



Eddie Parker Jr. was an explosive and versatile player for the Kingston High School Tiger's Football program from the years 1981-1983. During his career, Eddie would reach the end zone not only as an elusive running back, but also as an opportunist defensive back and special teams return man. He possessed sprinter's speed and dazzling open field moves as a runner.

During the 1981 grid season, Eddie helped propel the Tigers to their second consecutive DCSL (Dutchess County Scholastic League) football title with a perfect league record of 7-0. Kingston finished the season with an overall record of 9-1, being ranked as high as the number four team in the NYS polls. His late first quarter 75-yard touchdown run versus a determined Ketcham squad, was the only score in a defensive struggle won by Kingston 7-0. For the season, Eddie scored seven touchdowns including a 58-yard punt return against league foe John Jay.

Being the featured back in 1982, Eddie rose to the challenge. He scored 12 touchdowns for the Tigers. Included in that number were eight rushing, one punt return, one interception and two fumble recoveries. Two tough, back-to-back, one point league losses spoiled Kingston's bid to win a third straight DCSL title. In the opener against Clarkstown North, Eddie went right to work by carrying the pigskin for 145 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown run in a 21-0 victory. During the season, he had games of 184 yards (John Jay), 183 yards (Arlington), and 130 yards (Vestal). In a pressure cooker versus longtime rival Newburgh, Kingston was nursing a 3-0 lead late in the fourth quarter with under a minute remaining and the Goldbacks on the Tiger's 14-yard line threatening to score. Eddie intercepted a pass over the middle and scampered 92 yards for a touchdown to secure a 10-0 win. The next week in a 28-0 win against John Jay, Eddie scored all four of the Tiger's touchdowns. He had touchdown runs of 59, 50 and 2 yards to go along with a 62-yard punt return. In the final game of the season, Eddie continued his scoring spree by adding three more touchdowns in a 36-6 win over Arlington. Eddie was selected to the Kingston Freeman Football All-Star squad as a first team defensive back. He was chosen as the DCSL's Co-Offensive Player of the Year as well as first team running back. Parker ran for 955 yards and gained 1500 all-purpose yards.

As the 1983 campaign got underway, number 22 was a marked man by opponents. Eddie once more, proved that he was ready. In an opening 27-22 game loss to powerhouse Union-Endicott, Eddie rushed for 138 yards in only 16 carries and scored two touchdowns. The next week, he ran for 120 yards in 12 carries, including a 70-yard touchdown jaunt in a 17-7 loss to North Rockland. He again led the Tiger's offensive attack by rushing for 130 yards and one touchdown in a 18-0 win over Clarkstown North. After missing a game with a hip injury, Eddie came back to score the first two touchdowns of the game, helping the Tigers to a 40-7 win over Roosevelt. He scored two more touchdowns the following week versus Ketcham, again going over the 100-yard mark for the fourth time. The Tigers traveled to meet archrival Newburgh, in a crucial SEAC Division 5A Conference game. Both teams were sporting 3-0 league records. Eddie led the charge by returning two punts for touchdowns, one for 87 yards and the other for 52 yards, in a hard fought 19-14 victory. Parker snuffed out any hope the Goldbacks had when he intercepted a pass in the last minute of play. Coach Tony Badalato simply stated, "Let's face it, Eddie Parker was Kingston today." In the finale at Homecoming, Eddie finished his high school career in style

by exploding for 201 yards in 21 carries, scoring three touchdowns, including an 87 yarder. Kingston once again was crowned a champion with a perfect 5-0 record in the division and a 6-2 mark overall. For the year, Eddie rushed for 792 yards, gained more than 1200 total yards on offense, and scored eleven touchdowns. For his efforts, he was chosen as the Freeman's Football Player of the Year and was a Poughkeepsie Journal first team all-star selection as a running back. Eddie was chosen to the All-New York State football team. His 30 career touchdowns were the second most in the School's history, only behind Hobie Armstrong's 37 and his 182 career points were good enough for third place on the all-time list. Eddie's 201 yards rushing versus Arlington was the second highest individual performance ever, only behind Jimmy Brown's 287-yard game in 1978. The 87-yard touchdown punt return versus Newburgh in 1983 was tops on the all-time list until 2002 when Terrance Harris returned one for 91 yards against Warwick. Eddie's two punt return touchdowns in one game tied him with Ronnie Ashdown, who accomplished the feat in 1955 versus Port Jervis. His four punt returns for touchdowns in a career is a KHS record still today. He broke Hobie Armstrong's 26-year-old record (1956) when he returned an interception against Newburgh for a 92-yard touchdown. Eddie participated on the Varsity Track team for 3 years and was on the record setting 400-meter relay team along with Tony Davis, Randy Smith, and Scott Harrell.

Eddie's high school exploits on the gridiron earned him a full-athletic scholarship to Division I Temple University where he played from 1984-87 as a hard-hitting defensive back under future NFL coach Bruce Arians. In 1984, Eddie averaged 20.5 yards on kick-off returns and saw action in the defensive backfield in all eleven games. For the next three years, he became a full-fledged starter for the Temple Owls, even returning two punts in 1985. His play in the 1985 season earned Eddie a spot on the Sophomore All-American Team. During his career, Eddie had a total of eight interceptions, leading the team in 1985 with four. As a senior, Eddie was selected to the 1987 All-East Football team, earning Honorable Mention honors at the defensive back position.

After a solid career at Temple, Eddie went on to sign as a free agent with the Green Bay Packers in the fall of 1987 where he played on the Special Teams and as a Nickelback. The next year he signed with the San Francisco 49'ers for a few months. Eddie then went to Spain where he played for the Barcelona Dragons in the World Football League. After coming home, he worked with the NYS Office of Children of Family Services. Eddie continues to be a positive role model in the community, giving his time and energy to the youths of Kingston.