

Ewing High School History: A look back at EHS Football Uniforms

Ewing High School has a long and impressive tradition of athletic success, with the football team often leading the way. With the Blue Devils set to take the field for another season of gridiron action, the staff of “Good News” thought it would be neat to take a look back at the uniform history of this storied program.



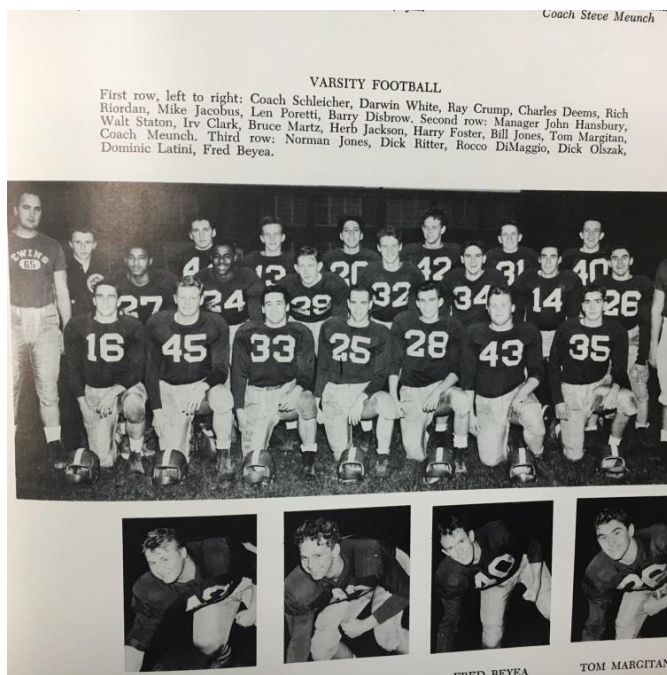
In **1954**, an era when a guy wearing the number 50 could run the ball from the backfield, EHS Athletic Hall of Famer Dave Dudeck models the school’s first uniform with the prototypical Heisman-pose. Note the two-tone pants, long-sleeved blue jersey, and white-striped helmet as the Blue Devils make their football debut.



Also in **1954**, Blue Devil Bob Case models the first facemask ever worn in scholastic football competition.* He is the lone EHS player to sport a facemask in the squad photo, and it’s a fairly aggressive one at that, considering this is the era of either no facemask, or a single-bar one. His reasons and motivation have been lost to history, despite dogged efforts on the part of “Good News” staff to track him down.**

*May not be true.

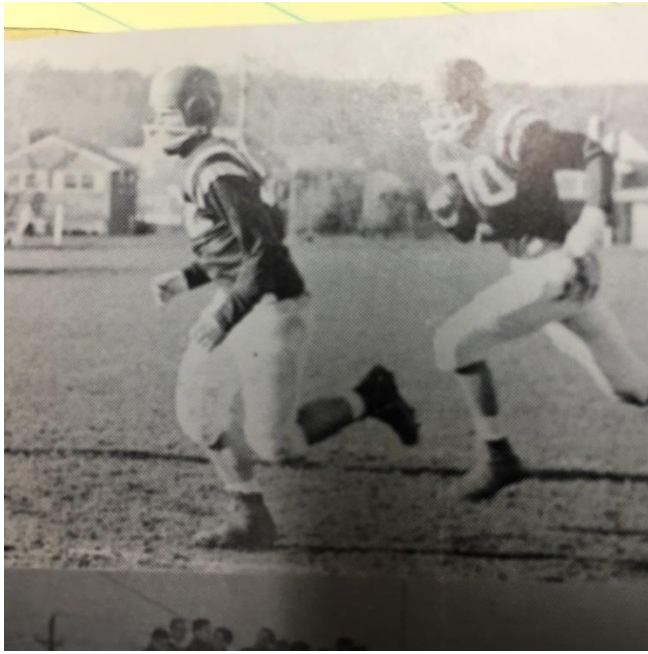
**Also may not be true.



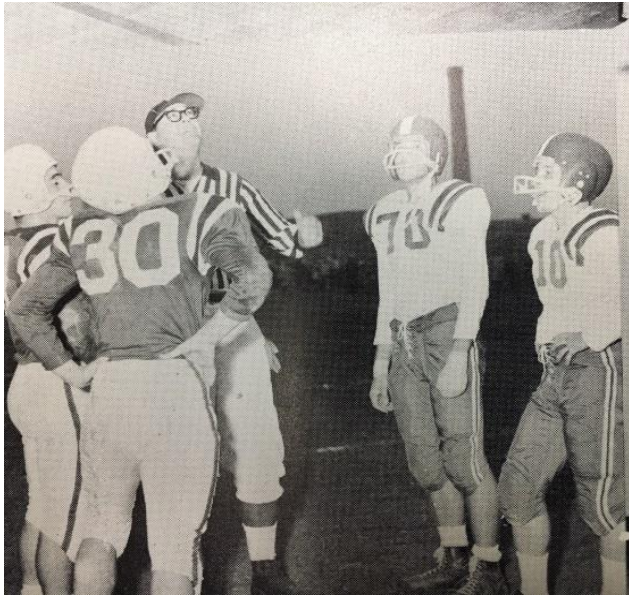
Speaking of face masks, check out those solid one-piece beauties introduced in **1957**. Note that the squad contained All-State standout Irv Clark and future Blue Devils coaching legend Bruce Martz, who we will see later in that role serving as an inspirational fashion icon for future generations of Ewing children.



In **1960**, as a new decade dawns, we have facemask innovations with a white double-bar look and the introduction of all-white uniforms with blue shoulder stripes. A classic look for the Blue Devils.



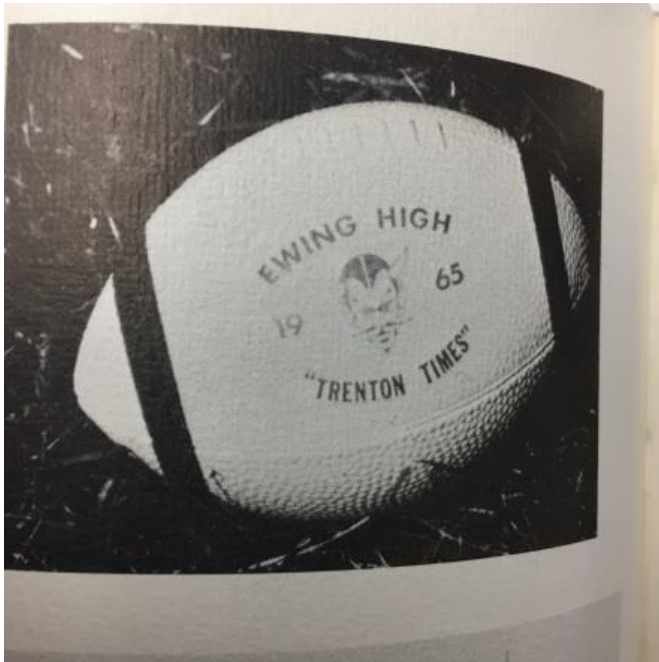
The **1960** away jerseys keep the white pants and add a blue jersey with white shoulder stripes.



And showing uniform combination flexibility more emblematic of modern times, EHS would sometimes pair the white jerseys with blue-striped pants in **1961**.



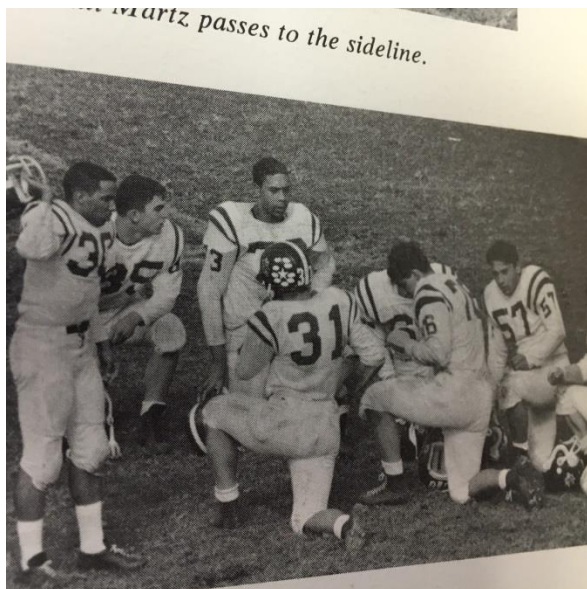
And we have the first incarnation of the sideline rain poncho in **1962**. The cheerleader in the back appears to be wearing one of Morty Seinfeld's Executive raincoats.



On to **1965** with a cool newspaper giveaway.



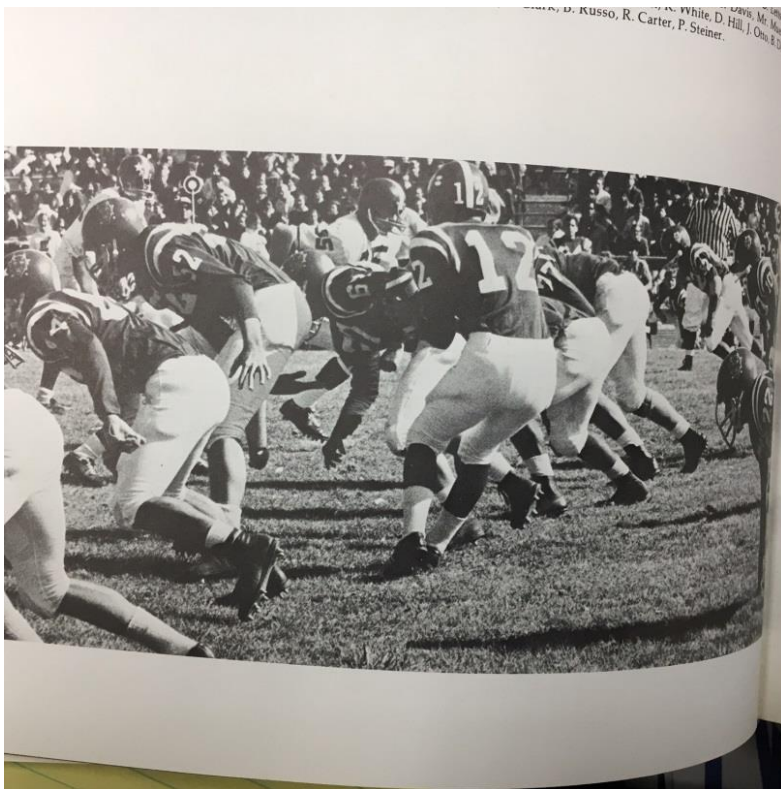
In **1965**, we have the addition of impressive striped socks and, for the first time, helmet decorations in the form of uniform numbers, football icons and stars for, one would assume, outstanding performances. Also making their debut are numbers on the jersey sleeves, which are really, really cool.



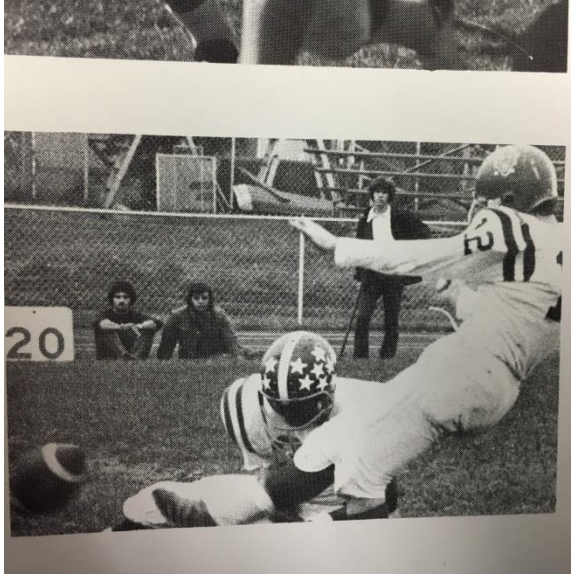
A couple things notable about the **1968** unis, for the first time, we have a devil logo on the helmet! This logo is a kind of a mean Mephisto-type of satanic dude, one of many variations that will appear on EHS uniforms and helmets over the years, ranging from the menacing to the playfully pesky mischievous devils. We also have uniform numbers on the back of the helmets along with a single white stripe. Oh, and 31 has quite the decorative display of award stickers, and appears to have cut his sleeves off. Sun's out, guns out, I suppose.



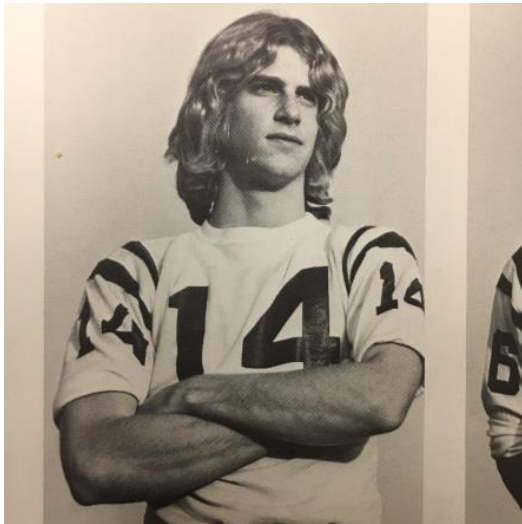
I would order one of these **1968** EHS coach's jackets tonight and wear it out dancing.



A nice action shot from must have been a big game in **1970**. Note that the striped socks have been ditched.



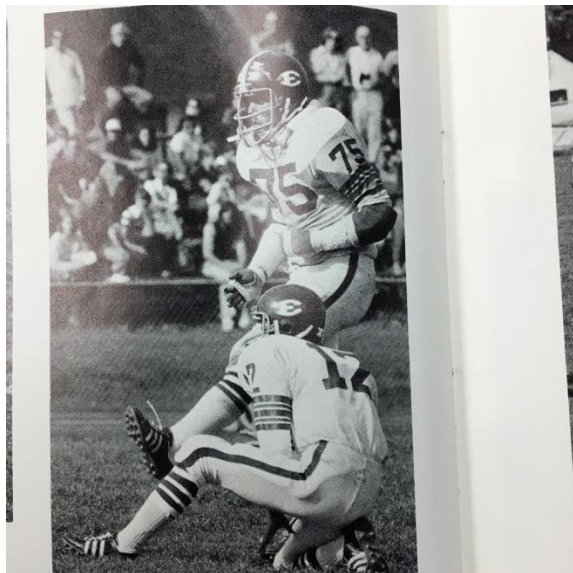
In **1972**, the uniforms are pretty much unchanged, as you didn't mess with the classics in the early 70s. Although that kid must have been one heck of a holder. Did they give him a star every time he didn't drop a snap? It is also interesting to note Wooderson, Pickford and Slater have made their way to the field to enjoy the game. Early the next morning, they would head out to buy Aerosmith tickets as "Sweet Emotion" blared from the 8-track player. They just had to keep on livin'....



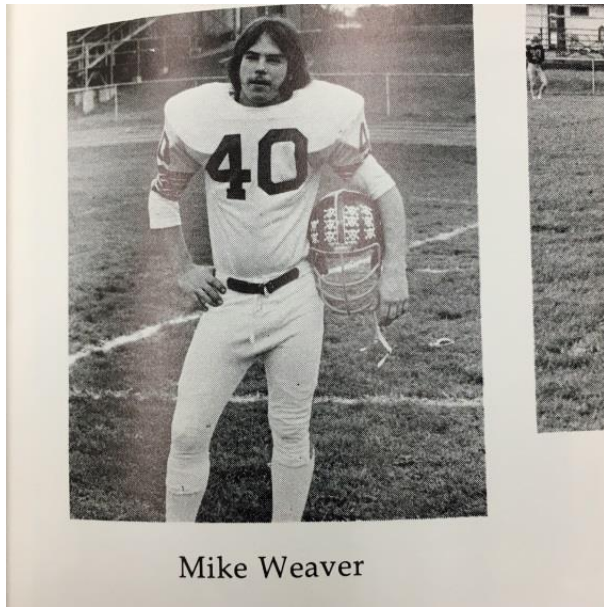
Hey, it's Sunshine! Yes son, you can make that pitch. Your team needs you now.



1974 marks the end of the shoulder stripes for the Blue Devils, as they are ditched for sleeve-stripes, a fairly common trend in uniforms as we make our way through the decade. The pants now sport a single blue stripe, the facemasks are increasingly complex, and number 62 rocks the horse collar.



Some significant changes in **1976**, to celebrate the bicentennial, I guess. The devil is ditched on the helmet, as it evidently scared too many elementary school kids. A white stylized E now appears on the helmet, along with "skull and crossbones" award stickers. By the way, the world was a better place when kids wearing number 75 booted field goals straight-ahead style.



Mike Weaver

I don't know much about Mike Weaver, but judging by his helmet stickers, if his nickname wasn't "Meat-cleaver," it should have been.

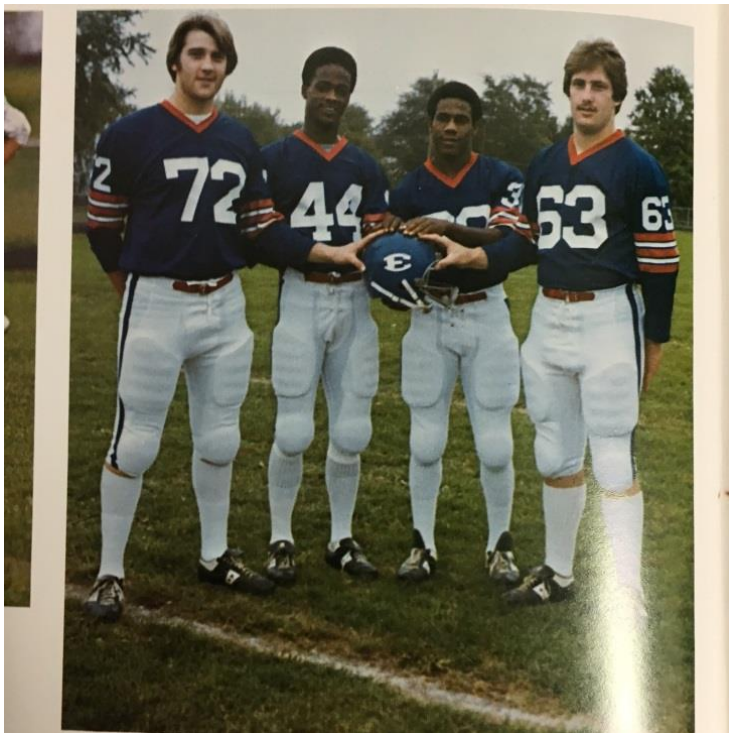


Coach Remer, Mike Stratis, Jeff Sumners, Coach Wood, Jack Elder, Coach Martz

Every coaching staff has a rebel, a maverick, like Coach Remer here. As every other high school football coach in America in the 1970s modeled the look displayed by Coaches Wood and Martz, Coach Remer says, "The heck with that, I'm wearing jorts." It makes it much easier to solve crimes in Hawaii as a private investigator with my pals Higgins and TC immediately after practice.



In **1978**, the pristine home white uniforms with no helmet logo are overshadowed by the gloriousness of the coaching pants donned by Coach Martz and his staff. Simply spectacular; which Coach Martz heightens with the matching collar. Interesting E logo on the caps as well.



In **1980**, the stylized white E returns to the Blue Devils' helmet.



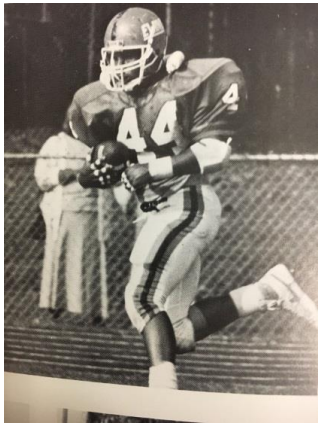
Some changes in **1981**, as a large red block E now adorns the helmet and the pants are updated and now have a thick red stripe bordered by blue. The Blue Devils would win their first state championship this year.



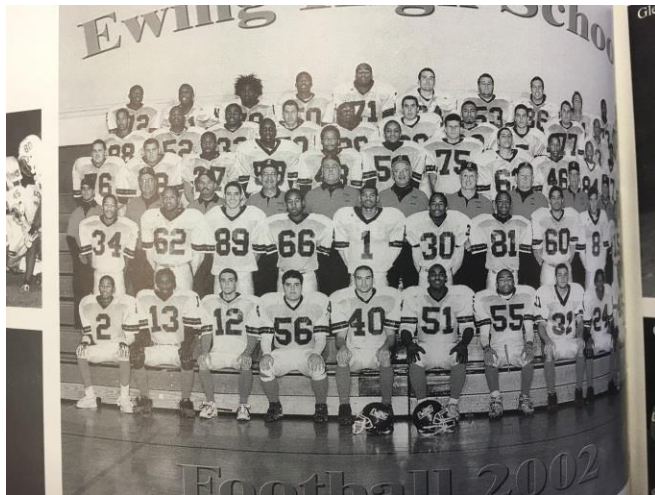
Significant changes in **1982**, as the Blue Devils' gridiron success would continue throughout the decade. The sleeve striping is minimized and white block numbers on the blue jerseys are now outline in red. The E is abandoned in favor of an underlined "Ewing." The uniforms are quite similar to the New York Giants look of the era. Here, Syracuse-bound Pat Davis plows through the line in a huge game against arch-rival Notre Dame. The Blue Devils would keep this look for the better part of two decades, with some minor tinkering.



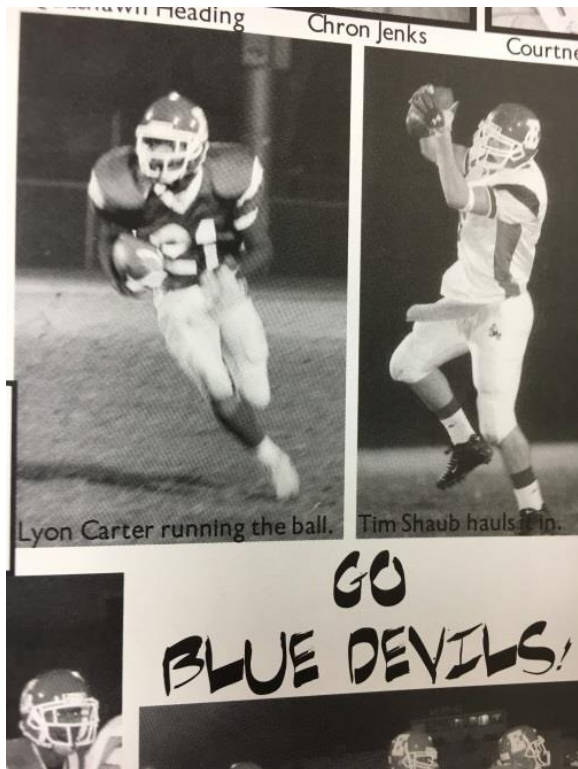
And the perfect **1982** coaching outfit for the times. Right from the sidelines to the country club.



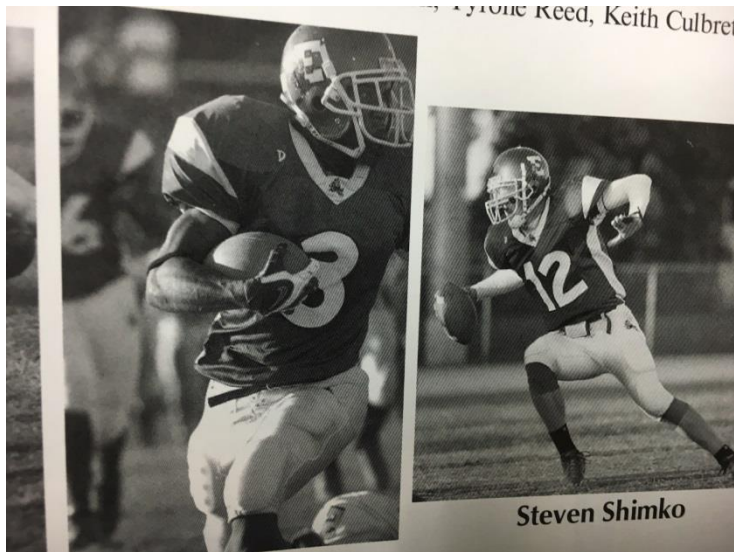
By **1990**, the helmet striping had been minimized and a “half-shirt” jersey was adopted.



But a look at the **2002** squad shows that the uniform had been pretty much consistent over two decades, however significant changes were coming. These are the uniforms that were worn by Blue Devils during the infamous State Semi-Final OT contest against Middletown South, a game that still has people wondering if future NFL-star South running back Knowshon Moreno stepped out of bounds on a crucial last-second touchdown. *(He did)*



In **2004**, a large, block white E is now on the helmet, partnered with white facemasks. New, updated shoulder and side-panel striping can be found on the jersey. The pants are stripe-free, but are adorned with a playful, pitch-fork carrying devil above the thigh pads. The jerseys lack shoulder or sleeve numbers.



In **2008**, as modeled by Rutgers-bound Steve Shimko, that pesky, mischievous devil now appears three times on the uniform. On the helmet-paired with a white, block E, again on the pants, above the thigh pad, and now on the collar.



Under current head coach Drew Besler, the Blue Devils modern **2016** look is a unique one. Devilish pitchforks abound, replacing cartoon devils and block letter Es. A pitchfork covers the crown of the helmet, which also has uniform numbers on the side. Two smaller pitchforks are on the stripe-less shoulder sleeves, which are color contrasted. For the first time ever, the wordmark "Ewing" appears on the front of the jersey, above the number, and the uniform marks the debut of black pants. Wearing this ensemble the past season, the Blue Devils won their first state playoff game since 2002.