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BUZZ

status report

LOCAL MVPS HEAD FOR PRESEASON CAMP • JACK MITCHELL'S NEW BOOK

Big Play

NCAA football is just months away for these teens leaving town for the big league



Alex LaPolice



“Guys like Zach and Alex make us look good as coaches. **They’re athletes, but they’re students and good citizens, too.** Look at the charitable work they’ve done with the youth program. Very seldom do you get the whole package. **These young men are role models.**”

.....
LOU MARINELLI
 CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSN. HALL OF FAME

Zach Allen and Alex LaPolice stride into the office of New Canaan High School football coach Lou Marinelli laughing. Why wouldn't they be? These graduating seniors etched a hefty legacy, winning two state championships and an FCIAC title in the last two seasons. Allen will soon be at Boston College's preseason camp, while LaPolice, who shunned Yale, will be at Harvard. After polite handshakes and nods, their expressions harden. Even with their success, they're still hungry for more.

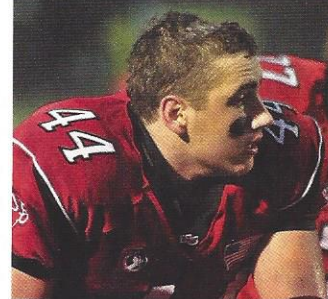
Yet, when it comes time to discuss their achievements, they humbly deflect. "With Coach Marinelli, it's all about conducting yourself like

a professional on and off the field. He's loved by everybody in town, and not just because of football, but for what he does in the community," says Allen. LaPolice agrees. "The program Coach built can't be matched in the country."

Because these two young men have been dominant on and off the local field, you'd think they'd be eager to see New Canaan shrink in the rearview mirror. But instead, they're wistful. "New Canaan loves its football," says LaPolice. "We joke about how Texas shuts its towns down to come out to games, but that's New Canaan, too. Everyone is there to push you and be there in support." —Dan Hajducky

ZACH ALLEN

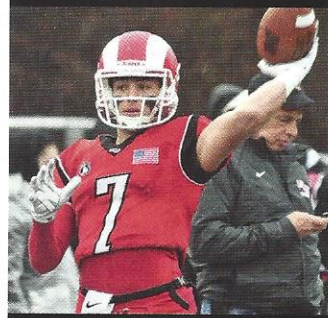
Defensive End / 6'6" / 243 lbs



FIRST DEFENSIVE NEW HAVEN REGISTER STATE MVP IN TWENTY YEARS

ALEX LAPOLICE

Wide Receiver / 6'2" / 191 lbs



ALL-FCIAC AND CHSCA ALL-STATE PERFORMER IN BOTH BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL

RIISING ROOKIES

Other local athletes have committed to top colleges. Look for these players on the football field next season.

Jim Keanelly, New Canaan, Claremont McKenna College

Sam Bowtell, Darien, Trinity

Jack Griffiths, Darien, Amherst

Jack Tyrrell, Darien, Amherst

George Reed, Darien, Union

Griffin Ross, Darien, Bowdoin

Stephen Walker, Darien, Dickinson