



Update: Never miss out on news! Sign up for our Patch Newsletter to get us in your e-mail! <http://newhydepark.patch.com/newsletters> »

[Sports](#), [The Neighborhood Files](#)

New Hyde Park Football Alumns Start New Gladiator Fund

Richard Salgado and Tom Dlugnski start effort to get new equipment and rehab field.

By [Geoffrey Walter](#) | [Email the author](#) | September 12, 2012

Recommend 38

Tweet 10

[Email](#)

[Print](#)

[9 Comments](#)



Related Topics: [Football](#), [Gladiator Fund](#), [New Hyde Park](#), [New Hyde Park Memorial](#), [New Hyde Park Memorial High School](#), and [football field](#)

Richard “Big Daddy” Salgado recently paid a visit to the [New Hyde Park Memorial](#) varsity football team and he noted that not much has changed since he went was a member of the Gladiators.

“Not that I sat there and inspected everything but when I saw guys wearing (silver with blue stripes) pants that they wore when I played, it’s kinda ridiculous,” he said, while eating lunch at [Umberto’s](#) Monday afternoon. “That should not be happening.”

Together with former teammate Tom Dluginski, Salgado is starting a new type of Gladiator fund, one specifically dedicated to purchasing new equipment for the players, sideline gear such as sweatshirts and hats and rehabilitating a lackluster playing field.

“It’s the same field that I played on,” Salgado said. “We used to call it astro-rock when I was playing there because there was brick coming out of there... it needs to be redone, it needs field turf.”

The estimated cost to rehabilitate the field to a professional level is about \$50,000.

When asked about what he thinks let to the supposed neglect, Salgado said that “it’s like anything else, you have money and you want to focus on a certain area and sports are going to come last sometimes because academics comes first, which is nothing wrong with it but you’ve got to have a balance.”

Dluginski and Salgado were both members of the 1983 New Hyde Park team, the last squad to go undefeated, putting up a perfect 9-0 record while only allowing 13 points over the course of the season and taking the Rutgers cup in the process. Dluginski’s son is also the quarterback on the team for the 2012 season. It was the senior Dluginski who first started the initiative, creating a Facebook page for the football alumni of New Hyde Park Memorial and asking for help.

“When I saw it I decided to pay a visit to the school,” Salgado said. “So I paid a visit to the team, I spoke to the team and I knew there was an issue with money so I donated \$200 to start it off, just so I could show the other guys in the group that I care and I’m trying to support.”

More checks have followed, but Salgado says that they want to keep the exact monetary goal “under wraps because, there’s never enough.”

New football equipment typically runs into the thousands and most must be replaced each year because of the severe amount of wear by the sport’s very nature. “We’re no where near where we need to be,” Salgado said.

While Salgado's company, [Coastal Advisors](#), which provides insurance to celebrities and [sports icons](#), typically has him traveling all over the country, it also affords him numerous clientele connections, including Scott Ferrall of the "Howard Stern Show" on Sirius XM Satellite radio.

"So we went on there and we talked about it... so we're doing everything possible to help the school out and the football team out," Salgado said.

While he can also reach out to just about any apparel company to make a deal for the equipment, "it's just a matter of first you've got to have some sort of money to pay for it before you go to anybody. So as we get the money in, we'll figure that, we'll sit down with the coach and go from there."

Salgado also plans to bring the issue to the attention of the number of alumni who are scheduled to be at the September 21 game against H. Frank Carey.

"We want to make this thing and bring it where it needs to be," Salgado said. "When you have a good field and you field a good team then you'll have a problem with the bleachers, right now we need to worry about the field."

Donations can be made to the Gladiator Football Fund, 15 South Tenth St., New Hyde Park, NY 11042.

[Email me updates about this story.](#)

 38 10[Email](#)[Print](#)[Follow comments](#)[Submit tip](#)[9 Comments](#)

Schu

Flag as inappropriate

2:13 pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Great work by Ton, Big Daddy and all others that are sending in any donations to help the Gladiator Football Fund, thanks! Schu

TNH Taxpayer

Flag as inappropriate

4:14 pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2012

The football field and all of the other athletic fields at NHP Memorial HS were renovated in 2004. The main problem is OVER USE of the football field. Its used ALL year by soccer and lacrosse leagues, in addition to NHP MHS teams. When can the football field be maintained if it is always being used???

John Okulski

Flag as inappropriate

8:40 pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Rich has done many good things for the New Hyde Park Community. One error in the article - the Rutgers Cup football team was in 1983 - not 1984 - 84 was when everyone graduated.

Lisa Catapano

Flag as inappropriate

8:46 am on Thursday, September 13, 2012

Thanks to Tom and Rich for all that your doing for the NHP Football team!
Go Glads!

Thomas Dluginski

Flag as inappropriate

10:18 am on Thursday, September 13, 2012

T. Dlug.
Just want to clear things up, Nick Perrone is the starting QB, my son is his back up.

mick

Flag as inappropriate

10:22 am on Thursday, September 13, 2012

Can't these needs for equipment and a field turf football field be put in the school budget for next year?

[Reply](#)

Michele Chambers

Flag as inappropriate

3:53 pm on Thursday, September 13, 2012

Mick , thats not so easy and neither is donating, Anthony Vaglica and I had to go through alot to donate all the new football jerserys last year ,including staying anonymous. The budget is, you do for one you have to do for all schools, not enough money there. Thats why donations seem to be the only way to go . Im so happy Rich and Tom are going to public on this, thanks guys

[Reply](#)

Michele Chambers

Flag as inappropriate

4:02 pm on Thursday, September 13, 2012

and that would be jerseys without the 2nd "r"

mick

Flag as inappropriate

6:39 pm on Thursday, September 13, 2012

Why not put the money in the budget for a school each year? Then after 5 years each will have a new field. Do a lottery to see which school gets it 1st and so forth?