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COURTESY OF THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Ali Marpet holds a championship T-shirt after Super Bowl LV.

Marpet climbs to the NFL mountaintop

By Ken Kostik

HASTINGS — During his post-Super Bowl LV press conference, Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive lineman Ali Marpet, a 2011 graduate of Hastings High School, used the word “unbelievable” to describe his team’s 31-9 win over the Kansas City Chiefs.

“We all know how hard it is to get here, and now, to get it done,” he said. “This has been a long time coming, and to be able to share with these guys — it is unbelievable.”

More so for Marpet, whose final high school game was a 36-8 loss to Bronxville in the Section I/Class C championship game in 2010. That year, Marpet was 6 feet tall and 245 pounds. Not recruited by a Division 1 football program, he decided to attend Hobart College in upstate Geneva,

a Division 3 school. At Hobart, he grew to 6-foot-4 and 307 pounds.

The now 27-year-old made his presence known throughout the Super Bowl. However, his shining moment may have been the block he made on Chiefs’ cornerback Charvarius Ward that allowed running back Leonard Fournette to sprint for a 27-yard touchdown midway through the third quarter, putting the Bucs ahead 28-9. Prior to that score, the Chiefs had cut the Bucs’ lead to 21-9 on a 52-yard field goal by Harrison Butker.

The Super Bowl win was the second for the Bucs, which joined the NFL in 1976. In their only other appearance, Tampa Bay defeated the Oakland Raiders, 48-21, in 2003.

Marpet, a two-way lineman in high school, played left tackle at Hobart and was as a starter his final three seasons, serv-

ing as captain his junior and senior years. He was a three-time, first-team All-Liberty Conference selection and a three-time D3football.com All-East choice — second team his sophomore and junior years and first team his final season at Hobart.

“I had dreams,” Marpet said. “I had a lot of different goals along the way since then. Early on, when I was just leaving Hobart, I just wanted to make a 53-man [National Football League] roster.”

After an outstanding Senior Bowl in January 2015, Marpet was invited to the NFL’s Scouting Combine, where his stock rose — so much so that the Bucs acquired the 29th pick in the second round of that year’s draft from the Indianapolis Colts to select Marpet.

“I feel so happy to represent all the guys

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Jones pushes to repeal SALT deduction cap

By Jackie Lupo

REGION — Freshman U.S. Congressman Mondaire Jones, who won the seat vacated by longtime Rep. Nita Lowey, has made good on one of his campaign promises: to work for repeal of the \$10,000 cap on SALT (state and local tax) deductions.

Jones, who represents New York’s 17th Congressional District, is co-sponsoring the SALT Deductibility Act in the House with Tom Suozzi of Long Island, also a Democrat; Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) is sponsoring it in the Sen-

ate. The bill was introduced in both chambers on Jan. 28.

“As a result of Donald Trump’s cap on the SALT deduction in 2017, nearly half of all households here in Westchester and Rockland saw their tax bills go up,” Jones wrote to the Enterprise in a Feb. 8 email, referring to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. “Hundreds of thousands of people in our district had to pay thousands of dollars more in taxes each year. That’s money they couldn’t spend on housing, food, transportation, child care, and health care. By passing the SALT Deductibility Act, we’ll put money back into the

pockets of working people all throughout our district.”

Jones’ district, which encompasses Rockland County and parts of central and northern Westchester, including Irvington and Dobbs Ferry, has the highest property taxes in the U.S.

“Help is on the way,” Jones pledged at a press conference also attended by local, county, and state politicians, the day after the bill was introduced. Westchester County Executive George Latimer thanked the bill’s sponsors, saying it would address “the single big-

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