

PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL 2025 IHSA CLASS 6A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPION

WHEREAS, Fenwick High School, located in the Village of Oak Park, Illinois, is a Dominican Catholic college preparatory institution committed to educating students to lead, achieve, and serve in a diverse and disciplined environment; and

WHEREAS, the Fenwick Friars varsity football team, under the leadership of Head Coach Matt Battaglia, completed the 2025 season with an 11–3 record and earned a berth in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 6A State Championship game; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2025, at Hancock Stadium on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, the Fenwick Friars defeated the East St. Louis Flyers by a score of 38–28 to capture the 2025–26 IHSA Class 6A Football State Championship, as officially recorded by the Illinois High School Association; and

WHEREAS, the victory marks the second state football championship in Fenwick program history, following the Friars’ 2021 IHSA Class 5A State Championship, further cementing Fenwick’s legacy within Illinois high school football; and

WHEREAS, in their 2025 championship run, the Friars navigated a demanding postseason path, securing playoff victories over Kennedy, Rolling Meadows, Burlington Central, and top-seeded Nazareth Academy—including a dramatic 28–27 overtime semifinal win that ended Nazareth’s bid for a fourth consecutive state title and propelled Fenwick into the Class 6A title game; and

WHEREAS, in the championship game, Fenwick faced an East St. Louis program that entered the contest as a perennial powerhouse, owner of 11 prior state titles and a dominant season in which the Flyers had outscored their in-state opponents 499–47, making the Friars’ 38–28 victory one of the most notable upsets in recent IHSA playoff history; and

WHEREAS, the Friars’ performance showcased balanced excellence in all phases of the game, including:

- An explosive opening touchdown run on Fenwick’s first play from scrimmage by Jake Thies, who tallied over 100 rushing yards and contributed as both a runner and receiver;
- Clutch quarterback play by Jamen Williams, who passed for more than 150 yards, threw multiple touchdown passes, added rushing yardage on the ground, and scored a late touchdown to help seal the victory;
- A critical, momentum-shifting interception and return by Odin Ferjak and a game-changing tackle by Duffy Monahan and Will Tomczak on a botched East St. Louis punt attempt deep in Flyers territory;
- A lockdown defensive effort led by players including Tommy Thies, who recorded 14 tackles, and Aiden Williams and his fellow defenders, who contained one of the state’s most explosive offenses; and

- A poised special teams performance from kicker Noah Sur, whose late 31-yard field goal broke a 28–28 tie and gave the Friars the lead for good, along with a perfect night on extra points; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fenwick Friars football team embodied the best of high school athletics—discipline, perseverance, teamwork, and resilience—demonstrating that preparation and belief can overcome long odds and inspiring students, alumni, faculty, families, and fans throughout Oak Park and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the student-athletes were supported by the dedication of the entire coaching staff, trainers, school administrators, teachers, support personnel, parents, guardians, and the broader Fenwick and Oak Park communities, all of whom contributed to creating an environment in which young people could thrive on and off the field.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village Oak Park, along with the Board of Trustees, hereby **recognize and honor the Fenwick High School 2025 IHSA Class 6A Football State Champions**.

DATED this 9th day of December 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk