

We choose Albany public schools because ...

'This is my dream job'

The last time Pete Porcelli coached a football team at Albany High School, the Falcons lost a tough 16-14 decision to Troy in the Section II Super Bowl.

That was the 1999 JV team.

Ten years and two very different track records later, Mr. Porcelli is reunited with Albany High football, this time in charge of the varsity program.

"This is my dream job," he said. "I am honored that the administration would want me to take over the reigns. It has been 10 long years that I have not coached football in the Albany district.



"Even though I have had much success leading other programs it does not automatically qualify us to be great. But there is one thing I can promise – when the Albany High football team hits the field this fall, you will see a smart, disciplined and hungry team. With the support of the administration, I feel the sky's the limit."

A physical education teacher in the district for 17 years, Mr. Porcelli took over his first varsity program in 2000 at Catholic Central, leading the Crusaders to a 6-3 season.

He moved to Lansinburgh the following season and turned an ailing program into a state powerhouse.

Lansingburgh was 67-19 during Mr. Porcelli's eight seasons there, playing in six straight Class A or Class B sectional championship games. The Knights won Class B titles in 2002, '03 and '05, and the Class A title in '07, when they advanced all the way to the state championship game.

Albany High's fortunes have been much different during that time.

Mr. Porcelli was the Falcons' freshman coach the last time the varsity played in the Super Bowl, capturing the Section II large-school title in 1996. Since then, Albany High is a combined 23-85, including winless seasons last fall and in 2006.

"We have been doormats for too long," Mr. Porcelli said. "We are tired of being everyone's Homecoming game. Playing against Albany High did not strike fear into any of our opponents. A lot of teams would check off the win column before they even played us.

“Our community and our students deserve better than this. Well, the change is coming, and now it’s our time to shine.”