

Coach John Maronto **1985 - 1987 – Won 20, Lost 10, Tied 0**

Maronto takes charge **Tiger boss has 3-year pact**

By STEVE DOERSCHUK
Independent Sports Editor

MASSILLON – Tigertown has been through hell the past four weeks, but John Maronto says he's stepping into coaching heaven.

Maronto, who this morning signed a three-year contract at \$38,000 a year to be the head football coach and athletic director of the Massillon Tigers, conveyed that impression in an exclusive interview with The Evening Independent before he ate breakfast.



“I’ve had opportunities to take college jobs,” said Maronto, 42, the head football man at Warren, Mich., DeLa Salle High School the past 11 years. “I’ve turned them down. I think the Massillon job is better than 80 percent of the college jobs in the country.

John Maronto - Massillon Record

Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Points	
				Mass.	Opp.
1985	7	3	0	180	108
1986	7	3	0	235	70
1987	6	4	0	237	146
Total	20	10	0	652	324

Winning Percentage

66.7%

“I think I can get the Massillon job where it’s the best high school job in the country. I get the idea some people misconstrue this job. If you’re a high school coach, this is where you want to be.”

He said his immediate goal is to win the state championship this year. He said his long-range goal is to see the Tigers recognized as the best team in the country.

But the long range may not be all that long. He said he intends to honor his three year contract and move on.

His goals, he said, are to guide the destiny of a major college team, and ultimately a National Football League team.

Maronto said he studied the lawsuit filed by his fired predecessor, Mike Currence, and found it as no deterrent to his becoming the first new pigskin boss of the Tigers in 10 years.

Currence's suit seeks reinstatement of the jobs Maronto now assumes. Currence said this morning that he plans to do what is best for "the kids and the program" but declined further comment "at this time."

The day Currence was fired, numerous players signed petitions saying they wouldn't suit up in 1995 unless Currence was reinstated. Most of those players apparently have backed off that stand.

"We hope the community gives the new coach all its support," said Wes Siegenthaler, expected to be one of the leaders of the 1985 team, as he sat on a car hood across from the press conference where Maronto was introduced this morning.

Siegenthaler was among players who signed the player boycott petition. But he said he's playing this year and expects all of his key teammates to do the same.

"We're behind the new coach 100 percent," Siegenithaler said. "We just hope none of the things that have been going on scare him."

Maronto seems far from scared. "He's a coach's coach and a man's man," said Tom Kimmins, the Massillon board of Education president.

First impressions paint him as a tough man who does it his way.

He says he was born to coach. His birthplace was Detroit. He was a motor city kid whose football engines revved before he reached 10.

"I knew by the time I was in high school I wanted to be a football coach," he said.

He played guard and fullback in high school and took his wares to San Luis Obispo College in California.

"I was fortunate to play where I did in college, because our conference had some of the best coaches in the country in it," Maronto said. "John Madden and Ted Tollner had played at San Luis Obispo. I learned by playing against the teams of Don Coryell, who was the head coach at San Diego State. Darryl Rogers, who was the coach at Fresno State and John Ralston, who was the coach at Pacific."

At age 25, Maronto came back east with his wife, Addie, and launched his high school record as an assistant at Madison Heights Lamphere High, near Detroit. After six year's

there, he took over the program at De La Salle, which at the time was in Detroit but since has moved to suburban Warren.

He said he doesn't even know his career head coaching record, only that he has gone 44-10 over the last five years and 8-1 the past two seasons.

"Football is my life," Maronto said. "If I could live without it, I would, because I could make a lot more money investing the same hours in something else, But I can't live without it.

"I'm very fortunate to have a wife and family who understand that. We've become a good football family, I spend a lot of hours with my job, but we spend a lot of quality time as a family. I don't come home and read the paper, or golf, or bowl. I coach football, and I spend time with my family."

MASSILLON'S FIRST FAMILY – The Maronto family arrived in Massillon at 1:45 this morning a bit bleary-eyed due to car problems, but ready to help Coach John tackle the challenge of being Washington High School's head football coach and athletic director. The Marontos are (front, left to right) son John, 21, wife Addie, John, daughter Monica, 18, and (back, left to right) daughters Michelle, 17, Maureen, 11, and Margie 15.

TIGERS '85

By James C. DeLong
Football Information Director

THE MASSILLON TIGERS have taken on a "new look" for the 1985 season as a result of the naming of John A. Maronto as head coach here on June 22.

Maronto comes here with fine coaching credentials, having been head coach for the past eleven years at De La Salle Collegiate High School of Warren, Michigan. There he competed in the strong Catholic Central League of the Greater Detroit area.

Under Maronto, the Tigers will be more run oriented than in recent years. They will operate out of a multiple offense and will utilize the "I," splitbacks and pro-set formations.

Defensively, Massillon will use the "Michigan fifty slant" alignment.

Nineteen lettermen are available from former Coach Mike Currence's 1981 squad. The seven returning starters from this group are, Duane Crenshaw, TE-DT; Mark Harter, OT-DLB; Joe Luckring, OG-DT; Jared Mayle, OG-DT; Wes Siegenthaler, QB-S-WB; Cornell Jackson, RB; and Derick Newman, RB.

FOOTBALL BACKGROUND OF COACH

JOHN A. MARONTO

1967 Through 1984

1967 - Assistant coach – Paso Robles, California

1968 – 1973 - Defensive coordinator – Madison Heights, Michigan, Lampherle

1974-1984 – Head Coach- Warren, Michigan, De LaSalle Collegiate high school.

MASSILLON WASHINGTON STAFF

1. Dennis Blanchard, B.A. (1st year) (Olivet College) – Offensive Coordinator
2. LaVerne Hose, B.S. (7th year) (Capital University)
3. Michael James, B.A., M.A. (3rd year) (Heidelberg College)
4. Thomas Jarvis, B.A. (4th year) (University of Kansas)
5. James Letchvits, B.S. (18th year) (University of Kansas)
6. Brandon Oliver, (1st year) (North Dakota) – Defensive Coordinator
7. Tyrone Partridge, B.A. (1st year) (Eastern Michigan University)
8. Dave Slinger (1st year)
9. Steve Studer (1st year) (Bowling Green University) – Strength Coach
10. Charles Utterback, B.A. (12th year) (Bowling Green State University)
11. Nick Vrotsos, B.A. (28th year) (University of Alabama)

All of the above coaches except for Steve Studer have both offensive and defensive assignments.