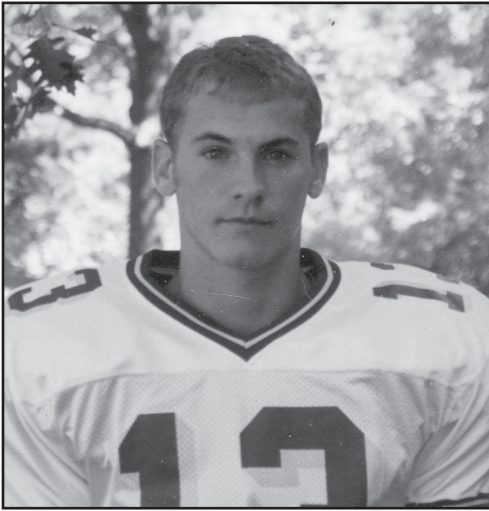


EPH LEGEND – JOE REARDON '04

by Kristian Dufour, Associate Director of Communications for Sports Information



Joe Reardon Turned Weston Field into Personal Field of Dreams

in the story they helped begin—which made it all that more special.”

Special might be an understatement for the 2001 season. With Reardon starting all 8 games that year, the Ephs finished 8-0, the fifth undefeated season in program history, culminating in a 23-20-overtime victory over Amherst on Weston Field.

Unsurprisingly, that game ranks at the top of Reardon’s memories at Williams. It was only the third time in history that both teams came into the game 7-0. Trailing 20-17 in the overtime session, Reardon connected with Ryan Friend on a 21-yard pass play down the right sideline to set up Tyler’s Shea’s 3-yard rumble into the end zone two plays later that ended the game.

“That’s a moment I’ll never forget, and to this day it’s hard not to think about it whenever I come to Weston,” Reardon said. “To share something like that with a group of guys who were so close, who fought all year after a tough season in 2000, and for all the alumni supporting us, it really meant a lot to put the team back on top.”

For his efforts that season, Reardon received the Joe Zabalski Award and was named the New England Division II/III Offensive Player of the Year. He also was the conference’s Offensive Player of the Year and the ECAC’s Northeast Div. III Player of the Year after connecting on a then-school record 146 passes in 221 attempts. He threw for 1,721 yards and 13 TDs. His passing efficiency rating was 145.5. Reardon also caught one pass on the year for 16 yards and a TD.

“I remember we gave three guys the opportunity before we turned to him,” Farley said. “He had a confidence about him, he was smart and he worked hard. [Offensive coordinator] Mike Whalen did a great job with those kids.

“I think the biggest thing was the kids believed in him. We came from behind in several games to win, and I think that says something about his leadership qualities.”

Reardon was far from finished, guiding the Ephs to a 7-1 record his junior year and

a 6-2 mark in his final campaign. He started the last game of the Dick Farley era, a 14-10 win over Amherst on Weston Field in 2003. He finished 24-4 as a starter, and was the first player ever to be named the ECAC Northeast Div. III Player of the Year and NESCAC Offensive Player of the Year in consecutive seasons.

Along the way, he set several Williams records that still stand today, including most passing attempts in a career (817), most completions in one season (167), most completions in a career (499), most passing yards in a career (5,712), and most career wins by a quarterback (24).

He graduated in 2004, but Weston Field wasn’t done with Joe Reardon. Six years later, Joe married fellow Eph Jennifer Garabedian (Class of 2001) on campus at Thompson Chapel. Following the nuptials, the entire wedding party did a “reverse walk” down Spring Street and had both their cocktail hour and reception at Weston Field. Among the invited guests were countless teammates, as well as Mike and Karen Whalen and Dick and Suzanne Farley.

Asked to choose between the 2001 OT win against Amherst and his wedding reception for best Weston Field memory, Reardon just chuckled and said, “both were incredibly special. Let’s just call them Number 1 and Number 1. I’ll never forget either.”

The Reardons live in Manhattan today with their two children. Reardon has worked in finance since graduating and is currently a managing director at Brownstone Investment Group, a private investment firm and broker-dealer.

The lessons he says he learned under Farley at Williams are never far from his day-to-day life.

“The invaluable experiences at Williams, in the classroom, and on the field are applicable both personally and professionally. As a parent, helping raise a family, or being anything from an educator to a lawyer, doctor, or working in finance — there’s some way to apply lessons learned at Williams.”

