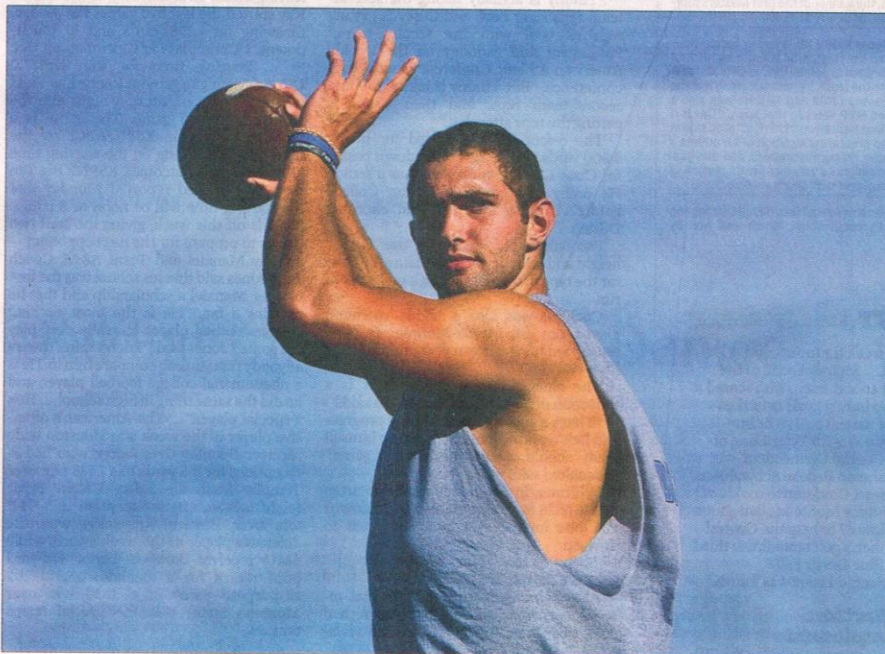


SOUTHINGTON QB ON A MISSION



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SOUTHINGTON QUARTERBACK Stephen Barmore, who hurt his shoulder in his sophomore season yet still managed to play, is intent on taking his team to a title in his senior year. "Last year it was a dream; this year it's a mission," he says.

ONE LAST DRIVE

Yale-Bound Barmore Wants To Cap Career With LL Title

By **TOM YANTZ** | tyantz@courant.com

SOUTHINGTON — Stephen Barmore was in tears after being tackled and separating his shoulder on a touchdown run Oct. 7, 2011, during his sophomore season in a game at Conard High.

"I wasn't crying because of the

pain," said Barmore, Southington's senior quarterback. "It was because the season was over, and I couldn't help my team."

Actually, his season wasn't over; he returned three weeks later and played the final four games.

"My team needed me; that

shoulder wasn't going to keep me off the field," Barmore said.

As a passing/running quarterback, his toughness and desire have come through in various ways throughout his career.

BARMORE, C4

ORIOLES 4, YANKEES 2

Sparks Fly On Field, And Off

Showalter, Girardi Nearly Cause Brawl

By **ERIK BOLAND**
Newsday

BALTIMORE — Alex Rodriguez and Nick Markakis ignited some first-inning fireworks.

Joe Girardi and Buck Showalter provided them between innings Monday night. In a highly unusual sight, the managers nearly touched off a brawl between the AL East clubs in the thick of the wild-card chase, engaging in an incident in which the benches began to empty during the Orioles' 4-2 win at Camden Yards.

What sparked the argument, which occurred after the Yankees batted in the second, wasn't immediately clear. But TV cameras appeared to show Girardi yelling something at Orioles third-base coach Bobby Dickerson beforehand, then discussing it with plate umpire Ed Hickox.

YANKEES, C4

Point, Nadal, In Case For Best Ever

Barmore

Continued from Page C1

Barmore, who has verbally committed to Yale, has led Southington to a 20-3 record as a starter, including 5-0 when he was a freshman. Last year the Blue Knights were 10-0 in the regular season and the No. 2 seed in the Class LL playoffs. Their postseason run ended with a 23-14 quarterfinal loss to No. 7 Glastonbury.

The Blue Knights get a rematch in their season opener at Glastonbury on Thursday night.

Southington would value another repeat performance by Barmore this year. Last season he completed 142 of 245 passes for 2,010 yards and 18 touchdowns, and ran for 424 yards and 13 TDs.

Some of his favorite passing targets this season should be receivers Kyle Borawski and Alex Jamele,

tight ends Zach Maxwell and Jason Rose, and running back Tyler Hyde.

Barmore is adept at connecting with receivers in a conventional dropback form or on the run out of the pocket.

"I'm a running quarterback who can pass," said Barmore, 6 feet 2 and 210 pounds. "I'm not saying the run is the most important, but it gives us another weapon along with the pass."

Southington runs a spread offense, of which one aspect is the "zone read."

"If gives me three options: hand off, throw to a wide receiver on a 'bubble' route or run myself," he said. "Everything is quick from the shotgun. I like being mobile and making plays with my feet."

Or with his right arm.

Last season at Manchester, Barmore connected with Corbin Garry on a 31-yard TD strike on the last play of the game

to lift the Blue Knights to a 13-12 victory. Barmore never saw Garry catch the ball because Barmore was knocked to the turf by pass rushers just after he had released the ball.

"His competitiveness and toughness are constants," Southington coach Mike Drury said.

After separating his shoulder, Barmore did not immediately have surgery.

"The doctor told me I couldn't do any more damage to it," he said. "You could see my collarbone sticking up in the shoulder, but it hadn't broken the skin."

Three weeks later, after some of the swelling and pain were reduced, Barmore, with his shoulder padded, was back in the game.

"I could still throw the ball," he said. "It was a little loose in the shoulder joint, but I could play."

He completed 16 of 28 passes for 269 yards in the season finale against

Cheshire.

Soon after that, he underwent surgery.

During his physical rehabilitation, he tried to throw a baseball.

"I couldn't do it," he said. "I had played center field and first base as a freshman, but I couldn't my sophomore year. So I went out for track."

It was a good call.

Barmore ran the 100, 200 and 400 meters the past two springs. Last year he finished seventh in the State Open and New England championship in the 400. His best time was 49.7 seconds.

His football speed, elusiveness and ability to pass on the run have been fortified by his conditioning.

"When I'm bored, I work out," he said. "I love to work out."

He can squat 400 pounds, lift 385 and power clean 295.

"In the weight room, on the practice field or in a game, he's looking to compete," Drury said. "He's not satisfied with being OK. He wants to be the best he can be, and he wants the same for the team."

The team goals are to win the CCC Division I West and the Class LL title.

"Last year it was a dream; this year it's a mission," Barmore said.

SOUTHINGTON'S

Stephen Barmore throws a pass in last year's Class LL playoffs as Glastonbury's Joshua Hill (16) and Jordan Butler (70) apply pressure. Glastonbury won the game, 23-14. The teams will meet again Thursday.

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