

Article rank | 23 Nov 2011 | Boston Herald | By KAT HASENAUER CORNETTA

# General consensus:

**Trevor Lyons** had a choice to make over this past summer — what part would he play within the HamiltonWenham offense? Would he return as a running back for his junior year or would he take the reins as the Generals quarterback?

"I had to think about it coming into this season, but I chose quarterback because of the added leadership responsibilities," **Lyons** said. "I still have a chance to run, but now I get to be that leader on the field."

The move has worked well for **Lyons** and the Generals, who are 9-0 going into their traditional Thanksgiving game against Ipswich. **Lyons** has helped lead the team back to the Division 3A playoffs next Tuesday against Newburyport.

The leadership of the 16-year-old **Lyons** is one of the keys to the Generals' success so far this season.

"**Trevor** has worked really hard all year," coach Andrew Morency said. "He approached me in the spring, asking what he can work on for the fall. We looked at hours and hours of tape because he wanted to learn.

"He's the consummate, hard-working football player, and leads a lot by his work ethic."

It is not just **Lyons'** ability to lead his teammates that has made him so important. His speed makes him a threat to score every time the Generals offense takes the field.

"The key thing you see with **Trevor** is speed," Morency said. "It is really evident when you watch us play how fast he really is."

The speed is no surprise to Morency or to **Lyons'** teammates. Before playing varsity football, **Lyons** played key roles with the Generals' Class D championship track and field squad. Running the 4 x 400 relay and the 300 meters, he demonstrated the prowess that seems to run in his family. His older brother Connor is a member of the track and field team at Northeastern.

Bishop Fenwick got to know **Lyons'** speed well in the Oct. 15 tilt. He ran for five first-half touchdowns, including a 71-yarder, in a 46-13 win.

"That win meant a lot to us as a team," **Lyons** said. "The year before we were favored against Fenwick, but ended up losing to them. We were focused on making that up this year."

Morency believes the win against Fenwick was not just good for the team, but for **Lyons'** development as a quarterback.

"Leading up to Fenwick, he had shown the ability to put it all together, but it wasn't until that game that he really was hitting on all cylinders. I think it opened his eyes to what he and this team could do. To see what he could do with a wideopen field like that when things are working was a turning point for him."

**Lyons** also points to an 18-6 win against Newburyport on Sept. 23 as one of the first times he got a glimpse of what this year's Generals team was capable of doing.

"During that game, it was rainy and disgusting," **Lyons** said. "The conditions were bad, but on top of that we had some key injuries that could have limited us. We had to persevere through both challenges in order to win that game."

**Lyons** insists his speed on the grass only can carry him so far. He is quick to give credit to his tight-knit and experienced offensive line.

"They get me the holes that I need to make plays," **Lyons** said. "We wouldn't be where we are right now if it weren't for Shane Jenkins, Matt Vogus, Ryan Foringer, Kevin Anthony and Tyler Drinkwater. They are able to give me the time to make the best play."

The Generals knew they had the experience to go far this season, but they had to establish just the right mindset in order to do so.

"We wanted to go undefeated and we wanted to make the playoffs again," **Lyons** said. "But in order to do so you can't look too far ahead. We've really tried to take it one game at a time. That's the only way we were going to be able to achieve those goals."

Helping **Lyons** keep the teams' goals in focus are captains Anthony, Jenkins and Elliott Burr.

That mentality may be a challenge this week. While the Generals are focusing on tomorrow's game, their coach must divide his time and start planning for their playoff game.

"It's a good problem to have, having to prepare for both," Morency said. "But we really do need to take it one game at a time, even if it gives us a short time to prepare. We aren't the only team in this situation."

Despite the short preparation it gives the Generals, Lyons loves the tradition of the Thanksgiving Day game.

"Most of our games are pretty intense, and we have

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# Lyons in right spot

all of our friends and family in the stands, and it's really fun to participate in that tradition," he said.



Staff photo by PATRICK WHITEMORE

**FIELD GENERAL: Trevor Lyons has made a smooth switch to quarterback this season, leading Hamilton-wenham to an unbeaten mark and a Division 3A playoff spot.**

In the stands on Thanksgiving morning will be Lyons' family, including Connor, his younger sister Kelsey, his mom, Luanne, and his motivation for succeeding on the gridiron, his stepfather, Mike.



"He really motivates me to play football and give it everything I have. He's my inspiration," Lyons said. "He always wanted to play football when he was younger, but he played soccer instead. But football has really grown on him over the years."

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