



HITTING HARD ON THE GRIDIRON.

## Vineyard Football Touches Down



HALF PADS BUT NOT HALF SPEED.



SUMMER PRACTICE IS NO DAY AT THE BEACH.

### Please Adopt Us

After four days of unrelenting downpours and dampness, happily all our animals are safe, warm and dry albeit wishing for new homes. Won't you please stop by the Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard and fall in love with our beautiful animals and perhaps take one or two home with you?

Is anyone from the Vineyard Haven area missing a really gorgeous brown and white lop-eared bunny? Her name is Honey Bun and she was a stray brought to us by a good Samaritan who rescued her. She has a great cage for either indoors or outdoors and is very cuddly and friendly.

Our cats remain basically the same with a couple of new additions. Captain is a beautiful bob-tailed silver and black stray from West Tisbury; Bebe is a handsome female short-haired calico; Digger is a tiger tabby, a big male about three years old, who is not crazy about other cats but loves people; Binx is a black male with long white whiskers; Phoebe is a ginger and white female who gets along well with other cats and should be an indoor cat; Dolly is a handsome tuxedo cat who loves to sit in the window and watch the birds but has never been outdoors;

and Gracie is a beautiful long-haired gray female who is sweet and affectionate and loves to be brushed. All the cats at the shelter are spayed or neutered and up to date on their shots. And they really need to find homes. We have one new kitten — Genie is 11 weeks old, all black and very lonesome.

Our one dog is Katama, a boxer cross who is very friendly and loves to be taken for walks. Volunteer walkers are welcome. The shelter phone number is 508-627-8662.

By IVY ASHE

It's still too early for the leaves of fall to be rustling, but other sounds of the season are already in the air: the impatient tweets of a whistle, garbled voices speaking through mouthguards, and the soft smack of a pigskin landing perfectly between two outstretched hands.

Football season is back at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Preseason practice for the Vineyarders kicked off Monday, with twice-a-day workouts starting up next week. The team plays its first scrimmage against Blackstone Valley this Saturday at 11 a.m. at the high school football field. Fans of the purple and white will not get another chance to see the team in action until Oct. 1 — the first three games of the 2010 schedule are away matches.

Head coach Donald Herman returns for his 22nd year with the program, backed by an experienced staff of volunteers — defensive coordinator and assistant coach Bill Belcher has been part of the team for 20 years, and five of the staffers played in the Vineyard

### Flatbread and Farm

The Farm Institute calls it farmtastic. On Tuesday, August 31, from noon to close, pat your happy stomach, full with delicious pizza and organic salads from Flatbread Pizza, while also patting yourself on the back for supporting farm education for children and adults. A portion of pizza sales goes directly to the Farm Institute.

Mike Benjamin provides music from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Prizes, including a pasture-raised Thanksgiving turkey, two-month CSA share for October and November, and a farm breakfast for four, will be raffled off from 5 to 8 p.m.

Flatbread Pizza is located at 17 Airport Road, Edgartown. For more details, call 508-627-7007.



COACH DON HERMAN BEGINS HIS 22ND YEAR AS HEAD COACH.

Pictures by Ivy Ashe

program (coaches Neil Estrella, Jason Dyer and Jason O'Donnell all played under Coach Herman in the 1990s).

The former players are united in their commitment to football and the high school team in particular. Asked what keeps them coming back year after year, three declared in unison "love of the game."

Captaining the Vineyarders this season are seniors Chris Costello of Edgartown, Randall Jette of Oak Bluffs and Brian Montanbault of Edgartown. Captains are chosen by Mr. Herman before each season, and must be players who have been with the squad since they were freshmen.

"It feels good that he looks up to us [to lead]," said Mr. Costello of the selection.

Mr. Jette described the start of his final season as "bittersweet."

"Everybody comes out here to watch you," he said. "In other communities, it's not like that."

"We get tremendous community support," Mr. Herman said after Wednesday practice. "People here love their athletics."

As was the case last year, football fans can expect to see the Vineyarders playing tougher competition on the

gridiron, the result of a move from the Mayflower League to the Eastern Athletic League. More compelling than the intraleague matches, however, is the return of an old Island rival to the schedule.

"Our goal is basically to win as many games as possible," said Mr. Herman, "and beat Nantucket."

The traditional Island Cup game between the Vineyarders and the Whalers is back after being cancelled last year due to financial difficulties, a move that drew media attention from larger outlets such as the Wall Street Journal and Boston Globe. Indeed, Globe correspondent James Sullivan, who covered the cancellation, is now working on a book about the Island rivalry, Mr. Herman said.

"It's a special event," he added, mak-

ing sure to note that this year's game will take place on home turf.

The combination of a tough schedule and a smaller squad than in previous years — the preseason turnout of 50 players was the lowest since 1994, according to Mr. Herman — means that more will get a chance to suit up, and backups can be expected to do far more

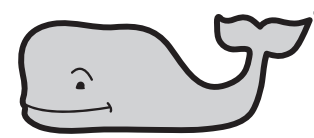
than the name would imply. There will also be opportunities for new freshmen to join the team before the roster is nailed down the first week of school.

But for now, the team is focusing on its practice drills and Saturday's scrimmage. As for the season itself, Mr. Costello makes a simple yet direct prediction: "It's going to be good."

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**Sullivan 5k Run/Walk**  
Saturday, August 28th  
Washington Park, Oak Bluffs  
Download a registration form at:  
[mvhospital.com/runwalk](http://mvhospital.com/runwalk)

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### Dog Parade

The dog parade has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m.



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## LandVest



### STARBUCK'S NECK

This incredibly unique in-town offering is located at the end of Fuller Street in the exclusive Starbuck's Neck area of Edgartown just steps to the beach. There is a charming six bedroom traditional Cape style house with water views, large terraces, lawn areas, gardens and a parking courtyard. Additionally, there is a two car carriage house with two more bedrooms and a kitchen/living area. The triple sized lot, over 500 feet of frontage on three streets, makes this opportunity very attractive and offers considerable zoning flexibility.

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