



John “Buzzy” Busseno is a 42-year fixture around Butler athletics

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When Butler athletic director Derek Hall wanted to double-check something from the sideline before last week’s football playoff game against Glen Ridge, he knew exactly who to call in the press box.

John Busseno was at the receiving end of that phone call, and he gave Hall an immediate answer to the question.

That’s pretty much been standard procedure for over 40 years at the Morris County school, where Busseno - better known around the small, tight-knit community as Buzzy, has been a reliable volunteer since his days as a student in the early 1980s.

Aside from his work these days in the football press box, he also operates the scoreboard clock for just about every sport. He’s also worked decades as a public address announcer for several Butler teams.



John Busseno has been a fixture around the Butler athletic department since his sophomore year in 1982.

Butler is a unique place - it is small, and tucked among hills located in the northeastern part of Morris, bordering with Passaic County. Much of its history is tied to an old factory and railroad, but its present is made up of many people who’ve spent their entire lives in the community. And among those who’ve moved elsewhere, most still follow the goings-on in their native town.



John Busseno with Butler head football coach Jason Luciani.

Most of the students, to this day, play two or three varsity sports. Coaches - some of whom are Butler graduates - are usually in it for the long haul. The football program, for instance, has had five head coaches since 1967.

A great example of that hometown pride is Busseno.

Busseno was born in New York City, but his heart has been in Butler since his family moved there while he was in elementary school. One of the first things he did back then was to attend Butler’s Thansksiving football game against neighboring Pompton Lakes, which was a very big holiday rivalry. From that moment on, he was hooked.

“We moved to Butler in 1977, and the rest is history,” he said. “I went to the Thanksgiving game that year, and saw what the



Aside from his work with the football team, Buzzy has also worked the scoreboard and served as public address announcer for practically every team at Butler.

tradition was all about. When I got to the high school, I started to meet the coaches and other people and began to get involved.”

After his early days as a fan, he joined the football team in 1982 as a manager under coach Jack Davies. That year, Butler went unbeaten and captured its first state sectional championship. Another unbeaten sectional-winning season followed in 1983. To this day, that first 11-0 football season remains his favorite Butler sports memory.

As the years went on, he became more and more synonymous with all Butler sports, not just football. His loyalty is never taken for granted, and he was honored for 30 years of service with a varsity jacket in 2012.

“This is a great town, and I love to be able to help out,” he said.

Someone very familiar with Buzzy is Mark Mickens, who graduated from the school in 1981 and was offered a chance by Davies to join the football coaching staff in 1982. He’s been an assistant coach ever since.

“He was a few years behind me in high school,” Mickens said. “Jack Davies hired me in 1982, and Buzzy was our manager. Not only did he become a part of the community, there’s nobody more part of the fabric of our town than Buzzy. Everything he also does now on social media helps people connect back to Butler. It’s really cool.”

Hall became the Butler athletic director in 2021. He grew up in nearby Jefferson, but his father was a three-sport athlete while going to Butler. As a result, Hall attended many Butler games over the years, and was familiar with the community upon joining the administration. That familiarity included the ever-present super-volunteer.

“I heard about him for a while, and it was great to meet him and get to work with him,” Hall said. “He’s a wealth of knowledge when it comes to every sport and knows Butler history like none other. Someone who loves and cares about it so much is fun to be around. Buzzy also works the clock for our fall sports, and the winter, he’s there for everything and in the spring, he’s there for everything. He knows how to work some of this equipment better than the rest of us do.”

Another Buzzy fan is Butler football coach Jason Luciani. While this is his 12th season at the helm, he spent years before that as the girls basketball coach, where Buzzy was a fixture with his clock and PA work.

“He’s Mr. Butler,” Luciani said. “He’s at every game, he’s on social media providing updates, and he’s been doing it for a long time. He’s definitely a fixture. It’s a small, tight community and he’s such a part of it.”

All in all, Busseno, who also works in town, is a person who embodies all that high school sports are about - community minded, loyal and supporter of all athletes and all teams at his hometown school.



“There’s a great culture of kids in this town,” Hall said. “It’s fun to be around so many people that really care. There’s a lot of pride and tradition here, and Buzzy definitely has a lot of that pride. He’s a really good guy.”



Buzzy with former Butler football coach Bob Jones, who led the team to five sectional championships.