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Darien High School to Receive Walter Camp's 2016 "Joseph W. Kelly" Award

New Haven, CT – The Darien Blue Wave, the Class LL state champion and consensus No. 1 team in the state's high school football season-ending polls, is the Walter Camp Football Foundation's choice to receive the 2016 Joseph W. Kelly Award.

The Kelly Award is presented annually to Connecticut's top high school football team.

It is the second straight year Darien has earned the honor, and the first to repeat since Xavier (2010 and 2011).

"With its potent offensive attack along with a stingy defense, Darien was outstanding on its way to another perfect season," said Walter Camp Football Foundation President Robert Kauffman. "We salute Coach Rob Trifone, his staff and players on a phenomenal season."

Darien won its 10 regular-season games, including a 37-34 overtime victory over eventual Class L champion New Canaan, on Thanksgiving morning.

The Blue Wave then defeated Greenwich, 29-3, in the Class LL quarterfinals on December 1. In the semifinals, Darien defeated Southington, 38-7, and culminated its 13-0 perfect season with a 28-7 victory over Ridgefield in the championship game on December 10. In its 13 games, the Blue Wave averaged 40.4 points per game, allowing just 13.6.

Coach Trifone and the Darien team will be recognized at the organization's High School Breakfast of Champions event, on Saturday, January 14 at the Omni New Haven Hotel. Darien, along with the three other state football champions (New Canaan, Hillhouse and Ansonia) will be feted. Also that morning, the Walter Camp All-Connecticut Team, High School Player and Coach of the Year will also be recognized.

Later that evening, members of the 2016 Walter Camp All-America team, including Player of the Year Lamar Jackson (Louisville) and other major award winners (Alumni Award-Orlando Pace; Man of the Year-Warrick Dunn; Distinguished American-Mike Ditka), will be honored at the

organization's national awards banquet, presented by KeyBank, at the Yale University Commons in New Haven.

Walter Camp, "The Father of American football," first selected an All-America team in 1889. Camp – a former Yale University athlete and football coach – is also credited with developing play from scrimmage, set plays, the numerical assessment of goals and tries and the restriction of play to eleven men per side. The Walter Camp Football Foundation – a New Haven-based all-volunteer group – was founded in 1967 to perpetuate the ideals of Camp and to continue the tradition of selecting annually an All-America team. Visit www.waltercamp.org for more information.

Walter Camp "Joseph W. Kelly Award" Connecticut High School Champions

2016 – Darien
2015 – Darien
2014 – Southington
2013 – Ansonia
2012 – Daniel Hand (Madison)
2011 – Xavier (Middletown)
2010 – Xavier (Middletown)
2009 – Notre Dame (West Haven)
2008 – New Canaan
2007 – Ansonia
2006 – Ansonia
2005 – Xavier (Middletown)
2004 – Daniel Hand (Madison)
2003 – New Britain
2002 – West Haven
2001 – New Britain
2000 – Fitch (Groton)
1999 – Bloomfield
1998 – Bloomfield
1997 – Daniel Hand (Madison)
1996 – Weaver (Hartford)
1995 – Cheshire
1994 – Cheshire
1993 – Cheshire
1992 – Cheshire
1991 – Notre Dame (West Haven)
1990 – Derby
1989 – Ansonia
1988 – Stratford
1987 – East Catholic (Manchester)
1986 – Trumbull
1985 – Hillhouse (New Haven)
1984 – Middletown
1983 – Ansonia

1982 – St. Joseph’s (Trumbull)
1981 – Naugatuck
1980 – Trumbull
1979 – Newington
1978 – Amity (Woodbridge)
1977 – Trumbull
1976 – Fitch (Groton)

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The Walter Camp Football Foundation is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA). The NCFAA was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game’s predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients.

www.waltercamp.org