

The H.S. halftime show: Off the grid

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MUSICAL MOMENT OF THE WEEK

Hip tunes for Cipp & Co. The old-school football coach doesn't know [Eminem](#) from M&Ms. But before every Bellport home football game, you can't beat the rap when Joe Cipp and his Clippers race onto the field.

"The dream started out . . . 1976
You think he ever thought it would come to this
Bellport, Bellport, each and every year
Between those lines got opponents in fear".

It is known, simply, as "The Bellport Football Song." But it's pure modern-day rap, professionally recorded and sung with style and sass by Bellport grad Jason McGowan, who recorded it in the digital studio of his basement.

"Pretty nice lyrics. A rap song you can listen to and enjoy," said Cipp, who has 207 victories and is closing in on the [Suffolk](#) County record of 209 held by Tom Cassese of Comsewogue.

McGowan didn't play football at Bellport, but he watched his brother Jimmy, an All-Long Island quarterback there, and always has been an ardent Clippers fan. An avid music buff, McGowan also wrote a rap song for the [Bay Shore](#) softball team, coached by his celebrated father, Jim.

McGowan first played the song for his friend Jeff Cipp, Joe's son and assistant coach, who liked it but wasn't sure what his dad would say. McGowan met Joe Cipp in the parking lot of a Bellport restaurant the night of an athletic awards dinner in the spring of 2006. "I know you don't like rap much, but listen to this," McGowan said, then popped the CD into his truck's stereo system, turned up the volume and held his breath.

"He loved it!" McGowan recalled with glee. "He hugged me right there and said it would be the team's song." As a nod to the team being bigger than any individual, McGowan doesn't use any names in the song. "I asked him for the words one time. If you read them, it's a history of our program," Cipp said with pride.

"When you talk about the best was it 1982
Or 1989 and the way that they flew
Or was it 1992, first championship
Or 1995 and the way that they hit
Or maybe 1997, it's tough to say
2001 some called them great
All these teams together going stride for stride

You can't forget about (who!) 2005. "When Cipp gets that career victory record, perhaps McGowan will amend the lyrics and add one name. Here's a suggestion from an un-hip sports scribe, a Beach Boy at heart:

"The No. 1 coach . . . that's Joe Cipp, You think he ever thought it would be such a trip."