

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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Allen-Dieruff rivalry provided foundation for writer's love of high school sports

Keith Groller '79 Guest Contributor

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I have experienced many of the greatest rivalries in sports from either a press box or the friendly confines of my living room couch.

Yankees-Red Sox. Eagles-Cowboys. Army-Navy. Lehigh-Lafayette. 76ers-Celtics.

But none of them hit home, or actually, came into my home, more than Allen-Dieruff.

My parents, you see, are proud 1959 Allentown High graduates. They were members of the final graduating class of one, single Allentown public high school. Both lived on the East Side and had they been born just a few months later, they would have been members of Dieruff's first graduating class in 1960.

Instead, they raised me a Canary fan and I grew up going to more Allen football and basketball games than I care to remember.

However, my uncle was a member of Dieruff's 1966 graduating class and so I also got to go to many Dieruff games as a kid.

One Friday I was rooting for the Canaries. The next Friday I was rooting for the Huskies.

All was fine until that one Friday night each year when the two actually met. Talk about conflicted emotions.

It all sorted itself out by the time I entered Dieruff as a student in the fall of 1976. There was no turning back.

I was a Husky and my favorite day of the school year, without a doubt, was the day of the Allen-Dieruff game. It was like Halloween, Christmas and New Year's Eve all rolled into one.

I remember that little, if any, school work was done. This was a day of excitement, camaraderie, spirit and anticipation.



Keith and his father Rocky

And it was all capped off by the pep rally in the gym featuring Dick Schmidt, Dieruff's legendary boy's basketball coach and athletic director, as ring master.

Schmitt put on a show that few who ever played for this stern, demanding taskmaster would ever believe. He enjoyed many successful nights in the gym that bears his name, but Schmidt was never more popular than he was during those hilarious pep rallies.

Meeting No. 59 in the Allen-Dieruff football series is set for Nov. 7 and my calculation is that I have seen at least 40 of the previous contests either as a fan, student or reporter, including the nine that were played on Thanksgiving from 1969-71 and again from 1985-90.

I remember the irony of my mom wearing an Allen, Canary-colored mum, complete with a big "A" to at least one of the Thanksgiving games, even though we were living on N. Irving Street, literally with Dieruff visible from our backyard. I was hoping none of the neighbors would see her and get upset.

(Continued on PAGE 4)



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Embrace the Traditions, Experience the Pride

Traditions! Like the fiddlers on the roof or the seventh inning stretch, the origins of many traditions have been lost through the years. What we do know is that traditions can create a bond among people.

We are fortunate that the traditions being established by the Dieruff Alumni Association are fresh in our mind, and trace their beginnings to the last four years. These traditions are designed to promote unity among Dieruff Huskies: alumni, current students, and faculty and staff.



One very proud tradition is the Pre-game Tailgate Party sponsored by the Alumni Association. Now in its fourth year, the event is held prior to the annual football game between the Huskies and William Allen Canaries. This year, the Tailgate Party is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Strategically located on Cedar Beach Park, across from Gate 2 at J.Birney Crum Stadium, the party is a festive array of large party tents, convenient registration tables, and catered picnic food and drink, all offered for a \$10 donation fee.

At the heart of the pre-game celebration is the blending of passionate Dieruff Husky Fans. Alumni representing more than five decades of graduating classes unite in a celebration of "Husky Pride". The reunion has even become a "family affair", with siblings from different classes coming together. Parents and their children, all Dieruff Alumni, are joining together to share the joy.

A significant element of the tradition is the opportunity to meet current Dieruff students. Every year, the Alumni Association invites members of the Marching Band, the AFROTC Color Guard, and the Cheerleaders to be our guests and participate in the party. These fine young students are able to experience firsthand the collective spirit that we enjoy.

The Dieruff Athletic Director, Mel Riddick, keeps us posted on the Football Team's progress as their bus makes it's way from the high school to the stadium. Several minutes prior to their arrival, our attendees cross Linden Street, and form two lines up the ramp into the stadium. As the coaches and the players emerge from the bus, they are greeted by a throng of cheering fans, coupled with the heart-pounding sounds of the Dieruff Fight Song. Coach Kyle Beller refers to this procession toward the locker rooms as the "Alumni Walk of Fame".

We anticipate this year's Pre-game Tailgate Party will include some particularly exciting ingredients. We expect a "family affair" that includes Joyce Hemerly Reed-Ebling (Class of 1962) and her children, Tyrone Reed ('80), Andre Reed ('81), Dion Reed ('83), and Teshia Reed ('84). Last year, Andre Reed was enshrined in the NFL Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. During the halftime ceremonies of this year's Dieruff vs. Allen Game, the playing field of J.Birney Crum Stadium will be dedicated in Andre's name. Certainly this is a celebration of Husky Pride that you will not want to miss.

Warmest Husky Regards,

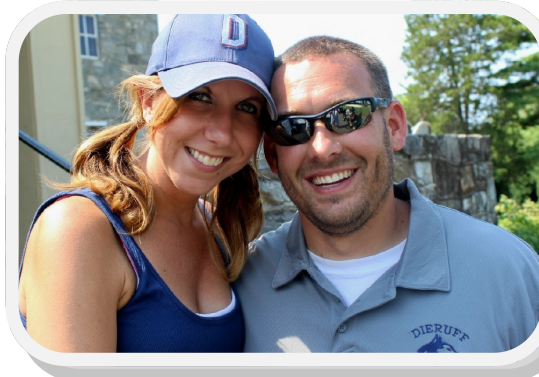
John



Alumni Profile - Kyle Beller '97

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

I first met Kyle Beller back in November of 2012 shortly after Dieruff's underdog victory over Allen in varsity football. His smiling blue eyes sparkled with enthusiasm as he excitedly informed me that the Husky who scored with a 64-yard run (and who was named Dieruff's MVP) was "only a sophomore." Although that rivalry game was the final contest of Coach Beller's inaugural season, it was clear that he had initiated a strong resurgence of Husky Pride that would surely carry over into the following year. That streak-ending "W" gave his seniors their first taste of sweet success and, as Kyle recently explained, has given him the greatest satisfaction to date at the helm of Dieruff football. He commented, "to see their faces as they ended their four-year career with a win was emotional."




2013 Football Coach of the Year. Always humble, Kyle unpretentiously accepted the honor on behalf of his extraordinary coaching staff, to which he often gives much of the well-deserved credit. The following year, in November of 2014, the Eastern Pennsylvania Football Officials Association presented its Sportsmanship Award to Coach Beller, recognizing the exemplary behavior of Husky coaches and players throughout the games. Most recently, Kyle was chosen to serve as an assistant coach in the 2015 McDonald's LV All-Star Football Classic. Representing the victorious Red Team, which included players from Lehigh County, Coach Beller was joined by two of his Husky team members who were also selected to participate in the 45th annual event.

A fellow South Sider, Kyle attended Roosevelt and South Mountain Schools before arriving at Dieruff in the fall of 1993. As a linebacker for Coach Mike Marcks' husky pack, he was a senior member of the '96 squad that upset Allentown Central Catholic who was then ranked number one in the state. (That same contingent of Husky players enjoyed further success that season when Dieruff defeated a highly-favored East Stroudsburg team in the District XI playoffs.) After graduating from Dieruff in 1997, Kyle went on to play football during his four years at Delaware Valley College from which he earned his undergraduate degree in Business Education. Although his passion for football was set in motion during the seventh grade, it was at DelVal where he began breaking down film and game planning which, ultimately, prepared him for his coaching career. He then attained his Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from Wilkes University. Kyle returned to the football field as an assistant coach for the Nazareth Area School District where he still teaches today.


This month's honored alumnus, Kyle Beller, is a husband, father, educator, and coach. Currently in his fourth year leading Dieruff's football program, I believe that what Kyle teaches our young Huskies goes way beyond the practice field; he lives a daily example of hard work, responsibility, and sacrifice. Often a father-figure and mentor to the boys, he and his family graciously and selflessly extend an open Thanksgiving invitation to any players who have no holiday plans. He and his coaching staff aim to provide a positive atmosphere and the tools needed for the team members to reach their own personal goals and to become successful adults. As an active LED alumnus, Kyle continues to uphold our tradition of Husky Pride. Although he surely is committed to a very busy schedule, he still allows time to support many Dieruff events - from basketball games to alumni festivities to theatre department fundraisers. When Kyle and his dear wife Lynn were married last year, it was our alumni association president, John Hughes, who officiated at their ceremony. What a beautiful testament to their lifelong Husky Pride!

In January of 2012, the Allentown School Board struck gridiron gold when it unanimously approved Kyle Beller as Dieruff's incoming football coach for the 2012 season. Just a few days shy of his 33rd birthday, Kyle would be the Huskies' twelfth head coach since the school's opening in 1959, taking on the formidable task of restoring Husky Pride to the East Side program. Embracing the challenge with his immeasurable determination and positivity, Coach Beller led our Huskies to their first non-losing record (since 2002) in only his second season. Recognized for that effort and accomplishment, he was named Morning Call's

This Saturday, November 7th, Coach Beller and our Huskies will go for their record-setting fourth consecutive win over William Allen. We invite all alumni to join the waves of Blue and Gray that will fill the stands of Allentown's spectacular stadium. Come celebrate your Husky Pride! Kick-off is at 2:00 pm - you won't want to miss it!



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See Lynn Beller or email:
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Freedom Is Not Free

David Ziegenfuss '86

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is a time to begin our holiday season, but there is a date that is just as important, but usually forgotten. And it is a time to remember and thank those who are serving and have served in the military for our great nation.

A date to remember all United States Armed Forces veterans was designated in 1954; that date, November 11th, was used when "the Guns of August", fell silent. So let us thank those who have protected our borders and have risked their lives. Now is the time to give thanks...

Give thanks to those who served. Who rise early for P.T., who slept in ditches, who marched during the sun's blazing day and the drenching night rain. Give thanks to those who swept the decks, passed the ammo and carried and aided the wounded. Give thanks to those who took to the air and the crews on

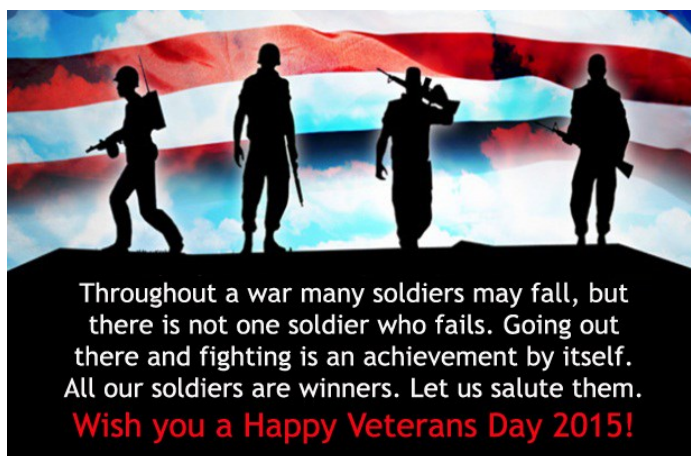
the ground who helped get them up. Give thanks to the leaders and to those with the trust to follow.

Give thanks to the mothers, the fathers and the spouses who sacrifice their hearts and wait and wonder if, and when their loved one would come home.

And most importantly, give thanks to those brothers and sisters who will never return for they paid the ultimate price for freedom.

As US Airforce Colonel Walter Hitchcock coined "**Freedom Is Not Free**" Let us remember to continue to pay our veterans for our freedoms.

So as the calendar reaches November 11th, remember to give thanks to all of those who have served on behalf of a Grateful Nation.



Keith Groller - Continued from PAGE 1

Many other memories abound from my youth, most notably the stunning sadness of Allen's 7-0 upset win over Dieruff in 1977, my junior year.

Dieruff was 9-0 and ranked No. 3 in the state. Allen was 1-8 and seemingly vastly overmatched. Dieruff had two of its best backs ever in Tony Jordan and Dave Kurisco, but Allen's Terry Heffner stole the show with 144 yards rushing and the game's only touchdown.

As the cliché goes, you can throw the records out when two rivals meet and this one was proof positive that the cliché has some merit.

As a reporter, one of my favorite games was the 2000 clash when Dieruff trailed 21-0 at halftime but rallied behind freshman quarterback Josh Hinkle who replaced an injured Rich Ocelus. Hinkle was a hero and the Huskies stormed back for a 28-21 overtime win, the first OT game in series history.

Two years later, the two met twice in a three-week period, the second time for the Eastern Conference title and Dieruff won a 52-20 shootout.

But, without a doubt, my favorite game in the rivalry came in the 1992 regular season finale – the capper to the best season the two have ever combined for.

Allen came in at 8-1-1, Dieruff was 9-1. The game was for the East Penn Conference title. It got a tremendous amount of hype and Allentown turned back the clock to an earlier era and nearly 14,000 people showed up.

Dieruff won a back-and-forth thriller 32-27.

Alas, the same two had to meet again the next week for the District 11 championship. The game didn't quite have the same magic and was a bit anti-climatic, yet Allen gladly took the rematch and the district gold, 14-7.

The reality is that both programs have struggled for much of the past two decades. So much has changed.

And yet, this remains a special day for the kids involved at both schools. It's a day they should have a sense of pride, a sense of history and appreciate what Allen-Dieruff has meant to so many people over the years.

Even alums who have long left the city or who can't remember where their diplomas or high school yearbooks are located, still care about who wins this game.

May the Allen-Dieruff rivalry continue to burn bright for years to come and shine its light on the best and brightest both schools and the city have to offer.



Post game hand shake after Dieruff's 35-0 victory last year

Alumni Association Partners with Giant Food Stores

Kay Kurtz Vogel '74

We've been given a great opportunity to participate in the Cash for Causes gift card program hosted by Giant Food Stores. These gift cards do not expire and do not have service charges or administrative fees attached to them and can be used at the following companies:



This program is available year-round. Complete the form below to place an order. It's a simple way to buy groceries and in turn support your alma mater through your alumni association!



Giant Gift Card Cash for Causes program is a great fundraising opportunity for the Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association and our endeavors. Giant Gift Cards can be used to purchase groceries and gas all year long. In addition, it's a great gift to give to someone. All you need to do is shop with gift cards instead of cash or credit. The DHS Alumni Association will earn **10%** of gift cards purchased.

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Total Amount Due: _____

Complete the order form along with a check or money order made payable to: Dieruff High School Alumni Association – c/o Dieruff High School 815 N. Irving St. Allentown, PA 18109.

Orders received by the 23rd of each month will be processed and available for local pickup at the monthly Dieruff Alumni Association meeting held the first Wednesday of each month in the Meilinger Media Center beginning at 6:30 PM. Out of area orders will be sent via US Mail.

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

I do love turkey, but Mom says Thanksgiving is more than turkey. After reflection (and I am a scholarly dog), I realize I have much for which to be grateful:

1. Being a husky...enough said.
2. Being a mascot and Diva Dog.
3. The Dieruff Family and every family needs a dog or two.
4. The Dieruff Alumni who include me in so many events.
5. Robin and Bob, who helped so much when I was a naughty puppy.
6. My co-mascot and friend Misha.
7. Willow, my cat housemate. We grew up together. Magnolia...well...but glad Mom took in another stray.
8. John Hughes, who takes good pictures of me.
9. The many friends I have made while doing my mascot duties.
10. **Being a rescue dog. My life would have been very different.**
11. Special thanks to Pat McDevitt for starting MAPAW Husky Rescue.
12. To Kathy Raade for talking Mom into taking a red coated husky instead of the traditional gray and white.
13. Special Thanks to any rescue. Please Google "The Rescuer at the Rainbow Bridge", Long story and tissue alert, but a meaningful story.
14. Mom, love you even if you scramble the eggs instead of making them dippy.



Happy Thanksgiving

Kiska V, Diva Dog

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\$5 Raffle Ticket

Drawing Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015
at the Dedication of Andre Reed Field at
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All proceeds benefit the School Spirit Scholarship Fund
of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association

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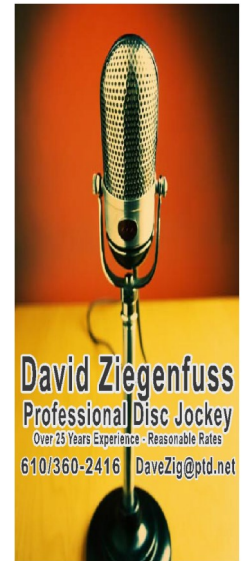
Reserve Your Table at www.Dieruff-Alumni.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

To get your event listed, please email event before the
24th of each month to: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

- November 6:** Dieruff vs William Allen Pep Rally at DHS
1:30 PM at Dieruff Gymnasium
- November 7:** Dieruff-Allen Tailgate (11:00 AM-1:00PM)
Dieruff-Allen Football Game (2:00PM)
Andre Reed Field Dedication at halftime
- November 13:** Dieruff Theatre Dance Party with Lucky 7 & The Casino Horns
7:00PM—11:00PM \$25/person
Northampton Hungarian Hall, event info on the Alumni Website main page
- November 27:** Back to the 80's Dance
7:00PM -11:00PM \$10/person
East Allentown Fire Company, 405 E. Walnut St. Allentown
- November 28** Class of 1995 **20th Year Reunion**
8:00PM—12:00AM \$25.00 PP/In Advance (\$30.00PP @ Door)
Allentown Brew Works/Silk Lounge
841 W. Hamilton St. Allentown
- April 2, 2016** Class of 1986 **Cherry Blossom Trip to Washington, DC**
\$79.00 PP
Details to follow soon!
- July 30, 2016:** Fandangle IV
2:00PM - 6:00PM
East Side Youth Center

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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

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Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

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