



SPORTS

BY BOB POLCARI
SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

BALDWINVILLE — The Murdock Middle School football team capped off a 9 and 0 season with a 35-0 victory over the Narragansett Warriors in Baldwinville.

The Warriors won the toss and elected to defer until the second half putting the Mini-Devils on offense to the start the game. Jack Polcari hit Justin Thira with a 22 yard pass to the Warrior 48 yard line on the opening play of the game. After a short run and an incomplete pass, Polcari ripped off a 23 yard run and then Quentin Pridgen capped the drive off with a 20 yard touchdown run. The Mini-Devils ran in the extra point to make it 8-0.

After a short three and out by the Warriors as a result of stops in the backfield by Joey Marobella and Izayah Alcantara on the first down and Riley Kimball on the second down the Devils started their second drive at the 50 yard line. Two plays later, Corey Fasulo ran it in from 36 yards out and kicked the extra point to make the score Murdock 15, Narragansett 0.

The Warriors were able to pass for a first down on their next series but one play later Alcantara stripped the ball from the Narragansett running back and Marobella recovered the ball for

Murdock. On the ensuing play, Thira raced in from 40 yards for what looked like the third touchdown of the evening but it was brought back due to a holding call. Later in the drive on a fourth and two from the Warrior 22 yard line, Polcari beat the defense around the left side for a touchdown but the Devils were unsuccessful on the extra point kick increasing the lead to 21-0.

The ensuing drive by the Warriors ended when Pridgen leaped up to make a one hand interception.

After a turnover on downs by the Mini-Devils, Pridgen was right back at making his second interception of the game at the Warrior 22 yard line and returning it for a touchdown. Richard Anderson converted the extra point catching a pass to make it 29-0 Murdock at half time.

After a Warrior turnover on downs to start the second half, the Devils would add their final touchdown of the evening on a 10 yard scramble by Polcari from the Narragansett 10 yard line. The extra point pass was not successful making the score Murdock 35 and Narragansett 0.

The remainder of the game, the teams traded possession with neither team scoring.

The victory caps off an undefeated season for the middle school team with



Courtesy photo

Murdock Middle School football team celebrates undefeated 9-0 season! Players include (left-to-right) 6th graders front row Donovan Campbell, Willie Pridgen, Calvin Tenney, Jayden Pridgen, John Dansin and JR Nicolson, 7th graders middle row Ethan Girouard, Deaclan Marmanidis, Izayah Alcantara, Quentin Pridgen, Kevin Pesce, Nick Bond and Dom Iannacone, 8th graders back row Cam Monette, Joey Marobella, Richard Anderson, Corey Fasulo, Jack Polcari, Riley Kimball, Justin Thira, Eric Hogan, Payton Smith and Nick Donahue

victories over Mahar, Mohawk Trail, Athol, Clinton, Eaglebrook, Millbury, Uxbridge and two against Narragansett. The Mini-Devils outscored their opponents 306 to 68 over the nine game sea-

son and did not surrender a first half point for the entire season.

(Courier correspondent Chris Martin contributed to this story)

MANUEL ATTENDING UMASS LOWELL



Courtesy photo

Murdock senior Jordan Manuel, who has set numerous records during his distinguished high school track career, signs his letter to attend UMass Lowell. Manual is joined by head coach Anthony Findley, his parents Randy and Betsy, athletic director Jenna Whitaker and assistant track coach Dick Karvonen.