



*Gael Winds*

October / November 2010

# A Visit by Archbishop Dolan

by Kristen Gold ('12)

On the first day of school this September, Kennedy Catholic had the honor of hosting the Archbishop of New York, his Excellency Timothy Dolan, for a Mass of the Holy Spirit. Before saying mass, Archbishop Dolan took a tour of the school, met some of the students, and saw the campus. Next was Mass, which the Archbishop later wrote about, saying "The students read, sang, and prayed. Their attentiveness and reverence, the warmth of their wel-

come, were inspirational!" He delivered a homily on the difference between knowledge and wisdom, and how we can gain wisdom. At the end of the mass, he blessed the game ball for our upcoming football game (which we won!) and was made an honorary member of Kennedy's football program and given a Kennedy jacket.

After the mass, I had the honor of being one of those students who sat next to Archbishop

Dolan for lunch. In a full room of priests, teachers and board members, he sat with a group of students, commenting that if he could, he would just have hot dogs and mac and cheese instead of this fancy food. He asked about our classes and sports, and how we like Kennedy. He was quick to make a joke and the first to laugh. Every time someone came over to say hello to him, he took their hand and thanked them for coming, and he thanked each teacher for their work.

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## A Visit By Archbishop Dolan (continued)

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We enjoyed learning about the Archbishop, and you could tell that he was glad to sit and talk with us for a while. For me, this was an amazing once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget.

Father Vaillancourt later commented on the visit: “Personally, it was a great experience for me to have the Archbishop here. Everything I do is for the Archdiocese, and it is very reaffirming to see his approval and have him here. It was a great day for us as a community to be honored by his pres-

ence. It makes us feel good about our catholic identity.”

Shortly after coming to Kennedy, Archbishop Dolan wrote about his visit. In his article, the Archbishop had nothing but praise for our catholic atmosphere, academic program, sports program and arts department. “No wonder Kennedy has such a high academic reputation!” he said. He went on, “Afterwards, I visited with the board, faculty, parents, and — very enjoyably — a group of representative students. Their pride, loyalty, and enthusiasm for Kennedy Catholic High

School was contagious!”

At the beginning of Archbishop Dolan's article, he asked the following question: Are Catholic schools worthwhile. At the end of the article, he cited Kennedy as a model for why they indeed are worthwhile. “For [Father Vaillancourt] — and, so clearly, for his faculty, parents, brother priests, board, alumni, and, most importantly, for his students — there's only one answer to the question, Are they worth it? A ringing *yes!*”

*It truly was a wonderful day for Kennedy Catholic!*

## The New and Improved Kennedy Catholic Website

by Jena Lynne DiFrisco (‘12)

**Have you been trying to access Kennedy's website lately?** If so, you may have noticed that our new athletic fields are not the only things undergoing some construction. Our very own Mr. Jacob Bergmeier, along with alumnus Matt Walker from the class of 1993, have been working around the clock on our brand new school website.

**Why a new website, you may ask?** Kennedy Catholic is one of Westchester's top Catholic high schools. Along with that growth, there needs to be a proper representation of our school out there on the information superhighway. The new website (modeled after top websites across the country) aims to make it easy for people to use and for people to find exactly what they are looking for!

**So, what's brand new?**

There are many new aspects of [kennedycatholic.org](http://kennedycatholic.org) to go check out. On the home page, you will see a frequently updated news feed, complete with current information and pictures. This is where you'll find all the most important news. Some other special features include a web page devoted to each individual teacher. Sports

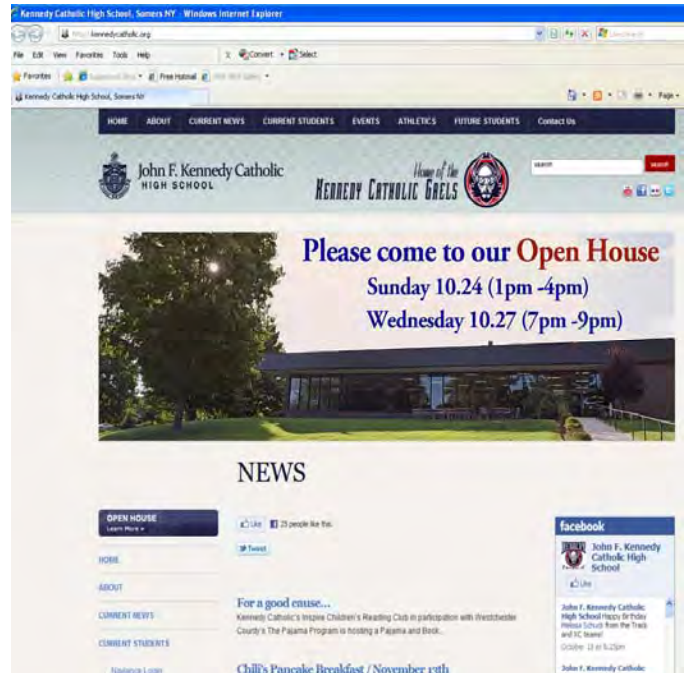
## The New and Improved Kennedy Catholic Website Continued

also has its own web page that can be updated by players and coaches themselves.

**What's this you hear about Facebook and Twitter?** You can now find Kennedy Catholic High School on the popular social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. These two sites can reach our Kennedy Catholic community not only via the Internet, but also via iPod applications and Blackberry notifications.

**Don't worry that you can't find the information you were used to seeing!** Even with this fresh take on how Kennedy Catholic is being presented, you can still find all of the same old information you are used to seeing on the Kennedy website. The school calendar, which provides all the significant dates and times of school functions, can be found under the tab "Events". Important links are also still available for access, such as Powerschool.com and Naviance.com.

**So take a deep breath and relax; change is good.**



### Not Just a Bookstore

by John Davin ('13)

For years, the Kennedy Catholic bookstore sold books (other than textbooks) that were used in classes, in addition to various school items like sweatshirts and fleeces. If the bookstore was long on selling books, it was short on selling souvenir items for our school.

Now, of course, those books that used to be sold through the bookstore are instead sold through the

Virtual Bookstore, which is accessed from the Kennedy Catholic website. The bookstore still sells sweatshirts and fleeces. But it is also becoming the place to go for all sorts of Kennedy Catholic paraphernalia.

The store is administered by Vice Principal Deacon Al Impallomeni and the Dean of Men, Mr. Brian Zawiski. The administrators have worked very

hard to increase the variety of Kennedy apparel and novelty items in the store. The bookstore intends to become more like a college bookstore. Beginning this year, the bookstore is selling new products such as Kennedy rugby shirts, water bottles and athletic bags. These are the kinds of items colleges sell, and they help to build identity as a school, as well as school spirit.

The bookstore is open for business before homeroom, as well as during homeroom once the announcements have been completed. It is located just over the bridge, at the start of the academic area. Come take a look!



## Student Government

Gael Winds asked members of the Student Government to comment on the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. Two of the members, Jason Davin and Dylan Salamone (both Class of 2011), have contributed their perspectives below.

### Broken Promises?

by Jason Davin ('11)

In past years, Student Council has promised the student body that it would fulfill certain outlandish ideas. It is true we can't put Kool-Aid in the water fountains, but there are plenty of things we can do. Some ideas have already been made into realities, such as recycling clubs and a better, longer and more spirited Spirit Week. Other ideas such as boy's volleyball, and wiffleball and badminton tournaments, are still possible. However, do not rely on Student Council to make these ideas happen. Simply start a club or get a group of friends together and work it up from there.

If you need help, that's where Student Council comes into play. Stop one of us when you see us, and we'll be glad to help. Also, if anyone has any ideas that they are too shy to initiate themselves, please tell us and we will go forward with it. Student Council is here to help the students and get more done. We are committed year round to working hard, representing the students, and communicating with the administration.

### Student Government!

by Dylan Salamone ('11)

As Kennedy Catholic starts off the 2010-2011 school year, Student Council plans on making the upcoming year a great one. Spirit Week and Homecoming were a huge success. The enormous turnout of 29 school clubs, the enthusiastic participation in the pie eating contests, and the great school spirit shown by everyone in Homeroom Olympics were all evidence of the incredible pride we take in Kennedy Catholic High School.

After a thrilling week of school spirit, Student Council is looking to maintain student morale and keep students excited about their Kennedy Catholic experience throughout the year. We are planning fun events that generate revenue for either a designated charity or Kennedy Catholic itself. Dodgeball, wiffleball and basketball are all considerations that could be made into paying competitions for the students to have a great time and simultaneously contribute to a good cause.

Likewise, a main focus for Student Council is to assist legitimate clubs and to ensure all students pay for dress-down days if participating. Artificial clubs which never meet after the initial sign up day devalue what it is to be a school club. Therefore, only genuine clubs will be in the yearbook and be official.

Unpaid dress-down days are a problem for administration and result in fewer dress-down days for the school. Student Council is looking to ease this problem by suggesting the use of a wristband system, so that those who paid will be easily identifiable in the hallways or in class and those who refuse to pay will be noticeable.

Student Council encourages having a responsible student body.

# The Arts

## Chorus

by Lara Manbeck ('14)

If you enjoy singing or music, eighth period chorus is the place to go. It is a forty-five minute elective that takes place almost every day. The chorus performs at various school events like concerts and the Open Houses. Typically, rehearsals start out with taking attendance, gathering around the piano, then splitting into various singing groups based on vocal range. There are sopranos, altos, and baritone. The altos and sopranos were split into their groups on the first day of chorus, when the students sang to show what their range was. Everyone is handed sheet music and the singing begins.

Currently, the chorus is learning "You Can't Stop the Beat," an upbeat show-tune from the Broadway musical "Hairspray." Those who want to be more involved with chorus join the select choir. Near the end of each chorus rehearsal, the select choir goes over the music that they will sing at mass.



Those in select choir are required to perform at Mass and Retreats. By doing so, members have a great experience of working with sheet music and harmonies. By performing in select choir, you are also granted community service hours.

While being in chorus is a great academic experience, it is also considered fun by most of the members. "It's a period to look forward to everyday," said Kevin Mohammed, a member of chorus for three years. "I've always liked singing, especially here. I was influenced to join after seeing their performances. I'm glad I did."

Students in different grades are able to meet older and younger people while in chorus. "It's a diverse atmosphere," stated Marina Cotarelo, a senior. "It's not your regular English class where you're online with people in your grade. You get to meet many people who are different ages," she added.

While the course requires you to pay attention and follow directions, like any other class, students say

that they feel more at ease when they walk into the auditorium, and they really enjoy coming to class. The students also give high praise to Mrs. Toteda (formerly Ms. Spahr), the chorus instructor. According to senior Nico VanDenBergh, "Mrs. Toteda is always there for us and is relatable." Senior Anthony Ruperto said that Mrs. Toteda "is awesome and can relate to us. I just love her!" Anthony, it should be mentioned, has chosen chorus as his elective for all four years at Kennedy.

Chorus is a combination of learning and fun. While you are learning the fundamentals of music, performance and singing, you also discover that it can be fun. By choosing good songs, there is a better motivation in the students. When students are motivated, they learn and enjoy the class more. While all students look forward to the end of the day, those in chorus have two reasons — to go home at the end of the day, but before that, they get to go to Mrs. Toteda's eighth period chorus class.

Theresa Mazzuca helped gather the information for this article.

# Lombardi – The Broadway Play

by The Gael Winds Theater Critic

“Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.” A famous line attributed to arguably the greatest coach in football history (certainly in pro football), Vince Lombardi, who coached the Green Bay Packers to five NFL championships in seven years in the years from 1961 through 1967. (His name has for many years been attached to the trophy given every year to the Super Bowl champion – the Lombardi Trophy.) The only thing is, of course, that the famous line is not his line. The line apparently comes from an old movie about a high school football coach, and it was spoken by the coach's young daughter. Oh well.

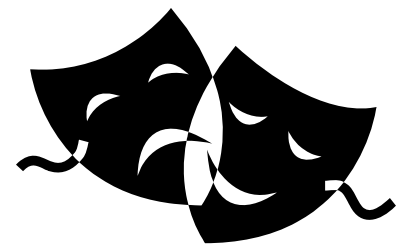
Whether or not he said it, Vince Lombardi is certainly known by that line. But according to [www.LombardiBroadway.com](http://www.LombardiBroadway.com), a more accurate quotation attributable to Coach Lombardi would say that winning isn't everything, but the will to win is everything. In other words, the result isn't what matters. Rather, it's the drive to win that matters. As I interpret that, the drive to win means that you give your very best effort, because that's the best way to try to prevail. There's a good idea in that thought, too, even if it isn't quite so famous.

The story of Vince Lombardi is the subject of a new Broadway play. “Lombardi” (the play) is based on a best-selling biography by David Maraniss, entitled [When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi](#). The play, like the book, aims to tell the story of the famous coach not in terms of Xs and Os on the football field, but rather, in terms of the kind of person he was and how events in his life made him that way.

Lombardi was an Italian-American from Brooklyn, and he later became one of Fordham's famed Seven Blocks of Granite, a group of football players in the 1930s whose determination and success made them famous.

Lombardi went on to coach football at a Catholic high school in New Jersey, while at the same time teaching chemistry and physics. Later, he served as an assistant coach at Army (West Point), in the days when Army was a college football powerhouse, and after that, he became an assistant coach with the New York Giants, where he helped that team achieve great things through much of the 1950s. In the meantime, he married an elegant woman named Marie, and they started a family. By the late 1950s, he wondered if he'd ever get a job as a head coach.

That's when the Green Bay Packers called him. The Packers were coming off a last place finish, and they desperately needed someone to turn around their entire organization. “Lombardi” the play starts at that point.



The play tries to capture the essence of the man. Lombardi was gruff and loud, and as his players used to say, he treated them all the same – like dogs. But Lombardi also cared about his players. He wanted them to be the very best that they could. In that sense, you might say that he was similar to Bobby Knight, the famous college basketball coach who also, perhaps not coincidentally, coached at West Point. The characters in the play include three of the Packers' star players – Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor and Dave Robinson.

The play also examines the marriage of Lombardi and Marie, his wife, and it makes brief mention of Lombardi's relationship with his children. Marie and Vince Lombardi had a loving but com-

## Lombardi Continued

plicated relationship. As in many families, the demands of marriage, parenthood and career were challenging. The fact that the husband and father wound up being a legendary coach, known for his demands on himself and those around him, could not have made the challenges any easier.

I saw the play recently in previews. Overall, I enjoyed it very much. The story was very good; it revolved around a fictional visit by a young journalist to the Packers for a week during the 1965 season, when they were trying to regain the championship they had won twice but failed to win the following two years. To tell the truth, I thought that the part of Coach Lombardi was a little bit of a caricature – a bit too much over-the-top yelling, instead of a deeper examination of what made him tick. But the other characters were very well done, especially Marie, the coach's wife, as well as the young journalist.

To many of the grown-ups in our building, the actors who portrayed Lombardi and his wife – Dan Lauria and Judith Light – bring back memories from the 1980s and early 1990s. In those days, both of them had starring roles on well-known TV series. But in these roles, they clearly show the talent that has allowed them to have long and varied acting careers beyond the realm of TV land. In fact, all of the acting in “Lombardi” is excellent.

The play will formally open on October 21. Following that performance, reviews will appear in various newspapers and other places, so you can see for yourselves what the critics are saying.

## Why I Like “The Labyrinth”

by Emily DeLeo ('14)

The movie “The Labyrinth” was released in 1986. It was directed by Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets. It was the last feature film that Henson directed before he died. It was produced by George Lucas, the director and creator of the Star Wars saga. The film stars David Bowie (the singer, whose widely known songs include “Under Pressure” and “Space Oddity”), who plays Jareth, the Goblin King, and Jennifer Connelly, who plays Sarah Williams, a 15-year-old girl.

Other main character roles were filled by puppets. In the film, Sarah feels that she is being controlled by her stepmother and her responsibilities for Toby. One stormy night, as Toby cries in his crib, Sarah uses the theme of her favorite book, titled The Labyrinth, to create a small skit. In her skit, she wishes her baby brother away, but what she doesn't know is that she has used a real summons for the goblins. Toby is taken away, and when Sarah pleads to the goblin king, Jareth, for Toby to be brought back, Jareth gives her 13 hours to solve his labyrinth and rescue Toby from the goblin castle.

Along the way Sarah meets new creatures. She makes friends, picking up a few hitchhikers along the way. With the help of Ludo (a rock summoning creature she rescues), Hoggle (a dwarf employed by Jareth to lead Sarah the wrong way) and Sir Didymus (a dog-like creature who guards the bridge through the ‘Bog of Eternal Stench’, Sarah goes on the journey of her life to save her brother and learn life lessons.

Although the film was a box office failure, it received good reviews from critics. Who among us would not like to have an adventure like Sarah's?

**By the way, here's a little trivia contest for you: Which well-known singer from the 1960s has the same given first and last name as David Bowie? The first person who sends the correct answer to our e-mail address ([gaelwinds@kennedycatholic.org](mailto:gaelwinds@kennedycatholic.org)) will be announced in the next issue of Gael Winds and, if we can get one for free, will be given an exciting Kennedy Catholic souvenir.**

## Fiction: “The Clock”

A Story by Gerard Ledley ('12)

The dapper young man sat at the end of a long dark hallway. His white dress shirt was stark against his black business suit. People of all shapes and sizes populated the corridor: some were bored, others irritated, and a few slept. They were united in their common black garb and lack of concern for what was occurring at that very moment.

At the end of the hallway, in the room to the left, a man was dying. He was the young man's uncle, and these people were his supposed well-wishers. Outside, threatening clouds obscured the moon. In a sliver of moonlight, the young man read the face of his wristwatch: 11:45.

A disturbance at the end of the hall drew the young man away from his watch: his uncle's girlfriend had burst out of the room on the left. Her tears were nearly as gaudy as her dress. She paused in her hysteric lamentation to stare back at the people whom she had awakened from their expectant stupor. After a brief moment, she resumed her crying and rushed down the corridor, disappearing through the door behind the young man.

It was his turn now, the final visitor. He walked down the

luxuriously thick carpet, passing ancient marble busts and ancient marble people. Some faces were familiar and friendly; others were not. One face stood out among the rest: the young man recognized it as the chairman of his uncle's vast company. The chairman's aging face still held warmth and friendliness, and he exuded a kind of Santa Claus grandfatherliness. He stood and put his hand on the young man's shoulder.

“This is probably a bad time to talk business, son, but I think you'll understand. You don't have to worry about the company; it's all in order. We have plans to open a new division, which is going to create thousands of new jobs, and we're going to donate a portion of our profits to charities. That should probably make up for your old uncle's faux pas, eh?”

The young man nodded, and the chairman patted his shoulder reassuringly. He continued down the hall and stopped in front of the door at the left. Pausing a moment to collect himself, he opened the door and stepped in. The room was dark, darker than the hallway, and contained the stale smell of the old and infirm. The orientation of the large, four-post bed put the young man at its foot. A clock ticked away mechanically, unconcerned, above. In the bed lay a figure so small, one hardly noticed the bump amongst all the pillows.

“Come here,” commanded the figure. His voice was firm, but weak and fading. The young man approached the figure, his uncle. “So,” he said, “a parrot has found himself amongst vultures. You always were one to dress well.”

The young man blushed, looking down at his black suit.

“At least you have the decency to be embarrassed. When I told that woman of mine that she was getting nothing, she gave me a dumb blank look, and ran out crying.”

A look of surprise crossed the young man's face: he thought it would be her to inherit the majority of his fabulous wealth. “Don't get excited,” his uncle said. “You're not getting it either. No one is.”

The uncle began to laugh, a low wheeze. “I'm liquidating my assets. My company is going to be broken up, and the proceeds are going to build the greatest monument that man has ever seen. I will never be forgotten!”

The excitement of yelling had caused him to have a coughing fit. It was minutes later when the purple-faced

## “The Clock”

and weak man could finally speak again.

“Don't give me that look,” the young man's uncle said. “Everyone tried to stop me -- the board, politicians, religious leaders, even the president. They think they can stop me. Well, they underestimate the power of money, and the determination of men being given a steady stream of fat checks for life.”

The young man's confusion was written plainly on his face. “No, I invited you here to witness my death. You see, my monument is set to open five years from this date, to the exact minute, 11:59 a.m.” He paused to cough. It sounded like a desperate cry for air. “My death today will cement my legacy. Think of it, I die now only to rise up again five years later, mightier and more glorious than before.”

Contrary to his then condition, a fierce fire shone in the old man's eyes. His voice sounded full and alive. But that lasted merely a moment. He soon fell to a harsh heaving and retreated to his pillows and blankets. “I've never wanted anything more than I've wanted this,” he whispered.



The uncle seemed reluctant to share that thought with his nephew. A tone entered the uncle's voice that the young man had never heard before: fear. “I've always believed in the significance of dates, nephew. My business and I were born on the same day. They must also die together, too.”

Rain began to patter the window. The young man regarded his uncle curiously. The sound of his uncle's voice surprised him. In all the years of doing business together, he had never heard such a conviction in the old man's voice, even when he spoke of utterly crushing his rivals into the ground like insects. No, the old man had put more importance in this date than anything.

The young man's uncle grew pale, and a miasma of death surrounded him. His breathing became shallow, and his frail chest moved barely more than flutter. It was raining in earnest now; fat, sharp drops assaulted the window. A great silence filled the room, as if even the furniture was holding its breath, waiting for something to happen. Then, it did. All at once, a calm emptiness came over his uncle. The dapper young man read the face of the clock: 12:00.

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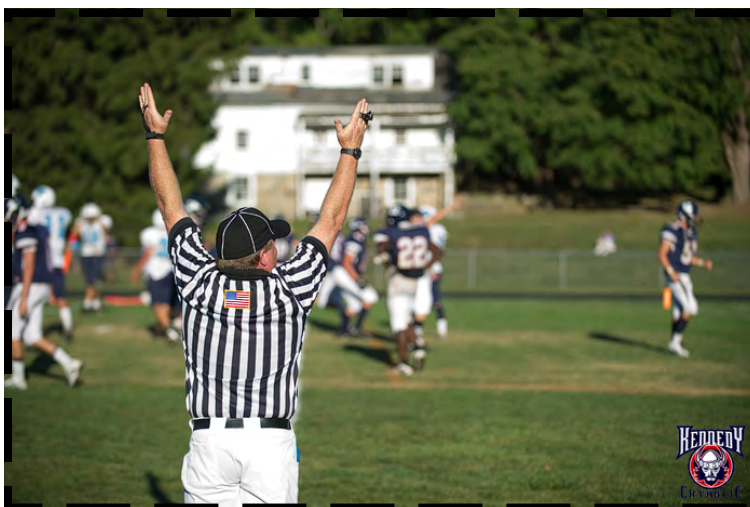


# Kennedy Football Plows Ahead in 2010

by The Gael Winds Sports Staff

The 2010 Kennedy football season has been a bit of an up-and-down experience for the Gaels and their fans. On the plus side, there have been two terrific victories – the season opening 6-0 win over Pleasantville, and the week five 27-7 win over Briarcliff. Both those wins were on the road. On the down side, there were three hard-fought losing efforts at home in weeks two, three and four, against Croton-Harmon, Westlake and Edgemont. Finally, there was a close loss to Lourdes, 26-18, last Friday night, in a non-league game.

The offense has featured a strong ground game throughout the season. Leading runners include seniors Tim Kazinduka, Noah Gitta and Ian DaCosta, and sophomore Robby Yurkowski, at running back, as well as senior Dan Girolamo, the quarterback. Girolamo has also thrown for scores, including two touchdown passes in the victory over Briarcliff. In addition, Girolamo has played in the secondary on defense, recording an interception in the win over Briarcliff.



The defense has been led by seniors Tom Angelilli and Zach Furman. Furman has played effectively on both offense and defense; he has scored touchdowns both running and receiving on offense, as well as on an interception return on defense. In addition, junior Lucas Garcia has contributed in a big way on both defense and special teams, contributing a long kick return as well as recording an interception on defense.

Under second year head coach Rob Schwartz, the Gaels continue to show that Kennedy football is definitely back. The strength of this year's team is speed. The

running game has consistently had excellent yards-per-carry performances, and all four of the main runners have had runs of over 25 yards. On the other hand, this year's team has fewer physically big players than last year's team, so it has been a struggle to match up at times with physically larger teams. Still, the Gaels have played hard consistently on defense as well as offense.

The Gaels move into the playoffs this week, playing at Pelham on Saturday night, October 23. Last year, Kennedy defeated Pelham in the first round of the playoffs, 34-0. So Pelham is looking for some payback, while the Gaels look to reach the second round yet again.