

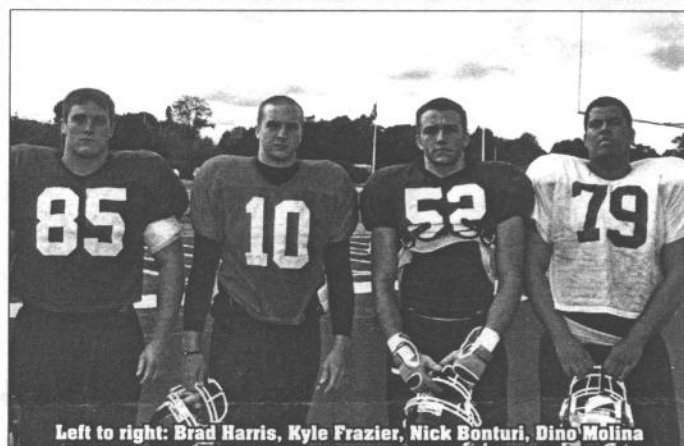
## FEATURED HAWKS

The Monmouth University football team has always had a very strong New Jersey presence on it. The Garden State has helped produce the high majority of Hawks in the program's 17 years, but recently there has been an influx of players from all over the country. The most notable new region represented in the program is the Maryland/Virginia area, with nine current MU players hailing from the Old Line State. Of those nine, there is another theme developing, not just among players from one state, but from one high school. This theme ties together two animals you wouldn't expect to share a bond, Hornets and Hawks.

Four Damascus (Md.) High School Swarmin' Hornets have become Monmouth Hawks over the last few years,

season for 318 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions. Molino has seen time on the offensive line while Harris appears poised to contribute more to the defensive line going forward.

"All of these kids fit the profile of the type of person and player we want in this program," added offensive coordinator Scott Van Zile, who recruited all of the players from Damascus as part of the area of Maryland he is responsible for. "These four student-athletes epitomize what we look for as far as being hard-working and conscientious. It's a win-win situation for



Left to right: Brad Harris, Kyle Frazier, Nick Bonturi, Dino Molino

tially recruited him also.

"In high school, Coach Callahan and Coach Van Zile came down twice and visited my family and me," said Bonturi. "My family loved what Coach stood for and I was very happy to come here after I left Air Force."

Bonturi, who converted from tight

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with sophomores Nick Bonturi, Kyle Frazier, Dino Molino and freshman Brad Harris coming to West Long Branch. The quartet was part of many successful teams in high school, including two state championships, and all come to MU looking to continue that success.

"We have been very fortunate to establish a niche in that area of recruiting," said head coach Kevin Callahan. "We were able to bring in four quality football players from the same high school, and all of them are the kind of people and player we want in this program. They all have a great chance to impact this program in a positive way."

All four players have seen action this season, with Bonturi and Frazier earning starting assignments so far. Bonturi has already topped his tackle total from last season with 20 stops this year, while Frazier has completed 30-of-43 passes this

season to be able to recruit that kind of kid." Aside from the chemistry on the football field that these four players possess, having each other around has also made it easier transitioning to college life.

"It has definitely made the transition easier having these guys around," said Frazier. "We are all pretty close and they are all good guys."

"It's good to know I had three of my friends up there before coming," said Harris, a true freshman. "As with the other guys on the team, it is good to know that those three have my back on and off the field."

The pipeline began with Bonturi, the "elder statesmen" of the group, who also took the least direct way to West Long Branch from Maryland. After spending a semester at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado, Bonturi transferred to Monmouth, which had ini-

end to linebacker his first year at Monmouth, helped pave the way for the trio of talented players with bright futures in West Long Branch. Molino came to MU after a highly successful scholastic career protecting Frazier, his signal-caller at Damascus. Frazier compiled a 35-4 record as a starter in high school, where he tossed 53 touchdowns compared to only seven picks.

It's interesting to think how a town of just over 11,000 people in central Maryland could send four highly successful student-athletes to one college, let alone a private university on the Jersey Shore. The fact that four former Swarmin' Hornets are now Hawks, and they are now carving out four careers at MU, only speaks to the outreach and success of the Monmouth program, reaching down just below the Mason-Dixon Line.