



### **Nate Hardy Field Dedication November 11, 2009**

Dedications like this one today are made all over the world with great frequency. Park benches, stretches of sidewalk, wings and buildings at colleges and universities – all are named after those who have passed on. But there is something special – something significant – about an athletic field dedication. This particular field – Nate’s Field – now comes with a story and a source of inspiration. But most importantly, it comes with a responsibility. And this responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Club, and more specifically, upon the shoulders of every Seacoast United soccer player who takes to this field in competition.

This field dedication must be *earned*.

To understand what I mean, perhaps it will help you to imagine as I do that Nate will be looking down on this field, ready to pass judgment on the performances he sees put in upon it. Now its true, a slide tackle by a Seacoast United player that sees the studs come up a few extra inches off the ground or challenges in the air led by the occasional elbow would probably get the nod of approval from my brother. I’m not advocating such play necessarily, I’m just saying: Its not like Nate would frown upon it.

But what would please him most? What would honor him most? What will earn this dedication? To have every player who pulls the Seacoast United jersey over his or her head step foot upon this field prepared and willing to make sacrifices. Just as Nate made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, for his teammates and for the guy next to him, so must each Seacoast player competing on this field do so for something greater than personal glory. No ordinary effort will do. You must play with conviction, with commitment, with passion. You must play to lessen the burden on your teammates, to do your Club proud; your performance must befit the name on this field. Seacoast United: You must *earn* this dedication, every minute of every game, and every minute of every day.

Do this, and you will be best honoring the memory and legacy of my brother, Nate Hardy. Thank you all for attending, and thank you Seacoast United.

Ben Hardy  
Brother of Nate Hardy