

Tony Karcich: A look back at his North Jersey football career

Greg Mattura, Staff Writer, @gregmattura Published 3:45 p.m. ET April 16, 2018



(Photo: CHRIS PEDOTA, CHRIS PEDOTA / THE RECORD/FILE)
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New Jersey high school coaching legend Tony Karcich, who won 17 NJSIAA titles in 29 seasons leading St. Joseph Regional, said Monday he will retire after spending these last 25 years as athletic director at the all-boys parochial school in Montvale.

“I’ve had a lot of great years, a lot of great memories,” Karcich told NorthJersey.com, “and it just feels like now is the right time to step down.”

Take a look back at the local legend and the mark he left on North Jersey football.

Tony Karcich retires: St. Joseph's football coach, AD over the years



football coach, AD over the years

His early days

Karcich graduated from Hackensack High School, where he was an all-county linebacker, and Syracuse University. He graduated from Syracuse in 1969 and among his Orangemen teammates was Tom Coughlin, who coached the Giants from 2004-15 and led them two Super Bowl titles.

Karcich began his coaching and teaching career at Hackensack in 1970. Except for 1983 and 1984, when he left Bergen Catholic to work on Wall Street, he has been a mainstay in New Jersey high school athletics.

“There’s so many things I love about coaching, and coaching high school football,” Karcich said. “I just felt that you really had an opportunity to reach kids and hopefully make a positive difference in their life. As much as you want to win, I always believed that my mission was to help young boys develop into young men.”



12/02/03: Coach Tony Karcich preparing for championship game at St. Joseph's football practice. (Photo: Don Smith/NorthJersey.com)

Coaching local powerhouses

Karcich led St. Joseph’s football program from 1985 to 2013, closing his tenure with back-to-back state titles. Previously, he coached arch rival Bergen Catholic from 1974 to 1982 and won three titles.

More: [Tony Karcich retiring as St. Joseph athletic director, leaves legacy of communication, success](#)

More: [A look at potential replacements for Tony Karcich at St. Joseph](#)

His NFL players

He is regarded as one of North Jersey's all-time best football coaches, and four of his Green Knights' are currently in the NFL: twins Devin and Jason McCourty (New England Patriots); Junior Gallette (Washington Redskins) and K'Waun Williams (San Francisco 49ers).

Story continues after video

Tony Karcich, the former St. Joseph football coach and current athletic director, reacts to former player Devin McCourty winning his second Super Bowl title, on Feb. 6, 2017 in Montvale, N.J. Andy Vasquez/NorthJersey.com

His future plans

Karcich's role at St. Joseph has steadily decreased over the past several years. Currently, he is working part-time as the Green Knights' athletic director and does not want full-time status.

"It's good timing," Karcich said of stepping down, "and the school needs a full-time athletic director in a program like ours to take care of the daily operations here."

He is not done molding teenagers into young adults. He expects to coach again somewhere, though in what capacity remains to be decided. He will increase his time on the golf course.

"I'm a golfer, although my last couple of games you would not know I'm a golfer," Karcich joked. "I'll do something. I have too much energy. But right now, I'm not going to make any decisions for the next couple of weeks."