



Varsity Football defensive linemen get set on the field against St. Josephs on Saturday, September 21. Photo by Eugene Caibal ('25)

Season Retrospective: Westhill Varsity Football

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Westhill's Varsity Football team continues to keep students on their toes every year. The team ended the season 3-7 overall, a strong contrast to the no-win season of last year, though ending the season with a loss to the rival Stamford High Black Knights.

While this may not seem that impressive to some, the season was a massive step in the right direction, the team said, for the school's storied football program. All eyes were upon them during their first game against Wilbur Cross. We asked the team what they think they did differently that led to this win.

"We prioritized team bonding," Wide receiver Daniel Smith ('25) said. "Getting better at your position isn't the only thing contributing to winning. A significant factor is the players' bond with each other to establish trust and communication. Our team grew together and formed a family-like bond, allowing them to work better together."

This year's captains were Adriel Lemus ('25), Lucas Boursiquot ('25), and Emmanuel Jeanty ('25). Since this is their last season, we asked if

this was a good end to their football careers, Adriel Lemus said, "I felt like we left good starting blocks for the next teams"

Furthermore, Boursiquot had some wise words to say on behalf of the other captains and seniors. "We had a successful journey to the end of the program for us," Boursiquot said. The team wanted to make their final season here at Westhill count, and the captains said it did.

"Wilbur Cross felt like a revenge game," Jeanty said. The team lost to them in his sophomore year, so ending their rivalry with a win was a huge accomplishment for him.

Along with seniors and captains, the Westword also talked with junior quarterback Blake Cortell ('26) for his opinions on the season.

"Starting the season with three touchdowns in the first game," Cortell, said regarding his highlight of the season, along with beating Wilbur Cross 27-0 in the season opener, said instilled high hopes and expectations for the Vikings.

Defeating Bridgeport Central 44-6 was another motivator for the

team and was an exciting win for the team and the community.

While the players experienced some glory this year, they're also still going through the post-loss emotions. After a loss, "[t]he team doesn't dwell on it," Jeanty said. The players try to focus on their wins and learn from their losses. Cortell has another strategy to keep him motivated. "I rely on my teammates because we pick each other up," he said.

Lastly, we asked Coach Sandoval what he thinks the team must improve to keep these wins coming down the line. "We got to hit the weight room and get stronger," Sandoval said.

Getting stronger is critical for an ideal offense and defense, on and off the field.

The team has worked so hard, and even though there is still work to be done, they have pushed themselves through all their obstacles and done what no one thought possible this season.

We are all immensely proud of them and can't wait to see what the future holds for our Westhill varsity football team.



Graphic by Paula Miranda ('25)