

Joe Linta

Joe Linta graduated from Freedom in 1978, having played football, basketball, and track. He was a member of one of Freedom's few undefeated football teams, earning all-conference honors as defensive tackle and punter. He graduated as valedictorian with a 4.0 average.

After Freedom, he went to Yale University and graduated with a dual major in Political Science and Administrative Science while playing football there. After graduation, he coached under Hall of Fame Coach Carm Cozza at Yale before entering the business world.

He served as an aide to Connecticut congressman Larry Denardis, and worked for Shearson-Lehman and Prudential Securities, becoming senior vice president for Prudential. In 1992, he took the step and founded JL Sports, a NFL player representation firm. Since 1992, JL Sports has represented over 60 NFL draft choices and negotiated over \$250 million in player contracts.

Among JL Sports' present clients are Pittsburgh Steelers right tackle Willie Colon and Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco.

Joe and his wife of 24 years, Kathy, are very active in the United Way and host the NFL Players/United Way weekend in March. Completing its 17th year earlier this month, the event has raised \$750,000 for United Way.

Joe has been a youth football coach for the past six years and is currently on the staff at Branford (CT) High School.

He and Kathy have two sons - Nicholas, 15, a freshman at Branford who plays football and lacrosse and T.J., 14, an eighth grader who plays baseball, basketball, and football.

