

Match of the Game: October 20, 2008 New England Patriots vs. Denver Broncos



Pictured above: Jessica (mentee), Bianca Wilfork and Heidi (mentor)

Because of the wise words of her mentor, Salem mentee Jessica, 16, has taken on the New England Patriots as a kind of role model for herself. Through the team's endeavors, she has learned that while life can sometimes be disheartening, with hard work and focus, one can overcome any obstacle. Jessica and her mentor, Heidi Vancisin, watched Jessica's role models take on the Denver Broncos at Gillette Stadium on Oct.20. They were guests of Vince and Bianca Wilfork, and WBCN as part of the "Match of the Game" program coordinated through Mass Mentoring Partnership (massmentors.org).

Jessica and Heidi were matched a year and a half ago through the Children's Friend and Family Services Youth Mentoring Program in Salem. According to Heidi, Jessica had shown interest in learning about businesses and stocks, which Heidi specializes in through her work at Wells Fargo.

“Learning specifically about the business and financial world has always been our focus as Jessica has shown interest in it,” Heidi said. “Through our work together, she has realized that the business world is not complicated or mysterious.”

Heidi has even helped Jessica invest some of her savings money, and they monitor their stock portfolio together, evaluating opportunities for further growth.

As a result of their relationship, Jessica is emerging with a passion for learning.

“We always go on trips where we learn a variety of things, such as whale watches, or visiting places to learn about the stock market,” Jessica said. “She is always happy, so I have fun when I’m with her.”