**Hamilton-Wenham football team ready for Stoneham in Division 6 North Final**
By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent
Posted Nov 9, 2017 at 2:28 PM

And then there were two.

And that would be the Hamilton-Wenham High School football team and Stoneham for a winner-take-all Division 6 North final.

The top-seeded Generals host two-seed Stoneham in the Division 6 North Final, Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. The winner moves onto face the Division 6 South champ.

Old Rochester hosts Middleboro in that Division 6 South title game Friday, Nov. 10 at Old Rochester High School (kickoff at 7 p.m.).

But the Generals aren’t about to put the cart before the horse in this instance.

They’re completely zoned in on the Stoneham. The Spartans (7-2) are coming off a 44-39 shootout win over Shawsheen, one week after Stoneham opened up its playoff run with a 22-8 win over Whittier.

Stoneham plays in the always-tough Middlesex League. They’ve beaten Archbishop Williams (14-12), Arlington (36-14), Burlington (37-0), Wakefield (36-6) and Watertown (27-23) while losing to Melrose, 44-38, and Wilmington, 34-6.

For perspective on how tough Stoneham’s opponents are, Watertown and Melrose are each still alive in their respective divisional finals. Watertown travels to Lynnfield Friday night for the Division 5 North championship game. Melrose hosts Marblehead in the Division 4 North title tilt Friday night.

Tough foe for the Generals? They certainly think so.

“One of the big challenges Stoneham brings is they’re quick and aggressive,” Hamilton-Wenham captain Morgan Liphardt said. “They like to hit you right from the snap of the ball, and they are fast doing it.”

Hamilton-Wenham can do that, as well, though, And they did a lot of it against Arlington Catholic in the semifinal of the Division 6 North tourney. The Generals improved to 9-0 with the 51-18 win. The offensive stars were plenty with Cam Peach catching passes totaling more than 100 yards. QB Billy Whelan connecting for three touchdown passes. It was 44-12 at halftime and it was never close.

“With Arlington Catholic, I think we played really well as a unit,” Liphardt said. “Also even when we were up big we stayed focused and I️ think that focus will carry into this week and hopefully help us compete.”

Stoneham had a lot of scoring itself in its semifinal. Stoneham head coach Bob Almeida’s team got a 44-yard touchdown run against Shawsheen from Christos Argyropoulos.

Stoneham’s Tre Pignone, who had four touchdowns in an earlier game this season, returned a kickoff 78 yards. He also had a 51-yard jaunt to set up another touchdown, and yet another 34-yard TD run.

Stoneham QB Jack McCabe only attempted one pass, and it was intercepted.

Stoneham did allow 275 yards and four touchdowns from the Shawsheen quarterback, which, naturally, is a good sign considering the Generals can air it out with the best of them.

“They don’t run a lot of different plays but the ones they run they run really well,” Liphardt said. “They are tough and aggressive and we have to come in on Saturday and match their intensity.”

Peach called Stoneham a good power running team with a good running back that’s fast.

The Generals confidence keeps getting stronger with each week. They need to bring the same approach to the Stoneham game.

“Arlington Catholic was a fun game,” Peach said, “where things worked out for us well. I liked how our team’s confidence, focus and determination are increasing tremendously each week in order to keep getting the job done.”

 **Scoring could come in bunches for Stoneham, Hamilton-Wenham in Div. 6 North final**By Phil Stacey Executive Sports Editor, *Salem News*11/9/17

If you see fireworks in the afternoon sky Saturday over Hamilton, know that it won’t have any correlation to Veteran’s Day festivities being held in town.

Those will likely be coming from the regional high school’s football field, where a pair of high scoring clubs — visiting Stoneham High and the host Hamilton-Wenham Generals — square off for the Division 6 North championship.

Everything is out in the open as far as what to expect from both teams. The unbeaten Generals (9-0) have ripped it up offensively all season but particularly in the postseason, scoring 82 points in two games. Junior quarterback Billy Whelan has thrown for 451 yards and six touchdowns on 18-of-29 passing; senior Cam Peach has hauled in 10 of those passes for 346 yards and crossed the goal line thrice in both playoff wins. Jake Lanciani, Ian Coffey (2) and Phil Durgin (2) have also found paydirt for the sectional’s top seed.

Stoneham is also explosive when it has the ball, having beaten Ipswich (36-14) and Shawsheen (44-39) to reach the final. The second seeded Spartans love to pound the football in its two wingback, double tights Wing-T set (think of the offense Everett used to run, or Lynn Classical under Matt Durgin) and are averaging nearly 30 points per game over the course of the season.

On top of that, the coaching staffs are keenly familiar with one another’s styles and tendencies. Long before he coached at Hamilton-Wenham, second year man Jim Pugh battled against his counterpart, Bob Almeida, when the former was at Masconomet and the latter walked the sidelines at Wilmington (then a member of the Cape Ann League). John Rafferty, Almeida’s defensive coordinator, also served time as North Andover’s head coach.

“We told our kids,’ No one’s fooling anyone’,” said Pugh. “I played those guys for what, 15 years? I know what they like to do, and they absolutely know what we like to do. The question is, whose kids will be able to stop what the other team is doing?”

Aiming to become the second team in school history to start a season with a 10-0 record, the Generals have been at their best defensively in big games, particularly the last three against Lynnfield, Salem and Arlington Catholic, in which they surrendered a combined 35 points (with the last 12 of those against AC coming against second teamers).

Playing smart, aggressive-but-not-foolish football is paramount for Hamilton-Wenham against Stoneham. “This is not like going up against a spread team,” said Pugh. “This is tough, hard nosed, 11 men in the box football we’re going to be facing.”

Hunter Wilichoski and Henry Schibli, along with Thomas Monahan rotating in, serve as Hamilton-Wenham’s defensive ends, looking to steer any ballcarriers back inside the teeth of the defense so they can be brought down. Inside, Morgan Liphardt, Henry Smith, Evan Bucci, Jack McWhirter and Jonah Trujillo make sure there are always fresh bodies on the field to clog up the middle.

Inside linebackers Sam Webber and Durgin made a concerted effort to up their tackling games last Saturday against Arlington Catholic, and will be looking to up the ante once again this weekend. On the outside, Coffey (who also sees time in the secondary) and Michael Crowley, along with Cam Guyer, wrap up anyone that ventures into their zones.

Bryson Cala (good to go after seeing limited action last week) and Lanciani patrol the secondary as cornerbacks, and the speedy, hard-hitting Peach is the last line of defense at safety.

They’ll be going up against a Spartans squad that looks to pound the rock by pitching it to the two-headed backfield beast of dual threat senior Tre Pignone and junior Christos Argyropoulos. Fullback Kevin McShane gets in on the occasion when needed, and quarterback Jack McCabe runs the Stoneham ship, passing adequately when needed.

“Their line is athletic, too,” said Pugh, who has seen the Spartans play twice. “They go for two (points) after every score, too. Nothing fancy; they just come right at home with those sweeps and traps.”

Perhaps the most telling game on Stoneham’s schedule in terms of how strong they are was one of its two setbacks: a 44-38 overtime loss to unbeaten Division 4 North power Melrose.

Playoff success is nothing new to the Spartans; they reached the old Division 3A North final a year ago before falling to St. Mary’s of Lynn; two years ago, they captured the North crown.

With a talented senior class and a plethora of playmakers, however, Hamilton-Wenham exudes a quiet confidence. They’ll be out to capture what they hope is the first of two crowns they’re after Saturday afternoon.

“It’s pick your poison with us (offensively). If you try to stop the pass, we’ll run it,” said Pugh. “And defensively, we’ve been playing very well. It’s our best against their best; we’ll see what happens.”

## FIGHTING TO THE FINISH: Hamilton-Wenham rallies but falls short against Arlington Catholic[By Matt Williams Staff writer](https://www.salemnews.com/users/profile/Matt%20Williams), *Salem News*Nov 6, 2017

HAMILTON — The Hamilton-Wenham volleyball squad had already staved off double match point in the fourth set of Monday night’s Division 2 North quarterfinal.

For visiting Arlington Catholic, though, a third chance to win the game and advance wouldn’t go by the boards.

The Cougars scored the last two points of the fourth set to win it, 26-24, and take the match 3-1 (25-18, 22-25, 25-14, 26-24).

Hamilton-Wenham wrapped up a highly successful season at 19-3 overall, winning the program’s first Cape Ann League title in 17 years and also posting their highest win total in recent memory.

“That is a nice silver lining,” said Generals coach Jen Flynn. “The kids fought down to the last point. Even though we had higher expectations coming into the tournament, it was a great season.”

Visiting Arlington Catholic (18-4) advances to face Melrose in the semifinals later this week.

The Cougars set the tone by winning the first set and then took the final two. For a while in the fourth, it appeared that Hamilton would be able to force a tiebreaking fifth set — the Generals jumped out to a 13-6 lead but AC found its footing and went on a 7-0 run to tie it.

The last set was a back-and-forth affair with H-W’s final lead of the night coming at 20-19. Eventually falling behind 24-22, the Generals rallied to tie it before AC netted the final two points on finishes by their outstanding middle hitter Kristen O’Keefe.

“She was on fire,” Flynn said of O’Keefe. “We’d tried to adjust to where she was, but she kept finding her spot in the middle and she made some tough hits.”

Senior captain Lauren Flynn, the Cape Ann League Player of the Year, posted yet another double-double with 16 kills and 16 digs in her last match. With a few emphatic kills set up by Jaidin Hartley-Ward, she helped her team get going in the second set, which they won 25-22.

“I think it took us a game to find the holes in their defense and figure out where we wanted to target,” said Jen Flynn. “Once these girls get their confidence, they get some mojo, and then momentum gets on their side.”

Senior Grace Lapian was the Generals best server with four aces and also did an outstanding job both passing and returning volleys, collecting 17 digs. Senior captain Katie Hankin added 15 digs along with a pair of kills. Rose Wosepka also played well at the net.

AC seized control by taking an early six point lead in the third set and coming away with an 11-point win. It was during that set that H-W lost Hartley-Ward to an injury. The senior was a jack-of-all-trades this season, being valuable in both setting and returning. Vanessa Brown and Alex Padellaro filled in very well for the Generals, helping them take the lead early before AC rallied.

“The injury was tough but the kids didn’t get rattled and the girls that came in did an exceptional job,” Flynn said. O’Keefe had a team-best dozen kills for AC, frequently being set up by setter Katrina Perez. There were times when the Generals managed to keep it away from her, and also times when their front line was outstanding at the net: seniors Cecily Szady and Hankin each recorded three blocks.

On the whole, though, AC had better offensive rhythm which allowed them to involve their outside hitters (Hannah Brady and Erica Kenney). That combination proved especially difficult to defend.

Hamilton graduates seven seniors that played a pivotal role in their combined 37-8 record the last two years, which includes North semi- and quarterfinal appearances, a league crown and three postseason victories.

# Hamilton-Wenham Volleyball team falls to Arlington Catholic in D2 North Quarterfinals

**By****Christopher Hurley****, wickedlocal.com**Posted Nov 7, 2017 at 12:58 AM

  It was a fun ride while it lasted.

But in the end, the third-ranked Hamilton-Wenham volleyball team was bumped off by sixth-seed Arlington Catholic, 3-1, in the Division 2 North Quarterfinals, Nov. 6.

The loss ended a terrific campaign for coach Jen Flynn’s squad, rolling to an impressive 18-2 regular season run, before topping Tewksbury, 3-1, in the first round of tourney play, Nov. 2.

The team’s success also attracted a faithful following along the way.

“Tonight the game was packed,” said Coach Flynn. “We must have had over 200 fans. I think it is in part because of all the great press.”

The capacity crowd witnessed a pretty gutsy effort by both clubs, as they went head-to-head in four tightly contested matches.

Falling behind 25-18 in the first set, the Generals returned fire to take the second set 25-23. But in the end, the Cougars clawed their way back over the next two matches 25-14, 26-24, to complete the comeback.

enior libero Grace Lapian led the charge delivering 17 digs and four aces. Senior outside hitter Lauren Flynn was also a force generating 16 kills and 16 digs. Senior outside hitter Katie Hankin also had a handle on things making 15 digs.

In earlier action, Jaidin Hartely-Ward was on top her game as the Generals took down No. 14 seed Tewksbury, 3-1, in first round of the Division 2 North Tournament, Nov. 2.

Hamilton-Wenham took the first set 25-18, before the Redmen returned with a vengeance in the rematch 25-17. The Generals weren’t about to go away quietly however, grabbing the next two sets 25-14, 25-21, to seal the victory.

Hartely-Ward was all over the court making 16 digs, three blocks and 14 assists.

Lauren Flynn was an offensive fixture making 16 kills and 15 digs. Lapain recorded 20 digs, while passing well. Hankin also picked up four aces in the decision.

# Hamilton-Wenham boys soccer falls in D4 North Quarterfinal

**By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent, HW Chronicle**

Posted Nov 7, 2017 at 12:57 AM

The Division 4 North boys soccer bracket is one of the most competitive in the state.

Of all sports and divisions, for that matter.

There are the small, private Catholic schools that emerge. There are the inner-city Boston teams that are loaded with talent. And then there are small, tough Cape Ann League schools like Manchester Essex, Ipswich and Hamilton-Wenham.

The Generals were once again super competitive, beating Mystic Valley, 1-0, before falling to Austin Prep of Reading, 1-0, Monday night, Nov. 6, on the road in Reading.

The Generals, who finished in second place in the Cape Ann League and with a 6-6-4 regular season record, drew the No. 14 seed in the 16-team tourney. They opened by beating a Mystic Valley team that came into the tourney with a 13-3-2 record and the No. 3 seed behind St. Mary’s (17-0-1) and Boston International (12-2-2).

Want to know how competitive and brutal this bracket is? Only one of the top four seeds advanced to the semifinals. St. Mary’s was bounced by Burke on its home field – Manning Field in Lynn – 2-1, on penalty kicks.

Naturally, Hamilton-Wenham wasn’t feeling great about itself the night of the loss to Austin Prep.

Nick Ong, a senior captain to finished a terrific career with the defeat, was asked what advice he gives to younger players coming through the ranks and trying to keep Hamilton-Wenham competitive and one of the top teams in the division.

“We told the boys remember this moment and remember how sad you are at this moment,” Ong told the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle after the loss. “If you want to avoid a situation like this you’ve got to work hard to be better.”

It’s certainly never easy. All fall high school teams are tempted by the thrills of summer and choices to be lax, rather than working on athletic skills and conditioning. But if you want it, you want it, and the Generals are consistently one of the top teams around.

Even in the loss, Ong took comfort in what he and fellow seniors have built. He recalled his freshman year, when the varsity struggled. When he and his seniors started to become varsity regulars, soon the program had another Cape Ann League Baker title. Youngsters back then brought a defensive prowess.

That defensive mindset was still prevalent this season. The Generals had the best points against average in the CAL at 0.9. That was never a problem. Ong said Nick Glovsky, Paul Horgan and Clint Gordeau had strong defensive nights against Austin Prep.

Hamilton-Wenham also set itself up with scoring opportunities. The problem? Finishing.

It was a problem all season, as Hamilton-Wenham scored a little more than one goal this season.

“We had a few really good counter-attacks and also some we were able to build from the back to the final third,” Ong said. “But we just couldn’t finish.”

Ong called the loss a summary of the whole season.

Hamilton-Wenham controlled a good chunk of the match against Austin Prep. But the Cougars capitalized on one opportunity and that was enough.

“We were the better team,” Ong said. “They only had one or two chances and we had a dozen or so chances.”

Hamilton-Wenham came into the game with a plan to play strongly and not let up in the physical aspect.

“The strategy was to be as physical as them since they were a lot bigger than us,” Ong said. “But I think again finishing is our curse.”

 **Scoring early and often, Hamilton-Wenham crushes Cougars to advance to Div. 6 North final**By Phil Stacey Executive Sports Editor, *Salem News*

 Nov 4, 2017

HAMILTON — Cam Peach saw someone else pull it off on Instagram and figured, *Hey, I bet I can do that.*

So when the opportunity arose Saturday afternoon, he did.

If one play summed up Hamilton-Wenham's 51-18 destruction of Arlington Catholic Saturday afternoon in the Division 6 North football playoff semifinals, it was the sight of Peach taking a sweep left and leaping straight up from the 3-yard line and flipping — yes, flipping — into the end zone, landing squarely on his feet before celebrating his 5-yard touchdown with his teammates.

The circus-like score punctuated a completely dominant first quarter in which the top seeded Generals (now 9-0) scored four times to take a 28-0 lead and left the visiting Cougars wondered what they had run into.

"I was kind of surprised how high in the air I got," said Peach, ironically wearing a 'Jumpman' hoodie postgame. "It felt like I was up there a long time."

Hamilton-Wenham, which scored on its first seven possessions (save for a kneeldown before the half), will now host the Division 6 North title game this coming Saturday (1 p.m.) against second seeded Stoneham (7-2).

It was the second-most points scored by a Hamilton-Wenham football team ever and the highest number they'd put up in more than 50 years. The record was set  back on Oct. 29, 1966 when Hamilton-Wenham clobbered Georgetown, 54-0.

Peach added three catches for 129 yards, including touchdown catches of 26 and 65 yards, and recovered a Cougar fumble on the game's second play to set up his (and his team's first score).

"When Cam got that first fumble and we went down and scored," said senior linebacker Hunter Wilichoski, "I knew we were going to be in good shape today."

But Peach was far from the only offensive star. Junior quarterback Billy Whelan had another terrific game, with three of his five completions winding up in the end zone for scores. He finished with 144 yards through the air. Captain Phil Durgin (50 yards rushing on 5 carries) added a pair of scores: a 6-yard reception and a 5-yard run, and was a defensive demon at linebacker along with fellow 'backer Sam Webber, a junior.

Sophomore running back Ian Coffey galloped 36 yards around right end for another H-W touchdown. In addition, glue-fingered wideout Jake Lanciani hauled in a 77-yard halfback option pass from Ian Coffey for another score while kicking seven extra points and returning a fumbled 2-point conversion attempt by Arlington Catholic for two points.

Hamilton-Wenham, which also saw senior Michael Crowley (who had a great game coming off the edge) fall on an Arlington Catholic fumble, led 44-12 at halftime and upped that to 51-12 early in the third quarter before their backups began entering the lineup.

Head coach Jim Pugh was asked just how his team came out and did virtually everything right, from jumping out to a huge lead to putting the clamps down defensively on the Cougars (5-4).

"You mean besides coaching?" he said with a laugh.

"These guys are focused. Since last year, when we won (their last 4 games) and knew we had just about everyone back, (we knew) good things were going to happen if we stayed together and worked hard," he said. "We have so many weapons that it's hard to focus on one guy. Cam, Jake, Ian, Phil, Billy ... we're firing at you."

Win or lose this Saturday, it will be the Hamilton-Wenham seniors' final game on their home field ... and they intend on making the most of it.

"Four years we've been playing on this field, even before that in youth football," said Durgin. "To have the support we've had from the town means a lot. All these guys put a lot of work in during the offseason, and we really want to end it well on this field."

# [Hamilton-Wenham executes perfectly, routs Arlington Catholic in Division 6 North semifinals](http://www.bostonherald.com/sports/high_school/2017/11/hamilton_wenham_executes_perfectly_routs_arlington_catholic_in_division_6)

[**Brian Roach**](http://www.bostonherald.com/users/brian_roach) Sunday, November 05, 2017

HAMILTON — Short field and big plays.

These two things led to a huge first quarter as top-seeded Hamilton-Wenham took a four-touchdown lead after 11 minutes en route to a dominating 51-18 win against No. 5 Arlington Catholic in a Division 6 North semifinal yesterday.

“It was a great win,” H-W coach Jim Pugh said. “We jumped on them. … It’s on to Stoneham. It’s on to the North finals and we are proud to be going.”

The Generals (9-0) will host No. 2 Stoneham in the sectional final next Saturday.

Hamilton-Wenham had the ball in AC territory on four of its first five drives thanks to some huge plays on specials teams, as well as some timely turnovers.

“These guys are focused,” Pugh said. “We just have so many weapons that it’s really hard to focus on one guy.”

Jake Lanciani made some huge plays, as he finished with 124 return yards to go along with 90 receiving yards and a touchdown reception. His also had a two-point fumble return late in the second quarter to give the hosts a 44-12 lead at the half, after the Cougars (5-4) scored on a 71-yard strike from Michael Burke to Kieran Mullen.

“There are so many kids stepping for us and making plays,” Pugh said. “Overall, it was a good win.”

The versatile Generals offense had everything going in the first quarter. Lanciani’s 41-yard punt return to the Cougars’ 28-yard line set up a Billy Whelan 6-yard touchdown pass to Phillip Durgin on fourth down six plays later to make it 14-0.

Lanicani wasn’t done. On the next Generals drive, he caught a halfback option pass by sophomore Ian Coffey at the 50 and then ran it the rest of the way for a 77-yard score to make it 21-0. Later, Lanciani’s 44-yard punt return to the AC 36 led to a 36-yard Coffey scamper that gave the hosts a 35-0 lead.

Generals senior captain Cam Peach accounted for three scores, including a 5-yard run where he flipped into the end zone to make it 28-0 at the end of the first quarter. His other two scores came through the air — on a 26-yard pass from Whelan just two plays after recovering a fumble; and a one-handed grab he turned into a 65-yard romp.

Kordell Parrish’s 5-yard run put AC on the board at 35-6. Burke also found Frank Cancelliere for a 27-yard score.

**Moving the Chains: Familiar Foes as Danvers, Hamilton-Wenham have playoff bouts with teams they've seen before**[Moving the Chains Matt Williams](https://www.salemnews.com/users/profile/Matt%20Williams), Salem News
11/3/17

In the National Football League, division games are always unpredictable.

That’s because divisional clubs play each other twice a year, spending probably 100 hours pouring over every inch of game film until there can’t possibly be any more surprises.Here in the high school football playoffs, can that same tossing-the-records-out-against-a-familiar-foe apply?

This weekend just might test that theory.

Let’s begin at Doucette Stadium in Tewksbury, where Danvers travels for a Division 3 North semifinal matchup kicking off Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The Falcons faced the Redmen in both the 2014 (losing 34-6) and 2015 (winning 14-13 on their way to the sectional title) playoffs. Around the Northeastern Conference, Tewksbury also faced Marblehead in 2013 and 2014 and Beverly last season, so there’s plenty of tape to pour over looking for tendencies.

“It does seems like we end playing Tewksbury every year that I’ve been here,” said first-year head coach **Ryan Nolan**, who served as the Falcons’ defensive coordinator for those previous playoff bouts against this week’s opponent. “It’s become a nice little rivalry.”

This year Tewksbury is 7-1, with its lone loss being to Division 2 North semifinalist North Andover. They handled Concord-Carlisle (42-7) in the first round last week, and two of their more impressive wins came against Billerica (27-6) and a Methuen team that won a Division 1 North playoff game last week.

Sound defense and field position remain the keys for Danvers, which thrives on three-phase football. Field position was monstrous in last week’s upset win over Lynn Classical, with booming punts by captain **Zach Dillion** ensuring the Rams had to drive the entire field (and giving Danvers short fields when they forced Classical to punt it back from deep in their own end).

Offensively, Danvers will look to mix inside and outside runs between junior **Matt McCarthy** and senior **Tahg Coakley**, as they did last week. That opens up bootlegs for agile QB **Justin Mullaney**; Defensively, Danvers has allowed only 10 touchdowns all season, while Tewksbury averages 30 points per game.

It’s worth noting that Danvers has not won on the grass at Doucette Stadium — their 2015 upset win was played on the turf at Cawley Stadium in Lowell.

Saturday in Hamilton, the No. 1 seeded Generals (8-0) will also face a familiar foe: Arlington Catholic (5-3). The two teams met in the consolation round last fall (with H-W winning, 42-20), and both teams return many of the players from that bout, a year stronger and wiser with a spot in the Division 6 North final up for grabs.

“I don’t know that it makes that much difference,” H-W head coach **Jim Pugh** said. “It’s not about who knows what from last year or who’s better on paper; it’s about who’s in better shape and plays better at 2 o’clock Saturday.”

Veteran coach **Serge Clivio** is in his 27th season with AC, which primarily runs a spread offense. Pugh is impressed with the Cougars’ size up front, however.

“They can line up in a beast formation, kind of a single wing look, and come right at you,” Pugh said. “We’re anticipating a playoff-style football game where we’re kicking each other all around the field. That’s what we had last week against Salem. The final score might’ve been 31-10, but anyone who was there knows that was a very competitive game; Saturday we’re going to have to buckle up and come ready to play.”

The one common opponent for AC and H-W was Bishop Fenwick. The Generals topped them, 21-0, in the season opener and the Cougars also beat them, 28-14.

The Generals have gotten outstanding production from QB **Billy Whelan** and receivers **Jake Lanciani**and **Cam Peach** in the passing game. Sophomore **Ian Coffey** has been a revelation on the ground, with 10 touchdowns and averaging 8.2 yards per carry. The undercurrent for H-W’s success, though, has been the hard noses play of the offensive line and the physical tone set by the defense.

One particular play against Lynnfield illustrates that, in Pugh’s mind.

“Play 99 on our Hudl tape. That’s what we keep telling the kids,” the coach said. “They ran a sweep and we had seven or eight guys in on the tackle. That’s what you hope for and the kind of tone you want to set. It’s become something we say in practice to describe that we need: Play 99.”

**Thursday's area roundup: Hamilton-Wenham volleyball tops Tewksbury in playoff opener**

11/3/17, Salem News

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Hamilton-Wenham 3, Tewksbury 1:** Even after two sets, the Generals (19-2) stormed their way to a Division 2 North playoff win by overall scores of 25-18, 17-25, 25-14, 25-21. Cape Ann League MVP Lauren Flynn had 16 kills and 15 digs to lead the offense while Katie Hankin served up four aces. Jaidin Hartley-Ward earned a double-double with 14 assists and 16 digs alongside three blocks and Grace Lapain collected 20 digs. H-W advanced to host the Arlington Catholic/North Reading winner on Monday.

**High school volleyball tournament brackets released**

Salem News, 10/31/17
**DIVISION 2**

**Hamilton-Wenham**(18-2), which has the Cape Ann League Player of the Year in Lauren Flynn and the league's Coach of the Year in Jenn Flynn (Lauren's mother), locked down the No. 3 seed. The Generals will host No. 14 Tewksbury with a potential CAL matchup against North Reading (which plays Arlington Catholic) looming in the quarterfinals.

**Weekend area roundup: Hamilton-Wenham sprints to another CAL title**Salem News, Oct 30, 2017

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

Generals take the crown: Another season, another championship for Hamilton-Wenham’s cross country team.

The Generals are once again the Cape Ann League Champions after scoring 70 points in the League Championship meet at Bradley Palmer State Park. Hamilton-Wenham was lead by Rebecca Erhard’s third overall finish in 19:30 and Anna Cassidento (20:09) eighth place finish.  Gaylan Ryus (21:00), Madeline Katz (21:20), Grace Moroney (21:31), Jemma Shea (21:34) and Elisa Voss (21:57) all contributed to the Generals’ score as well.

# BOYS CROSS COUNTRYHamilton-Wenham finished in tenth place overall. Jake Sturim (17:27) was the lone Generals runner to score with a 23rd place finish in the race. Bombs Away: Top-seeded Hamilton-Wenham passes its way past determined SalemBy Phil Stacey Executive Sports Editor, *Salem News*Oct 28, 2017HAMILTON-WENHAM — Like a pair of cobras, Cam Peach and Billy Whelan always seem to know the perfect time to strike — and when their foes are most vulnerable.

The Hamilton-Wenham duo were deadly Saturday afternoon, with Peach catching seven of Whelan's passes for 217 receiving yards and three touchdowns to power the Generals to a 31-10 victory over Salem in the Division 6 North playoff quarterfinals.

Up by just four points heading into the fourth quarter, the top-seeded Generals (now 8-0) got a 21-yard field goal from Jake Lanciani before putting the game away thanks to scoring passes from Whelan to Peach of 33 and 68 yards, respectively.

"With Cam, if I'm under pressure, he knows how to get open so I can find him," said Whelan. The junior left-hander finished the afternoon 13-of-20 for 307 yards and three TDs.

The victory sends Hamilton-Wenham into the sectional semifinals, where they'll host Arlington Catholic (a 29-8 winner over Greater Lowell Saturday afternoon) next Saturday at 2 p.m.

"We've got a lot of weapons," Hamilton-Wenham captain Phil Durgin remarked. "Billy can hit Jake on short hitches, then we've got Cam to throw it deep to."

In a game featuring the only two Salem News-area teams that hadn't won a playoff game since the state's new format was instituted in 2013, eighth-seeded Salem (4-4) drove into Generals' territory late in the third quarter before fumbling, with Durgin recovering for the hosts. Eight plays later, Lanciani (4 catches for 60 yards) knocked in a field goal to extend his team's lead to 17-10.

"That play when they fumbled, that hurt them," admitted Hamilton-Wenham head coach Jim Pugh. "Then we went up by two scores and that kind of deflated them."

Salem couldn't do anything on its next series and was forced to punt. Hamilton-Wenham went 73 yards in just seven plays, with Whelan hitting Peach for a 21-yard gain in the right flat before connecting with him on a post pattern for a 33-yard score. Peach caught it inside the Witches' 10-yard line, wriggled out of one tackle and broke another at the 5 before lunging over the goal line.

"If you're not getting the pressure like we needed to force (Whelan) to throw it sooner, big plays like that are going to happen," acknowledged Salem head coach Matt Bouchard. "Their routes are run and shoot, get the ball out quickly, tempo, 3-step, one-gun game ... they have some nice timing things, too.

"We didn't convert late in the first half (after a shanked punt gave Salem 1st down on the H-W 28), and if we had punched it in on that drive late in the third, it's a different game."

Now down two scores, Salem worked its way into H-W's end of the field behind freshman quarterback Tommy Beauregard. But their 4th-and-4 attempt from the hosts' 34-yard line went awry.

After a 2-yard loss on a running play, Whelan and Peach went back to work. On a hitch-and-go, Whelan flung a long pass that Peach caught in stride, far ahead of two Salem defenders and sped into the end zone untouched with just 3:33 to play. "I knew I was going on that fly (route)," said Peach.

"Our playmakers came ready to make plays," added Pugh.

Playing on grass (and a Saturday) for the first time this season, Salem battled before running out of gas in the fourth quarter. Senior quarterback Anuedy Espinal, playing with an injured shoulder, nonetheless ran for a game-high 85 yards on 11 carries. His 23-yard touchdown run off a blast play gave the visitors a 10-7 lead in the second quarter.

"We knew we'd have to alternate (at QB), but we called on Anuedy on critical plays ... plays that kept drives alive," said Bouchard. "When you talk about what a Salem High football player should be, that's a great example."

Senior workhorse Vinnie Gaskins almost never left the field Saturday, picking up 77 yards on 17 carries for the Witches.

Ian Coffey (16 carries, 66 yards), Hamilton-Wenham's sophomore running back, gave his team a 7-0 lead on a 3-yard run. Salem responded with a 29-yard Ruben Baez field goal before his club took its only lead on its next series, thanks to Espinal's run. The Generals got it right back, however, as Whelan and Peach hooked up for their first TD, a 35-yarder in the left corner.

In a very physical contest on a muddy field, there were plenty of bruised bodies on both sides. Hamilton-Wenham captain and two-way lineman Morgan Liphardt, for example, left in the third quarter with an injury only to return a dozen plays later; when asked how, his answer was succinct.

"It's the playoffs. Gotta play," he said.

**Hamilton-Wenham football team stops Salem in first round**
By Eric Goudreau / Correspondent

Posted Oct 28, 2017 at 11:49 PM Updated Oct 28, 2017 at 11:49 PM

Billy Whelan and Cameron Peach conjured up some old-fashioned Witchcraft, Saturday afternoon.

The Hamilton-Wenham quarterback and wide receiver were on top of their respective games, as the top-ranked Generals stopped eighth-rated Salem, 31-10, in the first round of the Division 6 North Playoffs, Oct. 28.

With the win, Hamilton-Wenham improves to a perfect 8-0, and moves on to face fifth-rated Arlington Catholic in the Division 6 North Semifinals, Saturday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m.

“Overall it was a very good job,” said Hamilton-Wenham Coach Jim Pugh. “Defensively we rose when we had too. And (in) second half we did a pretty nice job. The guys were hitting.”

Whelan and the Generals seemed to cast a spell on the Witches defense with an offensive onslaught. The Hamilton-Wenham signal-caller couldn’t be stopped completing 13 of 20 passes for 312 yards.

“We thought that our receivers, no matter who’s against them, can outrun them,” said Whelan. “Our posts were wide open. I just found my receivers and got it done.”

It also helped to have one of the best wideouts in the league by his side. Cam Peach certainly stepped up in crunch time. The senior captain claimed three huge touchdowns, making seven receptions for 219 yards.

Part of the workload was also carried by Hamilton-Wenham’s relentless running game. Ian Coffey set the tone darting in for the first touchdown of the game, before Whelan and Peach found their groove. Peach was throwing moves at the Salem defenders they couldn’t predict, as he has been doing all season.

“We were just very, very hyper and excited to get our first playoff since freshman year,” said Peach.

The Peach/Whelan connection has proven to be a difference maker for much of the season.

“We’re just really great friends,” said Peach. “We just know each other too well. Practicing the same routes over and over. We just learn the timing and everything are on the same page.”

Salem wouldn’t have fallen into the deficit that they did if it weren’t for the Generals defense. Led by Peach and senior linebacker Philip Durgin, the Hamilton-Wenham defense held Salem to only one first-half touchdown and a field goal.

This gave the offense the breathing room they’d need to put up the yards and points that they did.

With the win in hand, Pugh and his team turn their attention to Arlington Catholic. The fifth-rated Cougars will head to Hamilton fresh off a 29-8 thrashing of Greater Lowell in their first round match-up. The winner of that contest will play for the sectional championship against either Stoneham or Shawsheen, the following week.

“We will take the W.,” said Pugh. “We get to play next Saturday and we will be back here which is great.”

And there is no place like home.

**DIVISION 6 NORTH**

**No. 1 Hamilton-Wenham (7-0) vs. Salem (4-3)**

**Saturday at Hamilton-Wenham, 1:30 p.m.**

**Offenses**: Hamilton-Wenham averages 31.4 points per game, with 16 touchdowns rushing and 13 passing. The Generals average 319 yards per game with a fairly even split (1,059 total rushing and 1,175 total passing) with QB Billy Whelan carrying a 100.7 NFL passer rating and sophomore Ian Coffey getting better at running back each week.

Salem scores 24.2 per game, with the majority of its scores coming on the ground (19 rushing vs. 4 passing). The Witches average over 230 yards rushing per game, with 86 percent of their total yardage coming on the ground behind the dynamic Vinnie Gaskins (913 yards, 10 TDs).

**Defenses**: The Generals allow only 10.7 points per game and have surrendered more than two scores only once in seven games. Phil Durgin and Sam Webber provide the teeth for a defense that's been tough against the run in six of seven games. Salem allows 18.2 points per game, although they've held five of seven opponents under that (the exceptions being Swampscott and Lynn Classical, clubs with combined 11-3 records).

**Strength of schedule**: Salem went 0-3 against playoff teams this year, 4-0 against non-qualifiers, and their total opponents' record is 19-30. Hamilton-Wenham went 5-0 against playoff teams, 2-0 against non-qualifiers, and their total opponents' record is 23-26.

**Analysis**: The blueprint for Salem is probably similar to what Manchester Essex did to Hamilton-Wenham a few weeks ago: ride Gaskins and the running game to a lead and try to hold on. Gaskins is the toughest and most complete back H-W has faced this year and he's capable of taking over a game.

Defensively, Salem has the size and athleticism in the secondary to match-up with H-W's receivers. The timing between Whelan and targets Jake Lanciani and Cam Peach is one of a kind, though, and they can fry even good coverage. Also, stopping the deep ball leaves room for Coffey to pound the ball and for Michael Crowley to operate underneath.

It's a tougher matchup for the Generals than most 1-vs-8 games, but Salem will probably need a couple of turnovers to pull off an upset and can't afford to leave points on the table. A possible X-factor: Hamilton-Wenham has been much more reliable on extra points this year than Salem.