

Roxbury: In Cos We Trust

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Head Coach Cosmo Lorusso addresses his varsity Gaels

As long time English teacher and varsity football coach Cosmo Lorusso walks through the hallways of Roxbury High School, he greets everyone he knows in an affable manner. Students, teachers, and coaches alike recognize and appreciate Lorusso's positivity. Whether it is a handshake, or something as simple as a smile, crossing eyes with Lorusso will result in a friendly gesture one-hundred percent of the time.

Whatever it is that Cosmo Lorusso does, he always manages to be one of the most popular, well-respected teachers at Roxbury High School year after year.

Senior Jon Paul DeSario has known Lorusso throughout high school. DeSario has played football for Lorusso for two years, been a student of him in the classroom, and gotten to know him very well as a person.

"He's never in a bad mood, and he always says hello in the hallway," DeSario said. "If you ever need to talk to someone, or you need help," Desario added, "he's there."

Not only is Lorusso never in a bad mood, but he consistently goes that extra mile to benefit others. He has a knack for cracking a joke in the most appropriate of times as well. Lorusso, or "Cos" which he often goes by, is up with the most beloved staff members at Roxbury High School, and his positive morals rub off on everybody that he comes in contact with.

When thinking of Lorusso, the thoughts of the English teacher or the veteran football coach are just small fractions of what comes to mind. Thoughts of kindness, integrity, and passion soon follow, if they did not primarily come to mind. Every student at Roxbury is in agreement that Lorusso is an all around amazing person, who constantly goes the extra mile to achieve a goal, or to help someone in his or her time of need.

"He's incredibly dedicated, very well rounded, kind, and he's so good at keeping a great perspective on his principles," assistant coach for Lorusso, Frank Misurelli said. He does absolutely everything right."

Lorusso has built up his impressive reputation as a compassionate, dedicated person by coaching the varsity football team, and by teaching at Roxbury for many years. In 2009, Lorusso led his football team to a state championship, and he is looking to do the same this year with one of the most talented teams he has ever coached.

The National Honor Society class of 2012 elected Lorusso to be the keynote speaker at the prestigious induction ceremony. At the ceremony, Lorusso inspired the entire auditorium with accounts of humor, emotion, and experiences from his own life. Lorusso spoke motivationally, and spoke metaphorically about how important it is to find your purpose in life. He referred to finding one's purpose in life as "finding your North" in a reference to Polaris, the North Star, and to conclude his speech, spoke about how much he relished being a teacher. The devotion that Lorusso possesses towards his career and the students and teachers he interacts with on a daily basis, helps raise the standard for everyone around him.

In 2010, Lorusso published a touching novel that received impressive reviews on many websites, including Amazon and Good Reads. *Every Child Needs an Angel* is an emotional novel that follows the life of a high school athlete who is diagnosed with a deadly form of cancer. *Every Child Needs an Angel* is a true account of faith, devotion, and the spirit of never giving up.

The novel accounts for some of the traits that help build up a well-respected person. The novel often touches on the traits of compassion, kindness, integrity, and passion—traits that are eminent in Lorusso himself.

As a coach, Lorusso dedicates massive amounts of his free time to his team and helping them prepare for the games ahead. Not only does Lorusso manage to put up impressive records every year with any team he is given, but he transcends his expectations and becomes close with everyone under his lead.

"He is a great person, a great coach, and he sacrifices a lot," senior linesman Ryan O'Conner said. "I don't think that there's any other coach in any other football program that sacrifices more than him."

Lorusso is married and is the proud father of four daughters, whom often appear at the games that he coaches. Despite being such an iconic character at Roxbury, Lorusso has his fatherly instinct and he puts his family before anything else.

"[Lorusso] always puts his priorities in the right order, meaning that family comes first," Misurelli said. "He's an amazing overall coach and teacher, and he does everything right," Misurelli added.

"I try to be kind," Lorusso said. "When I see someone in the hallway, I try to be nice and say hello to them, because that's just a part of who I am. It really makes me feel good to be so popular among everyone."

Whether Lorusso is in school with his students, out of school with his family, or on the football field with his "second family," Lorusso always follows the principles of compassion, devotion, and integrity, and as a result he is recognized as an all-around amazing person.

"He's such a great guy on so many levels, on the field and in the classroom," DeSario said. "I've become very close with him and he has changed me as a person for the better."

"I try my best to be the best person I can be," Lorusso said. "It's great to hear that it's paying off."