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## Youth roundup: Montville headed to Super Bowl for first time in 26 years

### The Bulletin

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WATERFORD — Two years removed from back-to-back winless seasons, the Montville Senior football team is headed to the Super Bowl for the first time in 26 years.

The Indians defeated Waterford, 14-8, on Sunday, and will host New London in the Southern New England Youth Football Conference Super Bowl at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

“Just getting here is huge for us, and then being at the homefield, the kids are ecstatic,” Montville coach Mike Doherty said.

Doherty took over a team in peril last season and led the Indians to three wins. They had no wins in the previous two seasons before that.

Montville (7-4) struck first in a defensive battle with Waterford. Andy Petherick reached the end zone on a short run in the third to take an 8-0 lead. Waterford was quick to respond. Kyle Cardoza rumbled for a 40-yard score to tie the game.

Montville put together a long drive in the fourth, but turned the ball over on downs in Waterford territory, but the Lancers coughed up the ball on their first offensive play and Montville took advantage jumping on the ball and reaching the end zone a short time later on a run by Billy Clark with 5 minutes 50 seconds remaining in the fourth.

“We knew going in because of the quality of play Waterford has and the type of way they are coached, it was just going to be who made the least amount of mistakes,” Doherty said. “It was that kind of a tough game.”

Doherty said his goal this season was just to give his players a winning season, which seemed like a bit of a longshot after the team had three wins combined in its previous three seasons.

Montville, the seventh seed, went 5-4 in the regular season before upsetting, No. 2 Plainfield and then No. 6 Waterford. They'll play No. 1 New London Sunday, who has blown out every team it has faced this season.

“We're going to need a lot of things to go right, go our way, but we are going to play our football and on a given day anyone can win,” Doherty said.