

# Football

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FOOTBALL

## Gordon-Masters Football Club honors academic standouts

By Nick Italiano, staff writer 12 hrs ago



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**EVESHAM – Willingboro is re-establishing its program on the gridiron this fall. There's also been a renaissance in the classroom.**

**A quintet of senior Chimeras were honored Wednesday evening, together with players from the other Burlington County schools, on the Bill Gordon-George Masters Memorial Football Club of Burlington County Scholar-Athlete Night.**

**Co-sponsored by Pivotal Training in Southampton and the Burlington County Times, and held at Masso's Restaurant inside Indian Spring Golf Club, the event brought together this season's best and brightest.**



**"This is amazing. It's a lot of work because I have four AP classes," said Willingboro's Jordan Satterfield, a future communications major and aspiring sports analyst. "This is the first time I've been recognized for academics since I've been in high school, so it's a great feeling."**

**For Courtney Johnson, it's somewhat of a tradition in his household.**

**"All my family members excel academically. I'm one of the few who excels athletically as well," said Johnson, who will follow the path of an older cousin by studying robotics and computer science. "I always knew it was academics before athletics."**

Samuel Marcel, who's keen on attending any college where he can study pre-med and play football, shared a different perspective.

"It's surprising. I didn't expect it at all," said Marcel, an offensive tackle. "Because you're expected to work hard in the classroom, and good grades are something you're supposed to get."

Some people only see the efforts of these young men on the football field, but those who attended the event understand the impact of the classroom.

"It's good being recognized for my academics because it's hard work trying to get good grades," said defensive end Khalin Cisse, who intends to study engineering. "And we definitely compete in the classroom. Jamar (Sims) and me, sometimes we talk trash a little bit."

Although football is his first love, Sims is an accomplished wrestler. He advanced to the Region 7 tournament last winter.

"I'm excited and happy my academics are getting recognized," said Sims, a defensive back. "We came a long way since my sophomore year, thanks to coach (Steve) Everette and how he has developed us."

The group shared a pair of common threads. Strong support from their parents was tagged as the primary influence. Secondly, the reinforcement from their coach.

"It's a blessing and today is an absolute joy for me," Everette said. "Three years ago, Courtney (Johnson) was probably the first one I talked to. I told Courtney 'when we have more guys on the team that want to be doctors, lawyers and engineers than guys wanting to go to the NFL, then we'll be a good program.'"

Willingboro travels to Cedar Creek for Saturday afternoon's semifinal match in South Jersey Group 2.

"And on this night, I've got five players being honored, we're 7-3 and going to the second round of the playoffs," Everette said. "There's lessons to be learned: that hard work is going to pay off in some form or fashion."

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Academic Excellence Night

Burlington City: Seth Lowe, Kyle Kaluhiokalani

**Burlington Twp.:** Jonathan Oflazian

**Cherokee:** Jason Morgan

**Cinnaminson:** Mike O'Brien, Frank Stepnowski, Joe Cody

**Delran:** Steve Bridge, John Hamblin, Cole Hancock, Kyle McBrearty

**Florence:** Michael Hutchison, Hunter Daly, Vincent Wade, Mark Pacini, Marcos Crowell

**Holy Cross:** Tim Petrucelli, Brendan Evans, Colin Turnbull

**Lenape:** Michael Doulong

**Moorestown:** Zach Cataline, Tom Bolte, Nate Dalmass, Danny Schultz, Ryan Penner

**Palmyra:** David Lynch

**Pemberton:** Anthony Martinez, Jordan Heck, Zion Powe

**Rancocas Valley:** Stephen Frombach

**Riverside:** Zeke Brinson, Kevin Rae

**Seneca:** J.J. Scarpello, Mike Jentsch, Colin Ramage, Mark Georgette

**Shawnee:** Dan Wigley, Mike McNeil, Jax Luzinski, Avery Epstein, Jeremy Fisher

**Willingboro:** Khalim Cisse, Courtney Johnson, Jamar Sims, Samuel Marcel, Jordan Satterfield

**MORE INFORMATION**



Photos: Gordon-Masters Football Club honors academic standouts

## Nicholas Italiano

### High School Sports

The Burlington County Times, formerly part of PhillyBurbs, is the leader in covering Burlington County high school sports. Burlington County Times High School sports fans can get scores, news, commentary, statistics and analysis. BCT high schools sports fans can read and watch coverage of Palmyra High School football, Lenape High School football, Cherokee football and Burlington Township football, plus plenty of South Jersey football scores. Enjoy Burlington County high school sports news and features, and comment on Burlington County field hockey, Cinnaminson girls soccer, Moorestown girls soccer and Northern Burlington soccer here. From player profiles to injury updates, the Burlington County Times has the region's high school teams covered.