



FAA'S CORNER - ED FORD'S COLUMN

"Prep athlete's legacy lives on through act of selflessness"

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Danny Finn was a hero in life and an even bigger hero in death.

What else can be said about a person who made the decision to donate his organs to those in need? What else can be said about a terrific kid whose love and passion of life was always coupled with the competitive challenge of sports?

As hundreds of friends filled into McLaughlin's Funeral Home to pay their respects to Danny Finn's family, one could clearly see the tears, not only in their eyes, but in their heart as well.

As Rich Hansen spoke to the Faa in remembrance of Dan Finn, he became angry. "It's not fair," said Hansen, athletic director at St. Peter's Prep where Danny went to school. "It's not right for one so young to have life suddenly ended."

Danny Finn's life ended in a tragic hit and run car accident while on vacation with his family at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Danny Finn stood only 5-9, but he had a heart that was eight feet tall, Hansen said.

"You never forget the Dan Finns. He was a warrior. He was a Prep soccer and basketball player that left it all on the field and court," Hansen said.

The Faa asked Prep president Rev. James Keenan what he remembered about Dan Finn. As tears filled Fr. Keenan's eyes, he said, "Dan was always there for everyone. He defines a true warrior in every sense of the word."

Father Keenan was right - a warrior serves others, placing them before one's own well being. A warrior shows both courage and loyalty.

For Ellen Zadroga, her young nephew Danny was a knight in shining armor.

You see, Zadroga now has a better chance of a longer and healthier life because Danny's kidney is now inside her. For this to have happened, one can only call it a miracle. In all, 26 organs were donated to patients in need.

But there are many Dan Finn stories. And the sadness of Danny's passing touches all of our hearts.

Only 23 years of age, Danny Finn's life and the passion in which he lived it, would take 20 books to fill.

Joe Macchi, Danny's basketball coach at Prep, stated, "I never coached a tougher kid. We were playing a tournament in Connecticut, and suddenly Danny's face was covered with blood. The trainer recommended that Dan go to the hospital immediately. Hansen told the trainer that Dan's mom and dad were outside and they may have a problem with this. Eddie and Mary Finn knew their son well, and no amount of blood and stitches would prevent Danny from finishing the game."



He did finish the game and scored the winning basket. As the 22nd stitch was sewn into his face, the doctor told him he may have to take off six or seven days. Danny said, "Make that last stitch as tight as you can and read the paper tomorrow." This was Danny Finn.

When Danny was six years old, he hit his first 3 point jump shot and totaled 17 points for the game. Those sneakers that he wore were on display for all to see at Danny's wake. The sneakers were all of size 5. Danny hid his worn out sneakers from his mom because he did not want her to throw them out. Finally his mom said go ahead and keep them.

Maura Finn proudly remembered her brother. Though four years older than her, Danny was her best friend.

"I needed someone to talk to and he was there." Said Maura. "I needed a big brother growing up. Danny was always that big brother."

Ed Finn spoke with pride about his son.

"I remember when Danny was six years old and he was at the Bob Hurley basketball camp. Bobby Jr. was an All-American basketball player at Duke and he did a drill called spiderman where he would put the ball between his legs and behind his back, down his arm, off his legs and to his head.

"Bobby, Jr. then asked if any of the 250 kids thought they could do that drill. Not one person said yes. As soon as we got home, Dan shut the door in the garage and for hours all I could hear was the bouncing from the basketball. The next day at camp, little Dan raised his hand and said 'Coach Hurley, I can do the spiderman drill.'

"To the amazement of Bobby, Jr. and all in the camp, boy, did Danny ever look like the All-American Bobby was," Ed Finn said.

It was on the soccer field where Danny excelled most.

Nick Edwards, a former Prep and St. Peter's College star, was one of Danny's best friends. He showed the Faa an album of pictures of him and Danny from their North Arlington youth days on the athletic field of St. Peter's Prep.

"I am going to miss that guy," said Nick. "Everyone is going to miss Danny Finn."

Bob Hurley, Sr. was Danny's boss in the Recreation Department. Dan worked with his father in the Jersey City High School Summer Basketball League.

"Every time I came into the gym," said coach Hurley, "Dan would greet me with his great smile and kiss my wife. Danny Finn was a high energy person."

"He was a person of the heart. My wife and I always considered Danny part of our family."

Dan was a warrior, a leader and most of all, a winner. Because of Dan Finn, there is a man from Jacksonville, Fla., who has a new heart. As Danny's uncle Mike stated, "that man is not only the luckiest guy in the world, but forever has the biggest heart in the world."

(Ed Ford is the assistant director of recreation in Jersey City. His views are not necessarily those of the Jersey Journal.)



**Looking Forward
To
A Great Day**

Paying Homage To

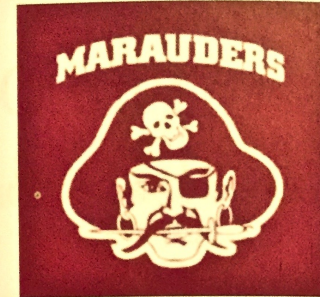
Bob Hurley '65

**"Legendary Coach, Dedicated Family Man,
Respected Leader, True Marauder"**

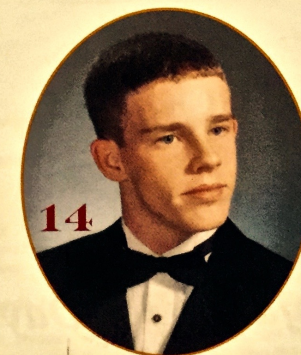


**1962 Prep Hudson County
Champion Basketball Team**

***Frank Nicoletti, Bob Ryan, Stu MacGregor,
Greg Hochstein, Brian Sheeran***



**Welcoming St. Peter's Prep
Back To The
Dan Finn Classic**



**Joe Carr, CPA, SPP '61
280 Baldwin Avenue
Jersey City, N. J. 07306**

Always In Our Hearts



St. Peter's Prep

Head Coach: Alex Mirabel
Assistants: William James, Ahmad Mosby,
 Markis Abraham, Tyquan Goodie,
 Nick Fargo, Jonathan Rosado

Colors: Maroon/White
Mascot: Marauder
League Affiliation: HCIAL
Principal: James D'Angelo
Athletic Director: Rich Hansen



No.	Name	Year	Position	Height
1	Novak, Brian	11	G	5'8"
2	Portoreal, Jorge	11	G	5'11"
3	Thiele, Brendan	10	G	6'4"
4	Waterman, Shamar	12	G	5'11"
5	Bukoweic, Luke	11	G	6'0"
11	Owens, Jordyn	11	G	6'0"
12	Niko, Africa	11	F	6'3"
15	Lopez, Chris	11	G	5'11"
22	Lonergan, Chris	11	F	6'4"
24	Chmiel, Zach	11	F	6'5"
30	Jones, Mitch	11	F	6'6"
32	Simon, Shayne	10	G	6'4"
33	Omslaer, Parker	11	C	6'10"
40	Omslaer, Ryan	11	C	6'11"

Always In Our Hearts



Mater Dei Prep

Head Coach: Ben Gamble
Assistants: Jayson Reid, Mike Piniero,
 Drew Eldridge, Mike Mahon,
 Joe Merlino

Colors: Blue & White
Mascot: Seraphs
League Affiliation: Shore "B" Central Conference
Principal: James J. Hauenstein
Athletic Director: Dennis Tobin



No.	Name	Year	Position	Height
1	Pierre, Marvin	11	F	6'2"
2	McCombs, Ny-Quan	12	G	5'10"
3	Harris, Bryan	12	G	6'3"
4	Devaney, Kyle	10	G	5'6"
5	Mitchell, Elijah	11	G	6'3"
10	Hannafin, Thomas	12	F	6'3"
11	Lewis, Eddie	11	G	6'2"
12	Jara, Dylan	11	G	6'0"
13	Cherry, Sky	10	G	6'0"
15	Jones, Kenneth	10	G	5'11"
21	Elliott, Kyle	12	G	6'2"
22	Green, Joshua	12	G	6'3"
23	McKnight, Maleek	11	F	6'1"
24	Harris, Kelvin	10	G	5'11"
30	Krueger, Sean	11	G	5'11"
31	Barnes, Elijah	11	F	6'7"
32	Jara, Gregory	11	G	5'11"

Pre-game mini-reunion at the
exclusive Astor Bar across from the
National Guard Armory



MARYANN
MARGIE
CHRIS
DEBRA

ASTOR BAR

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Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

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Congratulations
On The
Dan Finn Classic
12th Anniversary

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