



HEY, ISN'T THAT MANGOLD'S SISTER AT TACKLE?

Girls are playing high school football every year at an increasing rate. More than 1,500 will play in 2007.

HOLLEY MANGOLD is one of those girls. Holley, 17, is an offensive lineman on the Archbishop Alter High School Knights in Centerville, Ohio. On the first Friday in September 2006, Mangold ran onto the field wearing number 79 during her premier varsity game.

"Our whole fan section went crazy," Mangold recalled of her initial appearance with the team. "It was probably one of the best moments I've had in football."

Mangold is the first woman to play a down in Division III Ohio High School football. Ever determined, Holley did not stop after just one down. She played at least 20 downs from scrimmage throughout the Knights' 10-0 season.

How did Mangold end up on the field instead of on the sidelines?

"Just like any sibling, I wanted to do the same thing my big brother did," Holley said, referring to her older brother, New York Jets starting center **NICK MANGOLD**. "I have a lot of people come up to me and ask since I play football, am I a feminist? No, not at all. I don't think, 'I am woman--hear me roar.' It is simply because football is one of the greatest sports there is and if I can keep doing it like my brother, that would be amazing."

What does Holley's big brother Nick say about his younger sister?

"Definitely there's a pride factor as her older brother. It's a neat thing what she's doing. But she's been playing since the second grade, so really for the family it's become pretty normal," he says.

Other girls who played high school football in 2006:

- **BRITTANY RYAN**, a senior placekicker for Easton (PA) High. Ryan is the first female to play and score an extra point in the 100-year rivalry between Easton High and Phillipsburg (N.J.). Converting a PAT with 3:37 remaining in the first quarter of the Thanksgiving classic, she helped Easton top Phillipsburg 21-7.

"It's just an honor to play and contribute to the win," Ryan said following the victory. "This is about the team."

What keeps Brittany motivated?

"These boys work so hard to get it down the field, and I feel like I need to make that point for them," she says. "They score and I put another point in."

- **BRITTANY CLIMMONS**, a placekicker for the Fairborn Skyhawks in Ohio. Additionally, Climmons subs as a wide receiver and safety with the school's reserve squad. She also captains the varsity soccer team.

"I always wanted to play football," said Brittany, in her second year with the team. She was inspired by **ASHLEY NEVITT**, who kicked for Fairborn in 2002.

Following is the breakdown according to the National Federation of State High School Association for girls' participation in football in the U.S. during the 2006 school year:

Type of Game	Schools	Participants
11-player	257	1,173
6-player	8	79
8-player	7	10
9-player	2	2