



Anthony "Tony" Badalato was a 1962 graduate of Watertown High School. As an all-league running back, he helped lead the Cyclones to consecutive league titles with back-to-back undefeated seasons. After high school he attended Brockport State University (1962-66), lettering all four years in both football and lacrosse. In football, Tony, was a scoring threat from anywhere on the gridiron. He was also selected as Small College Back of the Week during his career. After College, he joined the US Army 1967-1969 was the head football coach of the Stuggaret Stallions in Germany.

The team made the playoffs in his first year and ended with a record of 7-2. He then moved on to coach the Hartwick College Men's Lacrosse team for one season.

In the Spring of 1969, he entered the Kingston City School District as a Physical Education Instructor. Tony began his Kingston High School football coaching career that Fall as an Assistant Coach for Frank Modica's Maroon Varsity Eleven where he was the backfield coach. When Frank stepped down in July to take an administrative job in South Carolina, Tony was appointed as Kingston's head football coach. It is a position he held from 1970-1983. Together with Assistant Ed Mills, he created the Youth Pop Warner Football Program. This program has helped to develop many of the future Tiger football players and has had a direct influence on the success of the football program.

After losing 14 lettermen, half of which were all-league performers, KHS struggled in 1970 and was winless in eight contests. The DUSO league collapsed, and Kingston played an independent schedule in 1971. Tony's team rebounded from last year's record by winning six of the first seven games, which included four shutouts. During that streak, their only loss was an 8-7 contest to Amsterdam. The team finished the regular season with a record of 6-2 and were invited to play in the Section One Bowl game against a strong White Plains team. KHS was lost 30-0 to finish the year with a record of 6-3.

Kingston competed in the DCSL from the years 1972-1982. In 1972, their first year in the league, two losses by the total of three points, one to Beacon 12-10 and the other to eventual champion Ketcham 7-6, kept the Tigers from having a share of first place. They finished the season with a 5-4 overall record and went 4-4 in league play. The next year, Kingston narrowly missed winning the title again. The 1973 team had to settle for second place when they lost to eventual champion Ketcham by the score of 9-6. Tony's Tigers won their first DCSL Championship in 1976 with an 7-1 league record, only losing to Arlington 10-0 after clinching the title. In that game, both teams' defenses were dominant. Arlington's defense was the difference as they scored on a fumble recovery and recorded a safety. A highlight of the game for KHS was that running back Joel Etter became Kingston's first official 1000-yard rusher. Playing in the Section One Bowl game versus Roosevelt of Yonkers, Kingston lost a heartbreaking 15-21 overtime decision. The next year brought another title, this time finishing with the first undefeated, untied record since Bill Burke's 1958 juggernaut, which was led by KHS Athletics Hall of Famer Hobie Armstrong. It was only the fourth time in Kingston's Football History that a team finished with no loses or ties in a campaign (1915, 1956, 1957). The 77' Tigers set a new seasonal scoring record with 287 points (1915, Points 279), averaging 31.9 point per game. The defense gave up only 52 total

points on the year, for a stingy 5.8 points per game average. In 1978, Kingston won its third consecutive DCSL title, this time going 10-0, becoming only the second team ever to win 10 games in a season (1915, Record 10-0). The offense averaged 26.3 points per game and the defense again allowed only 52 points on the season. However, this was in 10 games for a minuscule 5.2 points per game average. In the Section One Bowl game, Kingston defeated Mamaroneck 19-6. This was the first win in three tries. From 1976-1978, Kingston's amassed a record of 26 wins with only 2 loses. After defeating Newburgh in the opening game in 1979 to tie the school record with 20 consecutive wins, record, losing two games by the same score 6-0 and another 13-10, Kingston finished with a 4-5 record. The Tigers rebounded the next two years by winning their fourth and fifth DCSL Crowns. This made five championships in the past six years. Both the 1980 (8-2 overall, 7-0 League) and 1981 (9-1 Overall, 7-0 League) teams were undefeated in league play. Combined they outscored their league opponents 328-52 including nine shutouts. New Rochelle defeated Kingston 6-0 in the 1980 Section I Bowl game. The 1981 squad only gave up 13 points in league play, shutting out its first five opponents. Overall, the 81' defense allowed a measly 5.9 points per game. The 1982 season, the DCSL's last, was one of heartbreak. Two consecutive losses to league foes Roosevelt and Ketcham by identical scores of 13-12, cost the Tigers their chance for a three-peat. Tony's team however, bounced back the next year in 1983 to win the SEAC Division A-5 Championship by going 5-0 in league play. The new league alignment was essentially the old DCSL (Arlington, John Jay, Ketcham, Newburgh, Roosevelt). This was to be Tony's last team as he then moved on to administration

Tony's 79-48-1 career record still ranks second all-time in KHS football history in wins. Only legendary Kingston Athletics Hall of Fame Coach Willard Burke has more (87-31-12). During his tenure, his teams collected a total of six league titles and one Section One Bowl game victory. He was selected as the Freeman's Football Coach of the Year three times (1971, 1976, 1978). From 1977-1979, Kingston tied the school record of 20 consecutive wins. During his coaching career, he had eighteen players selected to the NYS All-State Football Teams and three Kingston Freeman Football Player of the Year Awards (Jay Foust, Jimmy Brown, Eddie Parker).

Winning titles was in Tony's blood. He coached the Boys Tennis teams from 1977-1984 winning two DCSL Titles (1977; 1978) and two DCSL Division I crowns (1980, 1982). From 1977-1981 his teams compiled a record of 68-9. His boys and girls downhill skiing teams also won several league and sectional titles from 1971-1987.

In 1984, Tony became only the fourth Athletic Director in the history of KHS, succeeding G. Warren Kias, Willard Burke and Bill Hurley. After the demise of the DCSL, Kingston was moved around from league to league yearly in Section One from 1983-87. Tony applied for Kingston to join the Orange County League (OCL). Kingston was approved and began play in the OCL in Fall of 1987. This move, which brought stability and less travel time, brought Kingston back home to Section Nine. It also reunited KHS with its former DUSO League rivals Middletown, Newburgh, and Port Jervis.

In 1989, after securing funds, he oversaw the renovation of Dietz Stadium into a multi-use field with a sand-based turf and new track. Dietz Stadium quickly became the show case athletic facility in the Hudson Valley. The city of Kingston hosted numerous league, sectional, and state scholastic athletic events in Field Hockey, Soccer, Lacrosse as well as the Kingston Kids Classic. The NYSPHSAA Boy's and Girl's Championship Track Meet was held at Dietz Stadium for six consecutive years, bringing families and athletes from all over New York State. Other sports to use the venue are the boys' and girls' soccer

and lacrosse teams and field hockey. Semi-Professional Soccer and Football use Dietz stadium as its home field. Each June, the Joe Defino Elementary Track meet is held along with the Middle School Track Meet, High School Band Competitions. During the Summer, the Statewide March of Champions Drum & Bugle Competition is also held at Dietz Stadium. The residents of Kingston make use of this facility daily.

Under Tony's Athletic Administration, he also oversaw the construction and dedication of both the Pat Burke Softball Field as well as the Albert Gruner Baseball Field in Lake Katrine. New sports added to the athletics program during his administration included Boy's and Girls' Varsity Lacrosse, and Girls' Varsity Field Hockey and Soccer. He was selected as the Kingston Daily Freemans Sportsman of the Year in 1989 and 2001. Tony's impact on the Kingston High School Tigers Athletics program has fostered much pride in the local community. Tony retired from KHS in February of 2002, leaving behind a legacy of excellence.