

Mike Loveless

Italy High School

Athletic Director / Head Football

Athletic Board Report

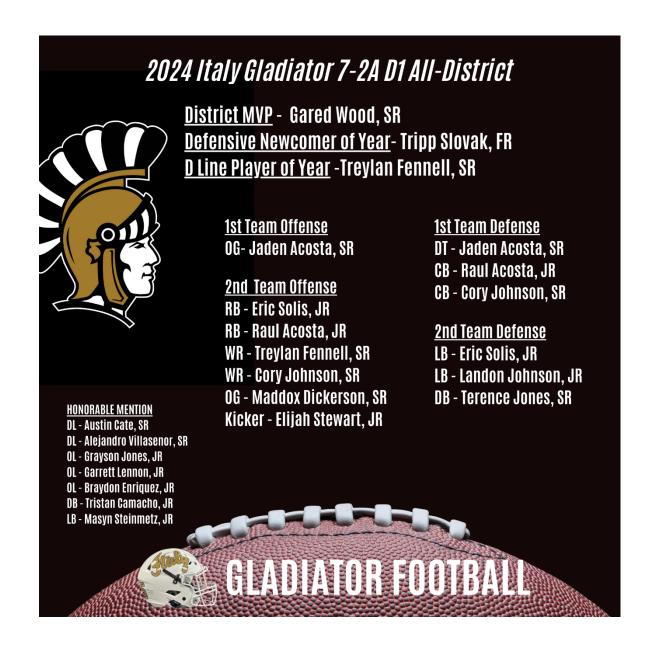
December 2024

Football finished the year at 7-4 and 3rd place in District. We were Bi-District Finalist which is not were 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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Overall, I am proud of our kids and where this team put themselves a little more thatn 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 Counsil 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.



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