

Jared Martino: A Young Unstoppable Force

Malden Native Jared Martino is a force to be reckoned with on the gridiron. Martino, 18, spent his first three years of high school lighting up the football field for the Malden High School Golden Tornadoes where he broke multiple records. Some of the accolades he racked up during his short time as a Golden Tornado consist of being a Greater Boston League Champion his sophomore year, becoming the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards, he is the all-time leading passer at MHS, and has the record for most touchdowns in a single season 30 (15 rushing and 15 passing).

Martino expressed that “it was awesome getting to play for the city I grew up in.”

His time at MHS was cut short due to the decision to transfer to Cheshire Academy, a private college-prep school with a strong football program, in Cheshire, Connecticut. Cheshire Academy Cats have produced 63 college football players, 45 Division I, in the last six years and had 36 players on college rosters this past season.

Martino revealed that “Cheshire was a great opportunity both academically and athletically for me, and I got a chance to reclassify which I always wanted to do because I would’ve graduated at 17 if I didn’t do so.” His first year at Cheshire the team went 8-1.

This season was his senior year and Martino played up to expectations and was an unstoppable force from the line of scrimmage. The 6’1, 220-pound Senior played multiple positions throughout this season. He was the running back for the first five games of the season before being moved to quarterback for the last four, on top of also playing outside linebacker.

Martino was a key contributor to the success of the Cats this season. Despite the team dealing with some unfortunate injuries the team ended the season with a 5-4 record, Martino was happy with his performance this season. He finished the season running for 1,123 rushing yards and 12 rushing touchdowns on top of 490 passing yards and 8 passing touchdowns.

Cheshire Academy head football coach David Dykeman explained that Martino is a born leader and “has a leadership quality that makes everyone on the field want to follow. [Martino] wants to win and will do whatever it takes to win a football game.” Dykeman added that Martino “has been an incredible part of our football program the last two years.”

Out of all of Martino’s stellar performances this season, his favorite was the win over the previously undefeated New Jersey Mater Dei. Martino lit up the air for 170 passing yards and four passing touchdowns along with rushing for 55 yards and running in a touchdown himself. It was memorable because Martinos fourth passing touchdown was to senior Max Mazzella for a 10-yard touchdown in the last minute of the game to help the Cats to a 34-33 comeback win.

Mazzella expressed that the win over Mater Dei was huge for the Cats after coming off a tough loss to Clarkson at home the week before. “[Martino] was a great leader the whole week leading up to the game and when it was game day he stepped up for us and had a day, even up to the last second of the game throwing a great pass for us to come out with the win.”

Martino made history as he was one of 70 players selected to play in the first-ever Pro Football Hall of Fame World Bowl Presented by Xenith on December 22 at Azul Stadium in Mexico City. This game will be the first showcasing of some of the top United States prep school players along with other talented players from all over the world. Martino explained that his selection to this game is “surreal, it still is to be honest. it really hasn’t hit me yet but it’s an honor and I can’t wait to play.”

Dykeman said he was “excited for [Martino] to go represent Cheshire and showcase his talent by putting on a show that we’ve seen all season but on a National stage

Right now Martino has two offers from schools: Division II Merrimack University and Division I Sacred Heart. His plan is to play in the Pro Football Hall of Fame World Bowl and hopes to see if he can get a bigger offer and then finally sign in February.

Tune into the Pro Football Hall of Fame World Bowl on CBS Sports Network on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.