

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

St. John 'Gags' Bayside for Metro crown

By JEFF SHAPES

It was a great homecoming for Brooklyn-born Joe Gagliardi, who yesterday passed St. John the Baptist, the CHSFL champ, to a second straight Metro Bowl win over the PSAL's Bayside. The Cougars (10-1) edged the Commodores (10-1), 22-21.

Played at Midwood Field, less than two miles from the Flatbush home in which Gagliardi lived until he was four and moved with his family to North Babylon, the game saw the CHSFL win its fourth Metro Bowl in the contest's four-year history. Bayside, which last year fell 16-12 to the team from West Islip, has now been the victim in the last three games.

Gagliardi, a 6-3, 185 pounder who is being recruited by 50 major colleges, threw three TD passes to three different receivers. He also threw a pair of two-point conversions, the last providing the victory. He was 20-43 for 254 yards, including a 13-25 for 183 first half. Gagliardi was magnificent on the roll out, several times stopping on a dime and finding receivers across the field.

"OUR GAME PLAN was to throw," said the good looking, dark-haired youngster, "because we figured that if Bayside had any weakness it was against the pass."

To say the least, Gagliardi, who has been chosen the Suffolk County High School player of the year, and his receivers, as solid a group as any high school has ever had, executed that plan to perfection.

"What can you say," said Jimmy Ryan, the Bayside assistant coach, "we knew he was going to throw and he did. I thought we did a good job against him in the second half, but he's too good to shut down forever."

Gagliardi was at his best on the Cougars' winning drive, which began late in the third quarter with his team trailing 21-14. Taking the ball on their own 18 after stopping Bayside on downs, the Cougars took four minutes to go 82 yards. The drive took 11 plays, and included four Gagliardi completions, two to Tom Corcoran, who caught seven for 102 yards and a TD



ANTHONY PESCATORE DAILY NEWS

Bayside's **Ronnie Harmon** powers forward as St. John's Pete Maloney (left) and Darren Oestreicher (89) converge.

for the game, one to Mike Maroney, who grabbed six for 100 yards and a TD for the game, and the last one to Anthony Corso for a nine-yard score. A key play on the drive was a 32-yard run to the nine by George Gray.

GAGLIARDI'S TD toss to Corso made the score 21-20, and set up the Cougars try for a two point conversion. The play, of course, was a Gagliardi pass, and it was no good, but Bayside, which committed several costly penalties as well as four big turnovers, was called for interference. Giving Gagliardi a second chance was suicide as he fired a pass straight over the middle to Corcoran for the two points.

Although 9:52 remained on the clock, Bayside got no closer than the St. John 48 after that.

Things weren't like that from the start however, as the Commodores came out of the gate flying. Ron Harmon, who had another one of his seemingly common spectacular games, returned the opening kickoff to the Cougars 28, and five plays later, Lonnie Bellamy ran in from the nine for a score. The first of Jim Leible's three conversions made it 7-0.

The Cougars closed to 7-6 with 3:16 left in period one when Gagliardi completed an eight-play, 64-yard drive with a 21-yard TD pass to Maroney. The two-point try failed.

ST. JOHN WENT in front 14-7 just before the end of the first period on Gagliardi's 39-yard scoring strike to Corcoran and his two-point pass to Ben

Bienkowski, but Bayside came back to tie at the 8:36 mark of the second quarter on a 62-yard Kevin Harmon to Ron Harmon pass play and Leible's kick.

The Commodores went back on top 21-14 at the 5:37 mark of the third quarter, capping a 68-yard drive with a fourth down screen pass from Kevin Harmon to Ron Harmon that went 16 yards for a TD. Leible's kick was again good. Getting the ball into scoring position was a 17-yard completion from Kevin Harmon, who was 9-11 for 161 yards for the day, most short passes that were turned into long gains by his brother, who caught five for 124 yards, to Bellamy.

But the Cougars defense came up big when it had to, led by tackle Jeff De Simone.

Unbeaten Chiefs halt Hayes for B title, 22-15

By JACK KELLY

Scoring twice in the opening period and once in the last quarter, the Canarsie Chiefs hung on to to defeat Cardinal Hayes, 22-15, to win the Metro Bowl B Division championship yesterday at Midwood field.

The game opened as if it was going to be a laughter as Canarsie, who finished the season at 11-0, scored twice in the first seven minutes for a 16-0 lead. But the Cards' defense stiffened and they got on the boards themselves to make it 16-8 at halftime.

"They showed us they were a gutsy club," Canarsie coach Frank Morogiello said of Hayes. "They could easily have caved in after our quick scores but they showed their mettle."

THE CHIEFS KICKED OFF to start the game and held, forcing Hayes to punt. Taking over on the Cards 46 yard line, quarterback Larry Triolo hit Anthony Marsh for an 11-yard gain, followed by a pass interference call which moved the ball to the 15. Mike Perenelli then swept around left end for the TD. Triolo ran in for the two-point conversion and it was 8-0 with only two minutes gone.

The Chiefs were quickly in business again when Darrell Littles recovered a fumble on the Cards 14. Three plays moved it to the one where Ron (The Snake) McLaughlin, who had been pretty quiet until then, bulled it in. Triolo again ran in the conversion for a 16-0 lead with 6:43 remaining in the period.

Hayes began to move the ball as quarterback Eamon Donohue completed passes to wide receiver Michael Springer who was Donohue's favorite target all day and to Eleazar Cruz. But two straight sacks by Tom Bubartell and Andy Monjardo forced Hayes to kick. Later in the period, Monjardo injured his back and was sidelined for the rest of the game.

Donohue was shortly at it again and with his passes and the running of tailback John Morales Hayes moved the ball to the Chiefs 34. But they were stopped there and had to punt again.

CANARSIE TOOK OVER deep in their own territory and had to punt to give Hayes good field position which culminated in a TD as Morales bulled eight yards right up the middle for the score. Donohue passed to Cruz for the two-points with about 12 seconds left in the half. The touchdown was set up on Donohue's passes to Cruz and Dennis Burke with a holding penalty thrown in to set up Morales' score.

At the start of the third period, the Chiefs started to go to McLaughlin more and on five successive plays he gained five yards each time. But the Cards again got tough and Jaime Rivie and Octavio Arencibia each tackled the Snake for no gains and the Chiefs had to punt.

Donohue then took his team 62 yards in seven plays and hit Alex Torres with a four-yard pass for a TD with 5:26 left in the quarter.

Oddly the Cards didn't try for the two-point conversion which would have tied it but settled for

an extra-point kick by Garnet Davis to make it 16-15.

Later in the period, Donohue had a pass picked off by McLaughlin on the Canarsie 13 to thwart another drive. But the Cards held the Chiefs and they had to kick from deep in their territory.

HAYES AGAIN COULDN'T capitalize after taking over on the Canarsie 34 as Donohue, who had six passes intercepted, saw one batted in the air by McLaughlin and grabbed by Robert Denier who returned it to the 20. When Donohue threw short to Springer he was most effective but when he threw long it was either picked off or batted down.

A later drive was stopped when Littles intercepted on his 36 and returned it to the Hayes 45. it was on this drive that Canarsie scored as Triolo rolled out and threw a four-yard TD pass to Dwayne Williams with just 4:22 remaining.

The big play in the drive came when Triolo faked a punt and passed to Littles on the Hayes 30 and he took it to the 14. In two plays McLaughlin brought it to the four.

Hayes got one more shot when McLaughlin, who gained 113 yards on 37 carries, was stopped by Torres for no gain on fourth and two at their own 44.

But a sack of Donohue by James Michele and Russell Carter on succeeding plays left them with fourth and 17.

Donohue found Morales with a pass but they fell five yards short. Canarsie took over and ran out the clock as Triolo fell on the ball for three plays. Hayes finished at 6-4.