# Whelan's 4 TD passes spark comeback to keep H-W unbeaten By Austin Woolman Staff writer, Salem News

**10/15/17**  
  
HAMILTON — There was only one thing on Billy Whelan's mind in the waning minutes of Saturday afternoon's contest with Manchester-Essex.

"Score," said the Hamilton-Wenham quarterback.

The junior signal caller made sure his team did just that. He capped off a 95-yard drive late in the fourth quarter with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crowley with 11 seconds to play, keeping the Generals unbeaten thanks to their 29-22 win over the visiting Hornets.

Whelan threw for 211 yards and four touchdowns on the day, including two in the fourth quarter to rally Hamilton-Wenham (6-0) to its most dramatic victory of the season.

“We had one thing on our mind, and I think we all had that trust in each other," Whelan said. "We all just wanted it really bad.”

“He’s a winner,” added Hamilton-Wenham head coach Jim Pugh. “He’s been doing it at this school in multiple sports for two years. We believe in him, the kids believe in him, and he believes in himself. He’s just a winner.”

The victory sets up an unbeaten showdown this Friday night between Hamilton-Wenham and host Lynnfield (6-0) for the Cape Ann League Baker championship.

Trailing by seven points (22-15) after Manchester Essex halfack Robbie Sarmanian threw a 43-yard halfback option pass for a touchdown to Lake Flemming, Whelan and the Generals went to work. He needed just three plays to find Jake Lanciani with a 3-yard TD toss, and Lanciani's point after tied the game at 22-all.

Then, after a Hornets' drive stalled out at the H-W 5, Whelan marched his team downfield for the day's final touchdown. He completed all six passes he attempted on the game-winning drive.

Manchester Essex football coach Jeff Hutton didn’t mince words when describing his emotions afterwards.

“It feels like I lost my guts over there on the sidelines,” said Hutton.Manchester Essex (now 2-4) took a 14-0 lead on scoring runs of 6 and 2 yards by Sarmanian and two extra points by Anna Zerilli.

Whelan admitted the early deficit it made getting into a rhythm difficult for the offense. “It’s a little hard because you're used to getting the ball early,” he said.”It helps you set the tone. But I thought we did a good job getting back into it and getting a groove. We just took off from there.”

Cam Peach caught a 30-yard TD pass from Whelan to get his team on the board. Following a safety that made the score 14-8, Hamilton-Wenham took its first lead on Ian Coffey's 5-yard touchdown catch.

Pugh had nothing but praise for the Hornets afterwards.

“That was an awesome win, but I’ll tell you: hats off to those guys over there,” said Pugh. “I saw them play Lynnfield two weeks ago, and they play everyone tough. Those two backs (Sarmanian and Jake Athanas) are as good as you're going to see in this league. We just had a little more in the tank.”

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# Friday's area roundup:  Ipswich knocks rival H-W volleyball from unbeaten ranks 10/14/17

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Ipswich 3, Hamilton-Wenham 0:** Ipswich picked up a wildly impressive sweep, 25-16, 25-21, 25-21. According to head coach Keri O’Connor, Talia Kaplanian had strong, consistent serves, passed with excellent control and dove all out for balls. Lily Sheridan was an accurate libero passer, Meghan O’Connor served nine aces and had eight kills, Abby Stanicek had five kills and Haley O’Connor was all over the court digging balls. “I asked my team to make it a goal for this game to go out and each give a ‘Perfect Effort’,” said O’Connor. “Our goal was to not leave the gym without everything we hadand we did just that.”For Hamilton-Wenham (13-1), Lauren Flynn, Cecily Szady and Katie Hankin (all seniors) served at 100 percent. Jaidin Hartley-Ward had 16 digs in the setback

# Hamilton-Wenham football team closes in on postseason plans

**By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent**

**Posted Oct 12, 2017 at 2:35 PM**

Jim Pugh couldn’t ask for much more in his second year with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School football team.

The Generals are 5-0 with two games left in the regular-season before postseason football comes. They host Manchester Essex on Saturday, Oct. 14 ( 2 p.m. kickoff) and then travel to Lynnfield on Friday, Oct. 20, (7 p.m.) in what will decide the Cape Ann League Baker title.

They’ve scored no fewer than 21 points in each game, have allowed no more than 14. Three of their five wins have featured single-digit defensive efforts.

They put up gaudy numbers pretty much every game, the latest a four-interception performance.

For all the success so far, it’s the physical play that Pugh likes the most.

“The thing we really like as a coaching staff is that we’ve become a very physical team,” Pugh said. “This is only my second year and I know we have playmakers and good athletes. Hamilton-Wenham has had great athletes forever. But what’s different this year is that besides playmakers, and our kids are excellent athletes, is that we’ve become a very physical team.”

Pugh credits the work of line coach Ed Melanson and his crew.

″(He’s) got these kid believing in themselves, and we’re rotating kids in on offense and defensive lines,” Pugh said. “We’re getting kids some rest.”

Tackles Morgan Liphardt (senior captain two-year starter), Matt Wieman (senior two-year starter), guards Henry Smith (junior two-year starter), Tommy Monahan (junior first-year starter), center Evan Bucci (junior two-year starter), tight end Michael Crowley (two-year senior starter) and first-year senior defensive lineman Jack McWhirter, have done exceptionally well.

Senior Hunter Wilichoski and junior Henry Schibli have mixed into the defensive line as well.

“Those guys are just really getting the job done protecting (quarterback) Billy (Whelan),” Pugh said. “That’s the thing that is the difference maker for us right now. If we can continue to play physical we will be in good shape.”

Pugh realizes there is a long way to go, but said that he’s happy with where the team’s going.

The defensive took pride in stopping Georgetown’s top receiving threats last week. H-W beat Georgetown, 37-8,

“They really wanted to make sure they didn’t air it out on us,” Pugh said.

The results? Four interceptions. Daniel Tobin, Jake Lanciani, Cam Peach and Bryson Cala had the picks.

“Our kids are staying focused on one game at a time,” Pugh said. “It’s very easy for people to look ahead and Hamilton-Wenham fans I’m sure do it, but as we saw from our kids last week and last few weeks we’re not looking two weeks ahead. We’re looking forward to Saturday afternoon, and as long as we do that and play physical football we’ll be in good shape. We can beat anyone on our schedule and we can lose to anyone on our schedule. Lynnfield is still the top dog in this league until someone beats them.”

The next foe on the schedule is Manchester Essex, coming off a 35-14 loss to Lynnfield. But the score was deceiving, Pugh said. Manchester Essex is 2-3.

“Robbie Sarmanian and Jake Athanas for Manchester Essex are two of the better athletes you’re going to see in the Cape Ann League,” Pugh said. “Sarmanian can hit like a ton of bricks and I know Jake’s dad was a great player and coach and his son is the real deal. We’ve got to stop those two kids. They’ve got a good offense and good running attack. They were able to move the ball in the first half and put up more than a decent fight against Lynnfield.”

# Monday's area roundup: Undefeated Hamilton-Wenham volleyball shades Beverly in five sets

**Salem NEWS ROUND-UP  
Oct 9, 2017**

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Hamilton-Wenham 3, Beverly 2:** Senior captain Lauren Flynn posted 18 kills and 18 digs as the Generals kept their undefeated season alive by pulling out the tiebreaker. H-W (13-0) took a 2-0 lead on wins of 25-22 and 25-13 before Beverly rallied to win the next two sets, but the Generals took the fifth 15-5. Senior libero Grace Lapain picked up 18 digs for H-W and senior Cecily Szady collected three blocks.For the Panthers, senior Delaney Sprague had three blocks, senior Katie Noonan totaled nine kills with four aces, senior Maddy Cassidy served up five aces and senior Julia Gebhardt posted five kills and two aces

**FIELD HOCKEY**

**Hamilton-Wenham 3, Ipswich 2:** Senior Cara Goudie got the offense started for Hamilton-Wenham (3-7-2) while junior Paige McKechnie scored her third of the year and Grace Condon notched her second to make sure the Generals got a hard fought win over the rival Tigers.  
  
**Hamilton-Wenham stays unbeaten by rolling past Georgetown**  
By Dan Harrison Correspondent

**Oct 7, 2017**

**SOUTH HAMILTON** — When football coaches talk about winning the physical battle, they're typically emphasizing the importance of the play of the offensive and defensive lines.

At home against Georgetown Saturday, Hamilton-Wenham was certainly the more physical team. While it was the offensive and defensive fronts that set the table, it was the tough play by the receivers and the defensive backs with the ball in the air that had the Generals rolling.

Thanks to four interceptions and some big plays in the passing game, Hamilton-Wenham smashed the Royals, 37-8, to improve to 5-0 on the season.

"The thing we like, and we didn't have it last year, is being very physical. And the kids are buying into it," said H-W head coach Jim Pugh. "We have playmakers. The boys are happy."

Pugh's playmakers against Georgetown (2-3) were his two senior wideouts/defensive backs Jake Lanciani and Cam Peach. They combined for two interceptions, eight passes defensed and 274 all-purpose yards as well as a touchdown and five extra point kicks.

Lanciani, who was a perfect 5-for-5 on extra points, grabbed a pick and five passes defensed to go with four catches for 89 yards and a score, spoke about the big victory and the even bigger start to the season.

"Extremely pleased," Lanciani said of the win and the Generals' unblemished record. "We just keep bringing the intensity each week. We just keep trying to roll."

And roll they did.

Lanciani got the scoring started with a 12-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter when he took a quick hitch, eluded a pair of defenders and scooted over the goal line.

Peach, meanwhile, had a 50-yard punt return for a touchdown, went for 53 yards rushing on two carries, had an interception and three passes batted down as well as 37 yards receiving on a pair of catches.

For good measure, the senior also had a 45-yard punt that was downed at the 2-yard-line and led to a safety thanks to a few Generals' defenders busting up a running play in the end zone led by Sam Webber.

Daniel Tobin and Bryson Cala both had interceptions on plays where they showed great closing speed to jump quick-hit routes, with Cala really bringing the physical play and giving the H-W defense an energy boost.

"It's huge. We work on developing our defense each week. We're getting stronger each week. We keep going," said Lanciani, before talking about the secondary. "We just try to man up and play our guy."

Generals signal caller Billy Whelan didn't have gaudy numbers, but the junior was surgical when he dropped back, connecting on 8 of 9 passes for 144 yards and the TD. He hit Lanciani on a 37-yard gain as the senior receiver made a circus catch to set up an Ian Coffey 13-yard scoring run.

Coffey would add a 6-yard run in the second quarter before Whelan scored on a 3-yard sneak to make it 28-0.

"Billy throws the ball in the right spot, and we get open for him. That's how we do it," said Lanciani.

The Royals prevented the goose egg late as Tom Long fired a scoring pass 30 yards down the left sideline to Cody Melo before also finding Melo for the 2-point conversion.

But the Generals smothered the visitors' passing attack thanks to Lanciani, Peach and Cala, while linebacker Phil Durgin was tenacious in the middle stuffing the run. The hosts allowed only 22 yards rushing when the starters were on the field.

"A lot of it was mistakes we're in control of, but hats of to Hamilton-Wenham," said Georgetown head coach Eric McCarthy. "They're well coached. We gave them a lot of opportunities, but we were playing a formidable opponent, and when you play a formidable opponent you can't make mistakes and make it easier on them."

**HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK**

# Hamilton-Wenham relishes its experience By Dan McLoone GLOBE CORRESPONDENT  OCTOBER 06, 2017 The importance of experience is certainly not lost on the Hamilton-Wenham girls’ volleyball team.

Following an 18-5 campaign last fall that ended with a Division 2 North semifinal loss to Burlington in a five-set thriller, the Generals are fielding a 12-player roster with seven seniors and three juniors this season.

“We have five starting seniors and we’ve been playing together for many years, so that’s a key aspect for our success,”said senior captain **Cecily Szady** .“In the preseason, we really worked on being able to sub people in or change who’s setting and just really become comfortable with whoever is on the court.”

Ranked 16th in this week’s Globe Top 10, H-W is off to a perfect 12-0 start (10-0 in Cape Ann League play) and seeking its first league title since 2000.  
  
“Us seniors, since we have so many on the team, we’re doing it for each other to get that name on the banner in our gym,” said Szady, a 5-foot-10 middle hitter.

“CAL champs. It would be so special if we can keep our steady and calm play, as steady as I’ve ever seen us.”

Szady (38 kills, 18 blocks) and fellow tri-captains **Lauren Flynn**(118 kills) and **Katie Hankin**(56 kills) have combined to form an imposing offensive grouping. Libero **Grace Lapian**has been excellent defensively. And with the graduation of four-year starter **Tori Vivenzio**, **Jaidin Hartley-Ward**and **Alex Padellaro** have combined for 236 assists while running a two-setter attack.

“These girls mean so much to me, so it’s always emotional,” said Hamilton-Wenham coach **Jen Flynn** , also the mother of the senior captain.

“I want them to have a great senior year. And of course, I’m trying to do my best to stay emotionally steady on the bench as a coach. But when they make some of these amazing plays or do something phenomenal, at least I can see my husband [Dave] jumping up and down in the stands across the court. So I can live vicariously through him. But it is very special.

“I didn’t know it was going to be this wonderful to share this experience with Lauren and her best friends.”

The Generals know that they must maintain their consistency to hold off perennial Cape Ann power Lynnfield for the league title.

The Generals prevailed in their September matchup, rallying from a two-set deficit for a 16-25, 23-25, 25-17, 34-32, 15-12 win.

“In the past few years, we’ve been up and down,” said the younger Flynn, who tallied 27 kills and 27 digs in the victory over Lynnfield.

“Sometimes we’ll be in a rut and you can feel all that negative energy coming from everyone at some point, but this year I think we’ve really gotten rid of that aspect of our play and we’ve really been able to have this confidence and control no matter if we lost or won a rally.

“It’s helped us get out to this great start.”

With four games left in league play, including a rematch with Lynnfield on Oct. 18, the Generals are in a good position to add another year to their banner.

But even with their undefeated start, the younger Flynn emphasized the importance of not looking too far ahead.

“It’s not always about the end goal,” said Flynn, a 5-foot-9 outside hitter. “It’s about the next game, the next set, the next point. I’m not thinking about the CAL championship when I’m in the game. I’m thinking about getting that next pass up. If [winning a league or state title] happens for us, then it will be because of each point and each set that we’ve won along the way.”

# Wednesday's area roundup: Returning captain Ong scores to lift Hamilton-Wenham Salem News, October 5, 2017

**BOYS SOCCER  
Hamilton-Wenham 1, Triton 0**: Senior captain Nick Ong made his return from injury and blasted a 25-yard goal to the far post with 12 minutes remaining to send the Generals (3-3-2) to victory. Alex Renault played well while Gabe Berthoud and Jay Kum helped H-W generate many of their offensive chances.

**Hamilton-Wenham volleyball team improves to 11-0**  
  
By [Christopher Hurley](mailto:churley@wickedlocal.com)   
churley@wickedlocal.com   
Posted Oct 3, 2017 at 1:48 PM Updated Oct 3, 2017 at 1:48 PM

These Generals are not content to just cruise into postseason play.

After punching their ticket to the state tourney over the weekend, the Hamilton-Wenham volleyball team continued to climb up the bracket topping Triton, 3-0, on Oct. 2.

With the win, Coach Jennifer Flynn’s club improved to a spotless 11-0.

The Generals worked like a well-oiled machine winning in straight sets 25-18, 25-15 and 26-16, to complete the sweep

Sophomore middle hitter Alessandra Brizula brought out her best, registering four kills, three blocks and two aces. Sophomore outside hitter Evelyn Easton was also highly effective with some crisp passing, while dishing eight digs and six aces.

In earlier action, Hamilton-Wenham clinched a spot in the state tourney with a 3-0 win over Reading on Sept. 28.

The Generals delivered the goods winning in straight sets 25-23, 25-12 and 25-18.

Senior captain Lauren Flynn was fantastic driving 12 digs and 10 kills.

Senior Grace Lapain, Jaidin Hartley-Ward and Katie Hankin, had seven digs apiece.

A setter, Hartley-Ward dished 11 assists. Senior setter Alex Padellaro also had 11 helpers. Senior captain Cecily Szady was just as sharp with her serves.