time. Maybe after a quarter of a century ...

"Twenty-five's a nice number," Pierce says, "but who knows? I give it thought. It kind of wears on me, and I let it go. Then summer comes and goes and autumn comes, and goes and then the winter winds start coming in ..."



en a ride after Dedham's Super Bowl clinching victory over Norwood.
Globe staff photo/Joanne Kreiter

Wilson and Michigan's Greg

ckton team may be the best ever. It
e most highly recruited backs in
-pound Darnell Campbell and 6-2,
arris. The Brockton line includes
ke Thoreson, 6-5, 285-pound Mi-
35-pound Chris Murphy and 6-3,
y Lewis, the only junior of the

bulk, it is Colombo's memories of
quarterback that has pushed
ger that drove Armond Colombo
es to draw the talent from Brock-

everything," said Colombo. "Rudy
just because of his football abili-
that these kids would not have
f they were not at Brockton.

Larry Ames' Super Bowl picks		Comment
DIVISION 1		
Brockton 28, Dedham 7	Rudy, Darnell hard to stop	
DIVISION 2		
Dracut 21, Beverly 7	The year of the Murphy	
DIVISION 3		
Foxboro 20, North Attleboro 14	Keeps title in a close one	
DIVISION 4		
Abp. Williams 21, Westwood 14	Containing Warren is key	
DIVISION 5		
West Roxbury 10, Greater Lowell 7	Too big and powerful	
LAST WEEK: 50 right, 15 wrong. SEASON: 138 right, 47 wrong.		

main hadn't well, and everybody sort of looked
down on the players. There will always be the stan-
dard jokes about the football player not being very
bright, but it goes on less here. We've tried to get the
kids more involved. This year, for instance, (senior
captain) Dave Flynn has been the class president for
four years. And over the last four years, the senior
class president has been a player."

Lynch also had his players lift weights and make
a year-round commitment to football. And most im-
portant, he continued to tell his players that they
were winners.

It paid off last year. After six straight sub-.500
seasons, Lynch had a hunch the team could win
eight games in 1987.

"I wasn't sure that we were up to the level of Na-
tick or Walpole," said Lynch, "but we knew we were
ready to compete."

Eyeing at least a .500 record, Dedham's optimism
came tumbling down with a 6-2 opening-game loss to
Division 2 Weymouth South.

"As a coach, you try and get them to that level,"
said Lynch, "then it's up to them. We just told the
kids that they had to make the big play. We told
them that they *could* make the big play."

The next week brought Dedham's biggest win, a
16-12 upset of Natick. Dedham won its remaining
eight games and the Bay State League title.

"After the win over Natick, they really started to
believe in themselves," said Lynch. "Once they won
that game, they played like winners."

This year, Dedham stormed through its schedule,
going 10-0 and earning its Super Bowl berth. Lynch
doesn't see the success as an indication that his play-
ers are any better now than they were seven years
ago. Unlike Brockton, the roster is not full of 250-
pound studs. Instead, players like quarterback Mike
Evans (5-8) and fullback-linebacker-kicker Flynn (5-
8) have led the way this year.

"Part of it could be talent," said Lynch, whose ca-
reer record is 43-44-3. "But there really isn't a great
deal more. There's always been a work ethic here
and the kids have always been willing to pay the
price. But what we've tried to do is just get the kids to
play football as hard as they can. I'm not big on
rules. I just want them to know that the entire coach-
ing staff likes them as people."

Flynn epitomizes Dedham's spirit

On a team of that relies heavily on emo-
tion, Dave Flynn is Dedham's prime mover.

The 5-foot-8-inch, 200-pound senior cap-
tain has been the heart and soul of a team
that has won 19 straight and is going to the
Division 1 Super Bowl for the first time. He is
the epitome of Dedham's underdog spirit.

Flynn is Dedham's most potent offensive
weapon. He rushed for a team-leading 1,263
yards and scored 132 points, including 30 ex-
tra-point kicks.

"He is the emotional leader," said Ded-
ham coach Bob Lynch. "Everybody follows
him. He wants the ball on every down and
the guys know it. If the line gives him 4
yards, he will get 6."

Besides his running and kicking exploits,
Flynn is a standout at inside linebacker on a

team that has allowed just 55 points in 10
games. Though Lynch did rest Flynn on de-
fense more this year, the senior's experience
has been an asset.

"I just do what I can to help the team,"
said Flynn. "Basically this team just sticks
together and everybody chips in. It's hard to
be leader when everyone out there is a lead-
er."

Flynn's winning attitude was important
to last year's team, which lost its first game
to Weymouth South (6-2), then won nine
straight. He could see the Dedham program
turning the corner after six straight losing
seasons.

"A lot of people thought it was the same
old Dedham team," said Flynn. "We did feel
that we could compete. Beating Natick

turned the tables for us."

"His leadership is important," said
Lynch. "We're not a noisy team. The kids
just know what it takes. But he is the one
who pumps everyone up."

Flynn respects Brockton, but is hardly
ready to concede victory. "Brockton is an un-
believable team," he says, "but they are just
high school kids, the same as us. It's just a
game, just a simple game. They are bigger in
size, but we have a lot of character and no-
body gives up."

Flynn, who has rushed for more than
2,000 career yards and has scored 204 points
in his career, would like to play either 1-AA
or Division 2 football in college.

- PAUL DOYLE

Feels it can beat mighty Brockton

overcame its only loss to Leominster
set on the Super Bowl.

the only thing to shoot for was to
get to the Super Bowl and win,"
said Armond Colombo. "We've
seen. Now there is one more."

is a physically bigger team, both
in rushing offenses. Brockton's
double-barreled backfield of Rudy
Campbell. The 6-foot-2-inch, 215-
pound leading scorer in Division 1 with
1,621 yards.

2, 220-pound senior has rushed
1,000 yards. Both are being heavily
recruited by every Division 1 college in the

primary offensive tool is 5-8, 200-
pound back/kicker Dave Flynn, a sen-
ior second to Harris in Division 1 with
1,000 yards. Both have kicked 30 extra points,
Flynn 13, Harris 13.

"We are very similar," said Colombo. "Flynn car-
ries the load for them, and Harris and Campbell do it
together for us. We really both rely on the run ...
and on our defenses."

Defense may be the key to Dedham's chances.
Specifically, the play of its fine junior nose guard Bill
Counihan.

The 6-0, 205-pound Counihan will go up against
Brockton's 6-3, 230-pound center Mike Thoreson in
what could be the matchup of the afternoon.

Thoreson has opened up holes for Harris and
Campbell all season and Counihan's success against
the senior should determine how well Dedham is able
to contain the two super backs.

"Counihan's a key, but everyone on defense has
to have a big day," said Lynch. "Both of their backs
are bigger than anyone on our team, but we have to
stop the running game."

The Dedham defense features hard-hitting cor-
nerbacks Steve Marciano and Jay McGillis. Colombo
will occasionally use Harris and Campbell at defen-

sive end and linebacker to complement Thoreson,
who stands out at middle linebacker.

When the running games fail - which is unlikely
for Brockton - both teams can put the ball in the air.

Brockton's junior pass combination of QB Bob
Zurinkas (seven touchdown passes) and split end
Marciano are capable of testing the Dedham second-
ary.

Dedham quarterback Mike Evans, a 5-8 senior,
has thrown 10 touchdown passes, including five to
split end Steve Poles.

"They can go deep," said Lynch. "Marciano is a
very fine receiver, and they will test you. They're al-
ways capable of the big gainer."

Dedham's 19-game winning streak will be in jeop-
ardy. It last lost on the first game in 1987, 6-2, to
Weymouth South.

Brockton has won 51 of its last 53, and it has won
three Super Bowls in the last seven years. Overall, it
has won five Super Bowls in eight appearances.



City of Cambridge

COUNCILLOR DANEHY
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

17.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 1988

- WHEREAS: The upcoming 1988-1989 Matignon High School Varsity Hockey Season marks the 25th Anniversary of Coach Marty Pierce behind the "Warriors" bench; and
- WHEREAS: Coach Pierce has compiled a win-loss record of 395-79-29, seven state and nine Eastern Massachusetts titles, 13 league championships, 19 tournament appearances, 24 winning seasons and a perfect mark of 24-0 last season; and
- WHEREAS: Coach Pierce has guided his warrior squads with diligence, hard work, organization and pride; and
- WHEREAS: Coach Pierce has instilled in his players a commitment to excellence, both on and off the ice in the areas of academics and community; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its sincerest congratulations to Coach Pierce as he approaches this coaching milestone and wish for him continued success in his endeavors; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Coach Marty Pierce on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 12, 1988.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:

Joseph E. Connarton
Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

Order #17 5-742

C.'s Danehy & Russell re: resolutions congratulating Coach Marty Pierce of the Matignon High School Varsity Hockey Team on his 25th Anniversary as Coach.

In City Council,

December 12, 1988

12-12-88

C.'s Danehy & Russell

Order Adopted

✓/✓
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