

# 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Football- Played on Offense and Defense for Varsity as a Sophomore

**August 30, 1997, East Allegheny ...SMITHS HELP WILDCATS PUT DOWN WARRIORS---** **Paul Paterra, Daily News Sports Writer...** Elizabeth Forward sophomore Patrick Risha rounded out the scoring with a 30-yard TD run. Risha, the son of long-time Clairton coach Pat Risha, had a nice showing for the Warriors with 63 yards on 11 carries and 2 catches for 13 yards. "We know Patrick Risha's going to be a great football player," Bowen said. "He showed a little bit of that tonight." Pat Risha 11 carries, 63 yards, 1 TD

**September 6, 1997, West Mifflin...WARRIORS SURVIVE TITANIC BATTLE WITH WEST MIFFLIN---** **Brian Krasman, Daily News Sports Writer...** The Warriors came out running as they traded the carries among Victor, Bannon, and Risha. "We feel we have five or six good running backs and we'd like to get them all involved in the offense," Bowen explained. Pat Risha 13 carries, 85 yards, 1 TD

**September 13, 1997, Southmoreland...WARRIORS HANDLE SOUTHMORELAND---** **Mike Haky, Daily News Sports Writer...** "We gave our young players on the offensive line a lot of work. We played everybody on the roster," he added. "And it seemed like we ran a lot of plays on offense. It's going to pay dividends down the road." Doug Victor led the Warriors' ball control with 108 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries followed by Pat Risha with 88 yards and one TD on 18 carries. In the first half, Risha led the Warriors' offense with 73 yards on 15 carries. Pat Risha 18 carries, 88 yards, 1 TD

**September 20, 1997, Belle Vernon...LEOPARDS POUNCE ON WARRIORS---** **Jeffrey Sisk, Daily News Sports Writer...** EF had a balanced offensive effort from backs Doug Bannon, Doug Victor and Pat Risha. All three carried the ball 10 times a piece and gained 42, 41, and 41 yards respectively. Johnson completed 3 of 9 passes for 47 yards. Pat Risha 10 carries, 41 yards

**September 27, 1997, Yough...GAMBLE PAYS OFF IN EF'S WIN OVER YOUGH---** **Paul Schofield, Tribune-Review...** Johnson faked a handoff to halfback Pat Risha and went around the left end, eluding Yough linebacker Jeff Sever, for the tying touchdown as Ef rallied for a 21-14 victory. Pat Risha 13 carries, 54 yards

**October 4, 1997, Derry Area...ELIZABETH FORWARD 34, DERRY AREA 12...** The Warriors got an early start and put Derry out of the game by the first half. The Warrior offense gained an astounding 402 yards against the Trojan defense. The Warrior ground attack racked up over 200 yards and was led by Pat Risha who broke the 100 yard barrier. Pat Risha 1 TD

**October 9, 1997, Elizabeth...SURPRISING EF FACES ANOTHER MIGHTY FOE---** **Mike Haky, Daily News Sports Writer...** Elizabeth Forward arguably has one of the toughest roads to the WPIAL playoffs... Elizabeth Forward has made some good strides offensively since the loss to Belle Vernon. "Pat Risha (a 5-foot-10, 180 pound sophomore running back) had his first 100-yard game of the season," said Bowen. "And we got (running back) Doug Victor back." Risha and Victor are also a couple of key defensive players.

**October 11, 1997, Brownsville...**

**October 18, 1997, Johnstown... WASTED FIRST HALF COSTS THE TROJANS---Dave Sutor for the Tribune Democrat...** The affair turned into a contrast of styles as the Warriors pounded away at the Trojans' middle with a constant display of off-tackle and inside running. ...But the Warriors continued to pound the ball at the Trojans. Elizabeth Forward's Pat Risha led the charge with 20 carries for 141 yards. The Warriors continuously lined up in a three-back set with fullback Tony Fiore frequently going in motion out of the set and clearing the path for Risha, Doug Victor and Bannon.

**October 23, 1997, Elizabeth... BOWEN WELCOMES CHALLENGE FOR EF---Mike Haky, Daily News Sports Writer...** Elizabeth Forward is led by sophomore running back Pat Risha, who is among the district's leaders with 601 rushing yards on 108 carries, a 5.6 average. "Risha had a good year, and he's only a sophomore...so he's going to get better," said Bowen. "We have a good group of running backs--- Doug Bannon, Doug Victor and Chris Riley have all done a good job running the football. And Tony Fiore, our fullback, is an excellent blocker."

**October 25, 1997, Mount Pleasant...VIKINGS WASH AWAY WARRIORS IN A HURRY...Brian Krasman, Daily News Sports Writer...** Elizabeth Forward watched its playoff hopes wash away with the rain last night after losing to the Mt. Pleasant Area Vikings 46-6. Pat Risha 8 carries, 31 yards

**October 31, 1997, Elizabeth...DISTRICT GRID SQUADS WRAP UP '97 SEASON---Mike Haky, Daily News Sports Writer...** While the WPIAL kicks off the first round of its playoff schedule with 16 games this weekend, including 15 tonight, some high school football teams have elected to play exhibition games. ...The Elizabeth Forward-Peters Township game should be one of the more interesting match-ups. It pits the Warriors' strong running game—featuring running backs Pat Risha and Doug Victor-- against the Indians' passing attack led by Jeremy Lacaria.

**NAMED W.P.I.A.L. – 1997 KEYSTONE CONFERENCE'S FINEST FOOTBALL (Section I, AAA)**  
37 players selected, 5 members of the Elizabeth Forward team, Patrick Risha and Kyle Schmitt from Derry were the only sophomores

**NAMED 1997 DAILY NEWS ALL-DISTRICT FOOTBALL TEAM, Honorable Mention**

**Track- 100 & 400 Meter Relay**