

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**July 7, 1999, Arizona ...FORMER ASU TRACK COACH TRAINS GRANDSON---Greg Crawford, The Fountain Hills Times, Reporter...** And while it's been 46 years since Donn Kinzle last coached track, today he's getting a chance to pass the knowledge on to his grandson, Patrick Risha. While Patrick will use the knowledge running the 100 and 400 meter, his main reason is to use it on the football field. He'll be running for touchdowns like he did last year as a standout fullback for Elizabeth-Forward High School in Elizabeth, Pa. With the second week of his visit over, Risha will return to Pennsylvania after his three-week visit, in time for the beginning of football practice. But Patrick isn't just a football player. His 3.5 GPA is also getting him looks from universities like Army, Yale and Dartmouth. So far he has received 30 letters from colleges all over the United States. In addition to school he also works as a law clerk for a firm in Pittsburgh.

## **Football- Started on Offense and Defense, Team Captain**

**August, 1999, Pittsburgh ...RISHA READY TO WREAK HAVOC ON WPIAL---Paul Paterra, McKeesport Daily News for RealPittsburgh.com... August 23, 1999, Elizabeth ...BIGGER & BETTER, RISHA RETURNS TOUGHNESS RUNNING SKILLS TO WARRIORS--- Paul Paterra, McKeesport Daily News Assistant Sports Editor ...**What may be scary for Warriors' opponents is Risha is bigger and faster this year. "He's not one of those backs that you pitch the ball to and he's going to go 80 yards," Bowen said. "He is a tremendous runner between the tackles. What puts him a notch above is that he doesn't go down on first contact. He gets you the extra 3-4-5 yards." Bowen explained that when his team lined up in the "I" formation, with Risha at the tailback, it was easier for the defense to gang up against our star back. Still, opposing defenses are going to formulate game plans that involve stopping Risha. He doesn't mind. "That's flattering and gives you a good feeling that they want to stop you," Risha explained. "But you've got to gear up for it. I like it. It's a good challenge." "I could probably go to a big Division I football school, but that wouldn't be the best for the future," Risha said. "After the football, you don't have much going for you. In the Ivy League, if the football doesn't work out, you have something to fall back on."

**August 25, 1999, Pittsburgh ...RISHA TAKES ON NEW ROLE FOR ELIZABETH FORWARD--- Scott Robertson, Tri-State Sports and News Service...**"He thinks football year round," Bowen said. "We've worked on him catching the ball all summer. We want to try and get him involved in the passing game, but that's an area where he needed work. He went to several passing camps, though, and he was pretty impressive. I think he'll do a great job." Risha is all for the new offense. "It's OK with me," he said. "Last year we didn't pass the ball very well," and teams keyed on me. We saw a lot of goal-line fronts all over the field. This year, our passing game looks better, so teams won't be able to play that way."

**August 29, 1999, Pittsburgh ...NEW OFFENSE MOVING BACKWARD--- Rich Emert, Tribune-Review...**Naturally, Risha is going to be the feature performer. In the Uniontown scrimmage, Risha got the football 10 times and rushed for 99 yards.

**August 31, 1999, Elizabeth ...RUSIN' RISHA RETURNS--- Paul Paterra, McKeesport Daily News Assistant Sports Editor...**The Warriors (5-5 last season) lost their entire offensive line to graduation. New escorts to lead Risha, among the leader of the WPIAL running backs last season will need to be found. Every defense that plays the Warriors is designed to stop Risha. "If you set up in the "I" formation and have Pat at tailback every play, there he is," Bowen said. "We're going to try to get him in different positions and try to get him the football." A successful passing game, of course, can open things up for Risha. "I've got to take the pressure off Pat," Bowen said. There are a

lot of Warriors two-platooning this season. That includes Risha, who will handle an inside linebacker spot in the Warriors' 3-4 defense. Last season, Risha handled the strong safety chores.

**September 3, 1999, West Mifflin...WARRIORS' RISHA, TITANS PETERSAVAGE KEYS TO SUCCESS--- Paul Paterra, McKeesport Daily News Assistant Sports Editor...**Risha is back for another campaign, but the Warriors are doing things a little differently on offense. Sure, Risha still will be the main gun in the Warriors' arsenal, but offensive adjustments may make it a little more difficult to just key on him. The Warriors will utilize a triple-option attack that will be a bit more diverse. It will involve moving Risha all over the field. "We don't want them to be able to just key on Patrick," Bowen explained. Still Braszo knows he will have to pay attention to Risha. "You have to be aware of where he is," Braszo said of Risha. "He's going to get the ball most of the time. You need to stop him."

**September 4, 1999, West Mifflin...LATE INTERCEPTION PRESERVES WIN--- Brian Krasman, McKeesport Daily News Staff Writer...**Elizabeth Forward could not seem to get their offense in gear last night as they committed turnovers and could not get the running game off the ground. Senior running back Pat Risha was held under 100 yards as he came up with 75 yards on 24 carries, but scored all three Warriors' touchdowns. "We practiced for two weeks trying to stop him," Braszo said. "He's their top guy. Last year he really hurt us, so you've got to take him away first." Risha should have had a fourth TD, from 28 yards out, early in the fourth quarter, but it was negated by an illegal motion penalty. Bowen chalked up Risha's slow night to a young offensive line that is still learning how to battle in the trenches. "We sort of knew that coming in," Bowen said about Risha's struggles.

**September 8, 1999, Elizabeth...ELIZABETH TO MAKE RUN WITH RISHA--- Mark Kaboly, for The Valley Independent...**It will be no secret whatsoever on how the Elizabeth Forward Warriors intend to win football games this year. Patrick Risha right...Patrick Risha left...Patrick Risha up the middle. Bowen thinks the Keystone Conference will be "difficult." But don't count out the Warriors especially with a workhorse like Patrick Risha.

**September 11, 1999, Yough...EF OVERCOMES ADVERSITY TO WIN--- Greg Kristen, Daily News Staff Writer...**The Warriors were led by senior running back Pat Risha who rushed for 114 yards on 33 carries, while on defense, its aggressive attacking forced the Cougars into numerous penalties, countless mistakes and poor field position throughout the night. Risha pounded the ball up the middle three consecutive times, for one of its five first downs, then Schreiber hit wide receiver Chris Lee on a five-yard hook pattern which turned out to be a 29-yard gain, thanks to a spin move by Lee to the outside, putting them in position for a late field goal. To seal its first win, Risha ended a four-play scoring drive that started from the Cougars 29-yard line and ended with him running around down the right sideline for 28 yards with 30 seconds left.

**September 18, 1999, Highlands...NON-CONFERENCE Highlands 35, E. Forward 10 , Daily News...**Highlands defense allowed zero Warrior offensive scores and held Pat Risha under 100 yards rushing. Elizabeth Forward's only touchdown was a 75 yard interception return by Chris Lee with 4:21 left in the half.

**September 25, 1999, Mt. Pleasant...RISHA RUNS OVER MT. PLEASANT--- Daily News ...**Thanks to running back Pat Risha, visiting Elizabeth Forward overcame three injuries to oust Mt. Pleasant. With the help of fullback Aaron Davis' ability to land key blocks and open holes, Risha scampered for 246 yards on 25 carries. Jimmy Laffin led the Warriors defense with 13 tackles and one interception.

**October 2, 1999, T. Jefferson ...TJ DOWNS ELIZABETH, 27-12--- Daily News...**The Jaguars stopped EF running back Pat Risha and also turned back EF, 27-12. Risha, who came into the game averaging well over 100 yards per contest, was never a factor as TJ (4-1, 4-1) held the Warriors (2-2, 2-3) to 77 yards total on the ground. First Matt Kreiber scored on a 21-yard run with 10:18 left on

the clock. Then Glenn Schreiber hooked up with Chris Lee on a 33-yard scoring strike with 1:13 left in halftime.

**October 9, 1999, McGuffey ...E. FORWARD 21, MCGUFFEY 14--- Daily News...**Senior Pat Risha helped keep the Warriors playoff hopes alive as Elizabeth Forward ousted McGuffey. Risha led the Warriors offense with 126 of EF's 155 total rushing yards on 32 carries. The Elizabeth Forward linebacker crew, however, proved that defenses do win ball games. Jim Laffin accounted for 10 tackles, while teammate Jeff Zanetti had 13. Zanetti and Laffin also contributed in a few fourth down stands that stopped important McGuffey drives.

**October 16, 1999, Belle Vernon ...KEYSTONE CONFERENCE Belle Vernon 50, Elizabeth Forward 43--- Daily News...**It was a battle between EF's Pat Risha and Belle Vernon's Ryan Russell, each of whom scored 4 touchdowns in last night's game. But Risha's team fell short of the victory by a single touchdown. Risha tallied all the points in the first half for Elizabeth Forward however, Russell answered with three consecutive touchdowns in the second quarter along with a Nick Kalcevik two point conversion and touchdown. Belle Vernon led 36-21 at the half. The Warriors came alive in the final quarter scoring 22 points with touchdown from Risha, Aaron Davis, and Chris Lee. Elizabeth Forward's Pat Risha finished the night 228 yards on 37 carries. Glenn Schreiber was 10/20 with 98 yards.

**October 23, 1999, Southmoreland ...RISHA GOES OVER 1,000 YARDS AS WARRIORS WALLOP SOUTHMORELAND--- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette...**Last night, Pat Risha ran wild for EF as he broke loose for 253 yards on 22 carries and scored four touchdowns. Risha score on a 58-yard run and then Chris Lee grabbed a 25-yard pass from Glenn Schreiber as EF took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. The lead went to 27-0 by halftime as Risha tacked on a pair of six-yard scoring runs. Jason Stolarz scored on a five-yard run for EF in the fourth quarter.

**October 30, 1999, Peters Township ...RISHA'S TD PUTS EF INTO PLAYOFFS--- Matt Jacobs, The Observer Reporter...**It was the second straight year EF has beaten the Indians in the final game of the season to reach the playoffs. But the Warriors (5-3), led by running back Pat Risha, who rumbled for 182 yards and a pair of touchdowns on two bad ankles, moved the ball methodically, chewing up the clock and any hopes the Indians had of playing in November. Risha did it on both sides of the football. Subbing for EF linebacker James Laffin, who injured an ankle near the end of the second quarter, Risha threw Peters Township quarterback Bob Ruff for an 11-yard loss deep in EF territory, forcing a 27-yard field goal attempt by the Indians' Matt Abraham with just over five minutes left in regulation. The kick was blocked by EF's Chris Lee. "I'm not sure which play was bigger, Patrick's sack or Chris' block," Warriors head coach Rich Bowen said.

**November 6, 1999, Valley...WARRIORS DEFENSE ELIMINATES VALLEY--- Daily News...**The Warriors, winless in their last two playoff games, were led by a balanced attack of running back Pat Risha, who carried the ball 21 times for 120 yards, and quarterback Glenn Schreiber, who was 9 of 12 for 135 yards. "Risha, as usual, ran well for us," EF Coach Rich Bowen said. "Really all our skill players came up big." "Our Offense has really opened up," Bowen said. "Chris Lee is a game breaker, and Risha is a great back, but Schreiber has matured a lot this year. He is a major key to the offense success down the stretch."

**November 10, 1999, Moon...MOON'S LOST WEEKEND: WILL BUY PROVE PLUS OR MINUS AGAINST EF?--- John Sacco, Tri-State Sports & News Service...**While others emerged to help Elizabeth Forward earn its first playoff victory since 1990, Risha remains the cornerstone and focal point. "The kid carries the ball 30 times a game," Bowen said. "He's a great runner in between the tackles and he's gotten stronger as the season has went on. He's showing breakaway speed in the past few weeks. Moon will have no problem identifying Risha, but will also be wary of Lee and Schreiber.

*Plays next game sick, we think it is maybe the flu, it is really mono...*

**November 13, 1999, Moon...RISHA'S TD SINKS MOON---Pittsburgh Post-Gazette...**Risha provided all the offense, for Elizabeth Forward, rushing for 115 yards on 31 carries. The Warriors had eight first downs and did not complete a pass in five attempts. Risha picked up the bulk of his yards in the second half. "Our offensive line went after Moon to make holes for Risha," Elizabeth Forward Coach Bowen said. "We told our kids before the game we can not only play with this team, but we can beat them. You have to believe that, and they did." "Our defensive backs made two big plays to pick off passes, Bowen said. "It was total team play that won this game."

**November 13, 1999, Moon ...EF BLANKS DEFENDING CHAMP--- Denise Scharding, Daily News Sports Writer...**"I have to hand it to Moon, they did a good job of shutting down our passing game," Bowen said. "But great players have to step up in big games and Pat did that for us tonight." Risha ended the night with 116 yards on 31 carries and the game only touchdown. "My team had to carry me last week when I fumbled late," Risha said. "It was just my turn to carry the team." Risha ran the ball 22 times in the second half for 85 of his total yards.

**November 17, 1999, Pittsburgh ...WARRIORS LOSE RISHA--- Norm Vargo, Daily News Sports Writer...**"Patrick won't play," Bowen confirmed this morning. "He's been hospitalized with mononucleosis since Monday." So how are the Warriors dealing with the staggering loss of Risha, the guy they rode this far? "They're down naturally. That's because they feel so bad for Patrick. They know he's the guy that got us this far," said Bowen. "They respect Patrick. They know we wouldn't have gotten this far without him." "No, I think our kids are just feeling bad in a tribute to Patrick. He's the heart and soul of our football team. It's a shame his high school career has ended like this, on the verge of realizing a dream."

**November 18, 1999, Pittsburgh ...ELIZABETH FORWARD'S RISHA OUT WITH MONO--- mike White, Post-Gazette Sports Writer...**"Let's be honest. Patrick has carried us for three years," Bowen said. "We're sorry for Patrick that he can't play, but our kids are going to pick it up."

**November 21, 1999, Belle Vernon...EF'S RISHA MANS SIDELINES IN SEMIFINAL, WARRIOR STAR FORCED TO WATCH--- Denise Scharding, Daily News Sports Writer...**"The guys out there on the field deserve everything they got, everything they earned this season," Risha said. "It was by no means just me. The guys on the field were the reason we were here." It may be how Risha feels, but the statistics prove otherwise. "I've seen guys play here (Three Rivers Stadium) since I was 7 or 8 with my dad's teams," Risha said. "It was really disappointing to be on the sidelines." It was Risha who got the Warriors to the Promised Land, despite the early stage of mononucleosis, and though he carried the team to Three Rivers his role Saturday was much more reserved. Risha was at the game; he even wore his No. 11 game jersey and stood on the 50-yard line for the coin toss. He didn't see a single down of action—but that wasn't for lack of trying. He even tried to get into the game in the second half. Risha carried the team into the semifinals—the first time an EF team has won two consecutive playoff games – with the win over Moon, despite being sick. "I just felt like I had the flu and couldn't get over it," he said. "It wasn't really bad." Without him, Elizabeth Forward lost its soul. "It is difficult when you lose a Pat Risha," Bowen said. "You lose your heart." "Patrick was our confidence," Bowen said. "I'm not mad," Risha said about missing his opportunity to play at Three Rivers. "I had a lot of fun playing football at EF. That is what I will remember."

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW TERRIFIC 25**

**PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE FABULOUS 22**

**DAILY NEWS ALL-DISTRICT SQUAD**

## **KEYSTONE BIG 9 CONFERENCE ALL-STAR**

**February 3, 2000, Elizabeth...EF'S RISHA SIGNS WITH COLGATE---** Brian Herman, The Valley, Sports Editor...”Hamilton, N.H. will be the next stop for Pat Risha, Elizabeth Forward High’s greatest running back. “Pt was one of their main recruits,” noted Coach Rich Bowen. “Colgate is excited to get him; they sent three different coaches down here.” “The best thing about him is his mental and physical toughness,” he went on. “He was always stronger in the fourth quarter. It was a tribute to his mental toughness.” “He never got a big head and was always respected by his teammates,” he added.

## **Track – 100 & 200 & 400 Meter Dash and 400 Meter Relay**

**YMCA/TRIBUNE REVIEW SCHOLAR ATHLETE**

**MID-MON VALLEY ALL-SPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINEE**

## **ELI-MON Chapter Honor Society**