



Mike Loveless

Italy High School

Athletic Director / Head Football

Athletic Board Report

December 2024

- **Football** finished the year at 7-4 and 3rd place in District. We were Bi-District Finalist which is not where our goals and aspirations should end. We actually went on a 7 game winning streak (first time in a long time) and were able to beat Axtell (District Champion) who got beat 15-14 in the Quarter Finals. That doesn't sit well because that is the "track" we should have been on. But, by finishing the season on a 3 game losing streak that all changed. We lost the District Championship when we got beat by Itasca 22-21. One point cost us the District Championship and I will use that fact nearly everyday during the offseason to remind them on how to be Prepared for anything regardless of opponent. We did have a significant injury but that is not an excuse, lost a player academically, and made some selfish moves that required some discipline. Moving forward it should make us mentally strong from the lessons we have learned.

Our 9 seniors were very talented and will be very missed in the coming year but that is the same for every team in the state. I am proud of the work they put in and the men they have become in this short 1½ years.

Overall, I am proud of our kids and where this team put themselves a little more than halfway through the season, but I hurt for them on the way the season ended. I talk to them all the time about REGRETS and that TIME is one thing you do not get back but sometimes those lessons can only be learned the hard way.

- **Off-Season** came too early but it has allowed me to do some thinking and find ways to improve our program. We have decided to create a Leadership Council with the boys after Christmas where I will meet with them about once a month. After I figure out the direction it needs to go I will include the girls by the end of the Spring Semester. I don't want to waste their time until we get it right. We will discuss the Character Curriculum booklet I am in the process of developing in order to achieve a better Athletic Culture and improve School Spirit. After this year in football, I have come to the conclusion that during the 2024 season, we were not always putting the TEAM first. Where we should have been thinking about what we can do for ITALY ISD, I felt we were thinking what ITALY ISD could do for them. Ultimately, my fault.

"Protect Our Legacy"
How Will You be Remembered?

2024 Italy Gladiator 7-2A D1 All-District



District MVP - Gared Wood, SR

Defensive Newcomer of Year- Tripp Slovak, FR

D Line Player of Year -Treylan Fennell, SR

1st Team Offense

OG- Jaden Acosta, SR

2nd Team Offense

RB - Eric Solis, JR

RB - Raul Acosta, JR

WR - Treylan Fennell, SR

WR - Cory Johnson, SR

OG - Maddox Dickerson, SR

Kicker - Elijah Stewart, JR

1st Team Defense

DT - Jaden Acosta, SR

CB - Raul Acosta, JR

CB - Cory Johnson, SR

2nd Team Defense

LB - Eric Solis, JR

LB - Landon Johnson, JR

DB - Terence Jones, SR

HONORABLE MENTION

DL - Austin Cate, SR

DL - Alejandro Villasenor, SR

OL - Grayson Jones, JR

OL - Garrett Lennon, JR

OL - Braydon Enriquez, JR

DB - Tristan Camacho, JR

LB - Masyn Steinmetz, JR



GLADIATOR FOOTBALL

be better-be humble-be a leader-be self disciplined-be prideful-be selfless-be tough

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