

## Micheal Fiorillo

### 1982 - Football & Basketball



For most of the 1970s, Stoneham was considered a hockey town. And when the Fiorillos moved here from East Boston in the middle of that decade, their only son could not skate.

But he could play basketball.

Mike Fiorillo would grow to be 6' 4" tall. He did not run particularly fast, could not jump very high, but he had an amazing set of hands; hands that produced a feathery-soft shooting touch; hands that would grab every rebound, and later, hands that would catch any pass thrown to him on the football field.

During his sophomore basketball season, Mike saw his minutes increase as the season wore on, leading to a late-season, game-high 22-point effort in a victory over Belmont. It was a preview of things to come as the Boston Globe named him a "Player to Watch" heading into the next season. But in the fall of his junior year, instead of practicing his jump shot, he decided to try out for football, a sport he had never played before at an organized level. In his second varsity game, Mike scored on touchdown catches of 56 and 49 yards against Watertown. Suddenly Stoneham football had something it had not had in years: a legitimate deep threat on the outside.

In the winter, he lived up to the promise of the previous basketball season as he was voted team MVP and named to the Middlesex League All-Star team after averaging 18.3 points per game.

Senior year in football was nothing short of spectacular: A Middlesex League All-Star at split end, a league-leading nine touchdown receptions, a 10th touchdown scored on a highlight reel 101-yard interception return against Belmont for which he was named a Defensive Star of the Week in the Boston Globe, and finally a 2-touchdown reception, Marty Jordan Award-winning performance against Reading on Thanksgiving Day.

Senior year in basketball saw him elected team captain, and repeat as team MVP and Middlesex League All-Star. In spite of facing constant double and triple-teams, he won the league scoring title, averaging over 25 points per game, including games of 40 pts, 18 rebounds vs. Woburn, and 44 pts, 24 rebounds vs. Burlington. He was named to the North squad in the prestigious Agganis Classic All Star game.

But there was one thing missing: Victories. Mike never played for a winning team at Stoneham High, prompting the Globe to run a feature story on him entitled "Frustrated Superstar," which spoke of his passion, dedication, and will to win.

The victories came at the next level. Mike played four years at St. Joseph's

College in Maine on teams that went a combined 91-25. He scored over 1600 points and in 2002 was named to the St. Joseph's College Athletic Hall Of Fame.

And tonight, the circle is complete...