

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Covington Catholic High School Announces 50th Football Anniversary Game

Covington Catholic High School announces the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Covington Catholic Football with a game vs. longtime rival Highlands.

The 50th anniversary game will be held Friday, October 13, 2017 under the lights at 7:00pm at Dennis Griffin Stadium. The game will celebrate the past 50 years of football at Covington Catholic with honoring the families of all players who have a retired jersey before the game, honoring each of the six state championship teams at halftime, and a celebration of all alumni of the historic Covington Catholic football program with a post-game reception in the gym.

Covington Catholic won its first two football state championships in back-to-back fashion in 1987 and 1988 behind Head Coach Lynn Ray, both against Paducah Tilghman in the Class AAA Championship. Covington Catholic would not see the State Championship game again until five years later in 1993. They went on to not only win the championship in 1993 against Lincoln County, they went on to win it the next year against Bowling Green as well in 1994. Three years later in 1997 Covington Catholic found themselves winning the State Championship again, this time against Hopkinsville for their fifth championship in 11 years. After a nine year drought and the retiring of Coach Ray, Coach John Rodenburg led the Colonels back to the State Championship with a win against Bowling Green in 2006 for his first and only State Championship with Covington Catholic.

The names "Lynn Ray" and "Covington Catholic Football" have become synonymous through the years in Northern Kentucky. The program as it stands today would not be the same if not for Coach Lynn Ray. When Coach Ray came to Covington Catholic in 1973 as an assistant coach, the football team practiced at the Ludlow Dump and had never seen the playoffs. In 2004 when Coach Ray resigned, the Colonels had won five State Championships and compiled a record of 234-132, including 42-16 in 20 postseason appearances and a 5-0 record in State Championship games. Since 2004, Coach Ray has been enshrined near the field and locker room with a "Spirit Rock" that reads, "Coach Lynn Ray. Thirty-one years of dedicated excellence to Covington Catholic Football. A commitment made to developing minds, bodies, and souls that is handed on through generations with that Spirit that Will Not Die!" As a longtime teacher, coach, friend, and mentor of Covington Catholic students, Coach Ray will be honored during halftime.

Current Head Coach Eddie Eviston carries on the legacy and tradition of excellence that Coach Ray started in the early 1970's with another dominant 2017 season. "This 50th anniversary," Coach Eviston says, "calls us to take the time to reflect on the past and to respect the time, talents, and efforts of so many that helped build this football program to where it is today. We feel blessed to be a part of this program during this unique moment in time and every player and coach in the program right now continues to work extremely hard to make sure we represent the program and jersey the right way, a way that all those before us and after us will be proud of."

Covington Catholic High School is a 2016 Blue Ribbon of Excellence award winning college preparatory high school within the Diocese of Covington. It is an all-male school of 592 students whose mission is to embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in order to educate students spiritually, academically, physically and socially.



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