

John B. Franco

John is a 1974 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, PA, where he played football under Tom Irwin, 2006 Hall of Fame Inductee. He received his BS and Master's Degree in Education at IUP where he played football for four years under coach Bill Neal. John returned to Bishop Guilfoyle from 1978-1985 where he served as associate head coach with Tom Irwin and they compiled a record of 55-25-1 with one district championship. He then moved across town to Altoona Area High School where he coached from 1986-1993 with a record of 40-45-2 and the District 6 AAAA Championship in 1988. John took over the Tyrone program in 1994 and has compiled a 154-29 record which includes seven district titles, four trips to the PIAA Western Finals, two Western titles, and the 1999 State Championship. In addition, he was selected as the District 6 Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1996, and as the AP Pennsylvania Small School Coach of the Year in 1999. He served as an assistant coach to Mike Pettine in the 2000 Big 33 game in which Pennsylvania beat the Ben Rothlisberger-led Ohio team 34-12. He was the head coach for the West team at the 2007 PSFCA East-West game, which the West won 24-14. John had lectured at many clinics over the years and has authored several articles which have appeared in various coaching journals. In addition to running his own Summer Quarterback Camp, he has participated as an instructor at football camps throughout the area, including Penn State. John attributes his success to the help he received from several great mentors including Tom Irwin, Lou Berardinelli, Ron Hoover, and Ron Rickens. He would also like to thank his present Tyrone coaching staff as well as former assistants Rick Hatch, Dan Bender, Steve Guthoff, and John Gressler for their excellent associate coaching and dedication. John would like to dedicate this award to his entire family, especially his late father, John Franco, Jr. and his father-in-law, Bernie Yetsko. He would like to thank all of his players from all of his teams, and the PSFCA for this honor. Finally, he would like to share this award with this mom, Jeanne Franco and his wife Sue and their four children, Kristin 28, Kim 23, Johnny 19, and Stevie 15.