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the surface after activities. Now the gridiron has drawn accolades across social media, with adjectives of "sharp," "amazing," and "awesome," while 10th grader Jolie Guevara describes it as "super." Taxpayer and 1974 Fruitport grad Gilbert Newton, father to defensive coach Rob Newton and grandfather to place-kicker Braylon Richards, agrees with the funding of the new field. "It's very nice," he observed.



John Winkas

Next in the line of improvements for Fruitport athletics will be a new coat and lining for the track.

The players - for their part - wasted no time in celebrating the new era in Fruitport football, pounding out a convincing 37-20 victory over Coopersville in their home opener Sept 23. Led by coach Nate Smith, quarterback Collin Jolman with 166 yards and his twin running back Paschal Jolman with 139 yards and also defensive back Cody Nash with 8 tackles, the team boast a high octane 2022 offensive that can match guns with any on their schedule, ensuring explosive matchups down the stretch.

During homecoming week, the mighty Trojans knocked off previously undefeated and #1 ranked Grand Rapids West Catholic by a score of 28-20 in a breakthrough win, giving them a tie for second in their O-K Blue Conference. Coach Smith and his staff, with their philosophy on handling adversity, have the boys believing. Currently they boast an overall record of 5-2...their best start since 2012.



QB Collin Jolman throwing to Paschal Jolman, courtesy of *MuskegonSports.com* and Craig Watson

To be sure, the colorful field is a sight to behold with its intricate detail, the throwback winged helmet proudly on the 50, and an ode to Robert H. "Doc" Pierce. But it's much more than a feat of ingenuity and inspiration, according to Winkas.

"It's great for the whole community!"

Richard Riekse

Richard Riekse recently completed Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and AIT - Advanced Individual Training in Arizona, where he was an Honor Graduate. He joined the Michigan Army National Guard in 2021; and being a Fruitport Troop 1023 Eagle Scout, he went into the National Guard as a PFC. Richard is a K-12 Fruitport graduate like his father. He is now a sophomore at Michigan State University, majoring in Physics and minoring in Russian. He is the son of LtColonel (Ret) Max & Nelly (deceased) Riekse; he is also an elected Fruitport Township Parks Commissioner. His father previously served two elected terms as a Fruitport Township Parks Commissioner.

