

The Point After II

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION, VOL. 32, No.3, SPRING 2025

Wisconsin Football Coaches Association 2024 All State Football Team

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Christian Collins, Notre Dame
Blake Thiry, Prairie du Chien

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bill Jacklin, Slinger

ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Mack, DeForest

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Cooper Catalano, Germantown
Isaiah Groom, Potosi/Cassville

8-MAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jared schultz



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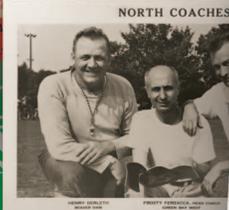
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Executive Director, Dan Brunner



Dan Brunner

I hope this issue of *The Point After II* finds you enjoying the off season! The WFCM Clinic and Combine are right around the corner. It's time to start gearing up for another Football Season. What a great time of year! We are extremely excited to be entering a season that will have a new playoff experience. A special thank you to our President, Brian Kaminski, who spearheaded the effort to get the "Football Matrix System" across the finish line. Please attend the Business meeting, 4:00 on Friday, April 4th at the clinic to find out more.

ALL-STATE BANQUET

The All-State Banquet was held at Lambeau Field's Atrium on Sunday, February 2nd. The Green Bay Packers treated the players, their families and guests to complimentary Hall of Fame passes and guided stadium tours on Saturday night. Special thanks to Danny Mock from the Packers for making this a great experience for all attendees. The banquet, emceed by HOF coach, Dave Keel, honors our All-State

Team, All-Star Game Head Coaches, College Coaches of the Year, Ryan Munz and Brent Allen, UW-Platteville, along with Eric Treske, Wisconsin Lutheran College. We also honor the College Players of the Year, in addition to the WFCM/GB Packer HS Head Coach of the Year, Bill Jacklin, Slinger and the WFCM Assistant Coach of the Year, Jeff Mack, DeForest. The highlight of the banquet is recognizing the 8-player, as well as, the large and small school 11-Player All-State teams. Special thanks to our All-State Banquet Chairman, Tony Biolo and his wife, Traci, along with Jerry & Kathleen Golembiewsk, Charna Kelsey and the other WFCM Exec Board members for their efforts to make this the finest banquet of its kind anywhere. This was the largest banquet, to date, with over 675 attendees!

WFCM CLINIC

Please remember to set aside April 3, 4 & 5, 2025 for our Annual Gathering in Madison! This year's Clinic will feature Thomas Hammock, and his Northern Illinois staff on Thursday. Northern Illinois beat the National Champion Runner-Up, Notre Dame, during the regular season! Friday will feature the Badger Coaching Staff, led by UW Head Coach, Luke Fickell! Former Badger and Pro Bowl LB, Joe Schobert, along with our State Championship coaches, WIAC programs, as well as Outstanding out of state high school coaches. We are thrilled to feature BADGER PRACTICE ON SATURDAY AM! Coaches will be allowed on the field as the Badger coaches conduct an extended Indy Session! Online Membership Renewal is required prior to the clinic! Go to www.wfcm.org to register. Take advantage of discounted staff rates! CLINIC REGISTRATION IS INCLUDED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP! WFCM Membership is the Greatest Deal

in the Nation! If you take advantage of the Group Membership Rate, You get all the benefits (\$2 million liability insurance, Badger tickets, Clinic, Awards, Grant program, Scholarships, and so much more) for less than \$45 !!!

WFCM MENTOR MANUAL

WFCM HOF member and Past President, Bill Collar, along with a select group of current and past WFCM coaches have revised and updated the WFCM Mentoring Manual. It is the finest of its kind anywhere. It is a valuable resource for coaches at all levels. Future sales of copies will have 100% of the proceeds go toward the Bill Collar Lineman Scholarship Fund. Contact me for a copy (\$10).

NATIONAL HOF INDUCTEES & COTY FINALIST

A special congratulations to Greg Lehman and Chuck Raykovich. They are both being inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, Hall of Fame in June! Pat Rice is also one of eight finalists nation wide for the NHSACA Coach of the Year. The award is based on a coach's career accomplishments, on & off the field. The winner will be announced at the NHSACA Convention in June. Good Luck, Pat. Congratulations are also in order for Bill Jacklin, Slinger HS. He was selected as the NFL, National COTY! Bill was honored by the NFL at the Pro Bowl event.

CONCLUSION

The WFCM continues to be the finest Coaches Association in the Nation. That is because of the proactive thinking and actions of our membership. We are always looking at what is best for the improvement for the sport of football. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones on April 3, 4 & 5, 2025. See you at the Clinic!

THANK YOU TO OUR WFCM CORPORATE SPONSORS WHO SO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT FOOTBALL IN WISCONSIN.



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President, Brian Kaminski



Brian Kaminski

Exciting times are ahead for the game of football in the state of Wisconsin and what an eventful journey it has been. The matrix and 8-player expansion has been passed and we need to thank everyone who helped us get it to where it is now. The input of numerous coaches, committees, and administrators, has been very beneficial. This would not have been possible if we didn't have all of us working together.

The plan was worked on at the end of the season by Andy Lavoy and Jesse Norris. Then we got together and formed a WFCOA committee

which included Travis Wilson, Paul Ackley, Tony Biolo, Jason Gorst, Tom Yashinsky, Drake Zortman, and Brian Kaminski. We worked hard on getting everything in place in order to present it to our membership and allow them some feedback. The plan resembles the Ohio High School Athletic Association's plan which we started with as a framework. We entered our data for the past 3 seasons in all divisions. We developed the details we felt we needed to have a program that we felt would be best for the future of high school football in Wisconsin.

We followed that up with a couple of open zoom meetings to get feedback from our coaches. We took that feedback and made a few tweaks to the plan that we now call the Matrix.

Next we surveyed our head coaches. We are PROUD to say we had 400 head coaches respond and had 87.5% of those coaches in favor of the matrix. This would never have passed if we didn't have the tremendous amount of coaches respond to the survey!!

In cooperation, the WIAA gave us a couple extra weeks to prepare before we needed to present it at the annual Football Advisory Committee meeting. This was also key because it allowed us to get everything in order and make sure all voices were heard in the process.

The Matrix and 8-Player expansion was brought forward to the WIAA through the Football Coaches Advisory Committee. It then had to pass all three levels of governing committees at the WIAA. First the Sports Advisory Committee then the Advisory Council and finally it had to pass the Board of Control. The WIAA allowed Paul Ackley and myself to attend the meetings, present the proposal and answer questions regarding the Matrix and 8-Player expansion. We were very excited to find out they both passed at all three levels.

This is a great change and we couldn't be more excited for the future of high school football in Wisconsin. This will be transparent and allow the brackets to be balanced throughout the state. Again, I want to thank all the coaches who shared their input. Without all of you we would not be where we are today. If we can continue to get everyone's input and have significant responses to surveys and attendance at annual meetings, etc., we can continue to grow this great game.

Thank you to the WIAA for their openness to the proposals and their support of football in Wisconsin. My most sincere thanks to everyone who participated. Let's continue to make our voices heard for positive change.

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- \$2,000,000.00 LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY (details on page 63)
- Eligibility to participate in the WFCOA Grant Program
- Complimentary admission to the Spring Football Clinic
- Three issues of The Point After II newsletter
- All-Star games, nomination rights and free attendance
- All-State nomination rights
- Scholarship nomination rights
- Hall of Fame nomination rights
- All-State Championship rings
- Annual awards and recognition including Regional and State Coaches of the Year.
- WFCOA membership enhances professional growth and gives you the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of your profession
- A professional network of new contacts, a line of communication and a forum for the exchange of ideas and information within your profession.
- www.wifca.org, our professional website with the latest information about football in Wisconsin which provides unlimited resources to meet the needs of member coaches.
- 2 Badger tickets to home football games



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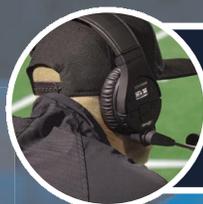
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Editor, Director of Communications and Corporate Sponsors, Tom Swittel



Tom Swittel

One of my favorite events of the WFCAs calendar is coming up. The WFCAs Spring Clinic (April 3 – 5) is the biggest celebration of football I know of. The WFCAs Spring Clinic is the largest football only clinic in the United States. Approximately three thousand coaches will be in Middleton to share ideas, renew friendships, and have some fun. I look forward to seeing my coaching friends from around the state, many of which I only see at the Clinic yearly. Head coaches, please take advantage of the staff rates and get your coaching staff signed up for the Clinic.

There are several other WFCAs sponsored programs and events I'd like to mention. The first is the WFCAs Combine scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, at NX Level in Waukesha. This is a great opportunity for current juniors and sophomores to showcase themselves for college coaches. Typically, approximately 100 college coaches attend the Combine, including coaches from FCS, D2, and D3 schools. Combine results are posted on the WFCAs and WSN websites. Athletes attending the Combine can opt to purchase a WFCAs Player Profile through Epoch Recruiting. The WFCAs Player Profile is an online resume that can be a basis for the athlete's college recruiting. The WFCAs Player Profile includes: official WFCAs

Combine results and rankings based on those results, official heights and weights measured at the Combine, player contact information, parent names, high school coach's name and contact information, video highlight link, transcript, player stats, awards and honors, and an "About Me" narrative written by the player. The cost of the Combine is \$60 and the cost of the Combine and WFCAs Profile is \$170. Paying \$110 for the Player Profile is a very affordable recruiting tool option when compared to other recruiting services out there. College coaches like the fact that Brad Arnett and his staff are the ones testing the participants. There is no question the results are accurate and unbiased. Coaches, please encourage your players to take advantage of the WFCAs Combine and the WFCAs Player Profile. At the time of this writing, we are approaching 500 participants who have already signed up. The Combine is filling up fast.

The WFCAs Grant will once again be rolled out at the Clinic. As a reminder, the purpose of the WFCAs Grant is to supplement high school football budgets beyond what a typical Grant will cover. That being said, basic equipment needs such as helmets, shoulder pads, uniforms, coach's salaries, etc., are not a part of the Grant. These items are covered, or should be, in a typical football budget. The emphasis for the WFCAs Grant is player safety and injury prevention. Requests

that fall into these categories will carry the most weight. WFCAs Grants will be awarded for up to \$3,000, smaller requests will be considered. Up to \$50,000 has been set aside by the WFCAs for the Grants this year. All Grant applications will be online. Grant applications can be filled out after the Clinic. Please plan on attending the WFCAs Business Meeting at the Clinic for specific WFCAs Grant information. \$263,767 has been awarded to 112 schools in the first four years since the program was rolled out.

Lastly, season three of the WFCAs Podcast began on Feb. 6th. The WFCAs Podcast has covered many different topics in detail during seasons one and two. Auto Seeding, the Competitive Balance Plan, and the Tournament Performance Factor are just a sampling of the subjects discussed on the WFCAs Podcast in the first two seasons. The new Playoff Matrix has already been explained thoroughly in season three. A WFCAs Podcast drops every two weeks or so. Please join me and my co-hosts, Paul Nievinski and Tom Yashinsky, as we delve into areas that should interest football coaches in our state. There is a link to the WFCAs Podcast on the WFCAs website.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Clinic. Thank you for your support of the WFCAs. Please feel free to contact me at: swittelt@gmail.com or (414) 315-1131 with any thoughts or suggestions you may have.



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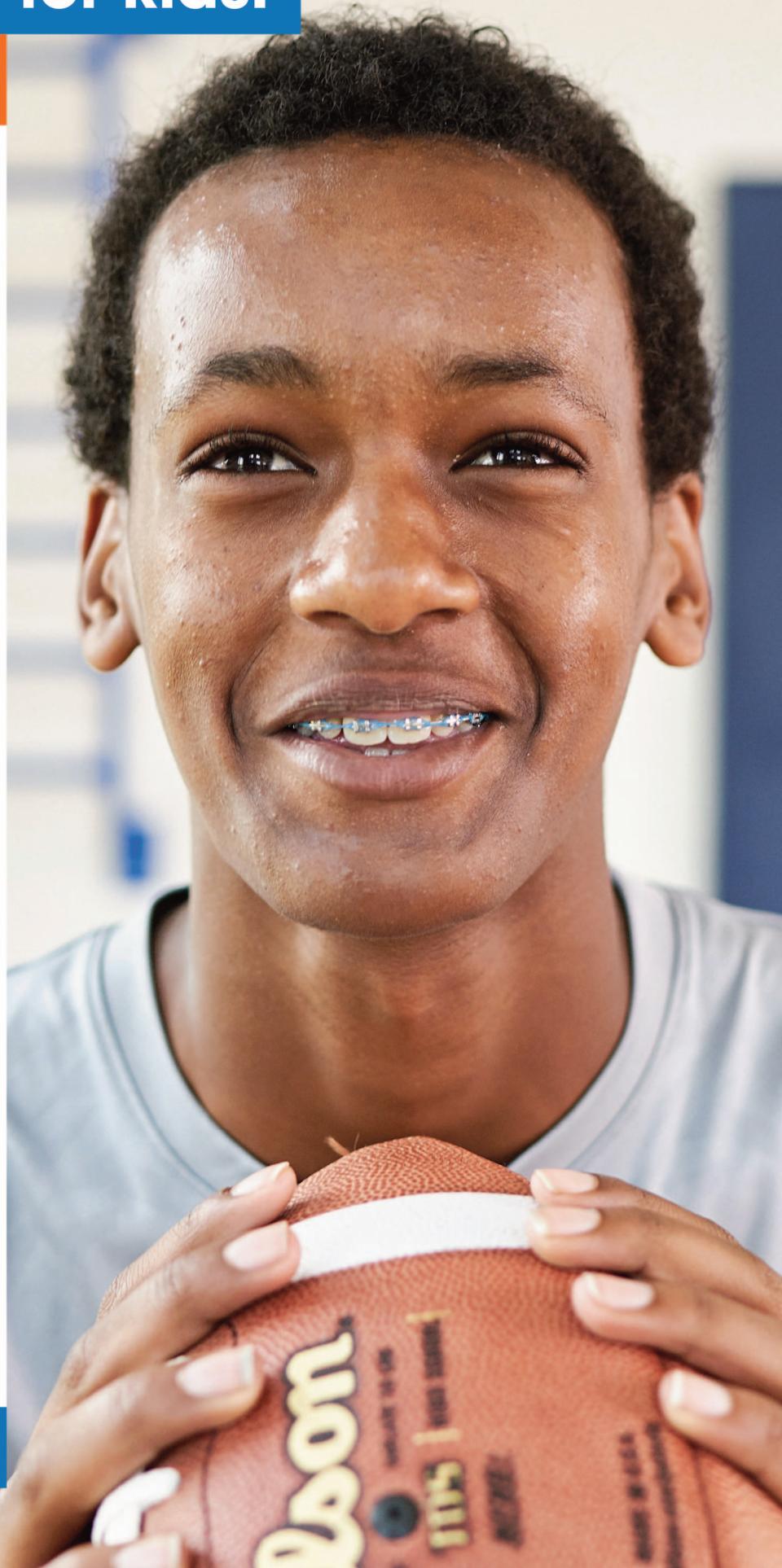
As always, we are grateful for all the generous families, champions and donors who believe, like we do, that kids deserve the best.

Thank you to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association for your partnership and for helping us help kids.



Kids deserve the best.

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Hall of Fame Chairman, John Hoch



John Hoch

The WFCAs Staff and especially Charna Kelsey are working hard to complete the planning for the annual spring clinic. Bob Berzowitz and Dan Brunner have a great lineup of speakers and events scheduled.

On Saturday, the Hall of Fame banquet will bring the clinic to a close. Every year we look forward to honoring individuals who have contributed a lot to this great game of football. The Hall of Fame banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th, 2025 at the Marriott West in Middleton. The reception begins at 4:30 pm with cocktails and a social great time followed by the meal at 5:30 pm and finally the program. The tickets are \$50.00 each. If you are interested in attending this event please make your check payable to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association and send it to WFCAs, PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955 or you may purchase Hall of Fame Ban-

quet tickets online using the following link: <https://wfca.sportngin.com/register/form/340461634>

The Hall of Fame Luncheon is an opportunity for past HOF members and spouses to get together and reminisce about the old days while enjoying a great meal. This annual event will take place on Friday, April 4th at noon during the Spring Clinic at the Marriott. Call the office or send an email to Charna: office@wfca.org, to make your reservation.

I want to thank everyone who has donated \$100 to the WFCAs Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund. I also want to give a special thank you to Jerry Golembewski on his fund raising efforts, without Jerry we would not be able to reach our goal of providing every one of the recipients a \$1000 scholarship. We had to make some very difficult choices this year as we had over 40 excellent applicants. This years recipients are listed on page 14. We have published the 2024 donations on page 12. Some of you have already contributed to the 2025 fund but if not, you can make a donation by sending your donation into the WFCAs Office, PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955, between now and December 31, 2025. We also have an online option now for anyone who would prefer to use a bank card, here is that link: <https://wfca.sportngin.com/register/form/297074764>

The WFCAs is a distinguished fraternity of men who have dedicated their career to the service to young men through the sport of football. That unique but common bond makes us peers for a lifetime. In that spirit we want to share with you those great individuals we have lost in recent months. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

In Memoriam

JOHN BECKER

May 31, 1932 - January 20, 2025

John W. Becker of Belleville, WI, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2025. John was born on May 31, 1932, in Sauk City, WI, to Oscar and Agnes (Wintermantel) Becker.

He graduated from Sauk City High School in 1950 and went on to earn his B.S. and M.S. from UW Madison. While at the UW he played baseball (pitcher) and freshman football. One of his great adventures during college was going to the 1954 Rose Bowl by train to cheer on the Badgers. After graduation John was commissioned into the Army Signal Corps, where he served two years active duty. He then went to work for the National Security Agency in Washington D.C. In 1962 John returned to WI where he took a teaching and coaching position at Wis-

consin High School in Madison. While there, he was the Phy Ed teacher, Head Football and Volleyball coach. When the school closed, John moved to Belleville where he was the Head Football coach for 28 years. He also coached Basketball and was the Asst. Baseball coach. Coach Becker was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1994, and the Wildcat Wall of Fame in 2017. While at Belleville he taught Phy Ed and History, retiring in 1997. In addition to coaching and teaching he was director of the busses for a number of years. John has been a member of BEA, WEA, NEA, and the WHSFCA. He served his community as a member of the Belleville Community Club. John was a loving father, an excellent educator, and dedicated coach. Everything he did in life; he did with integrity and passion.



WFCAs HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025

Jack Batten, *West Depere/Green Bay East/Green Bay Preble HSs*

Bob Hepp, *Independence/Viroqua Manitowoc Lincoln/Campbellsport Portage/Pardeeville HSs*

James Knudson, *Cambria-Friesland HS*

Tom Kujawa, *Cudahy/Germantown HSs*

James Matthys, *Brodhead-Juda HS*

Pete McAdams, *(SPASH)/UW-SP*

Cory Milz, *Black Hawk HS*

Mike Olson, *Pepin-Alma HS*

Jim Peterson, *Clayton/Rice Lake HSs*

Dave Puls, *Lodi HS*

James Schara, *Cedarburg/Southern Door Homestead HSs*

William Stanley, *Menomonie HS*

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOC. HALL OF FAME

Greg Lehman, *Milwaukee Washington HS*

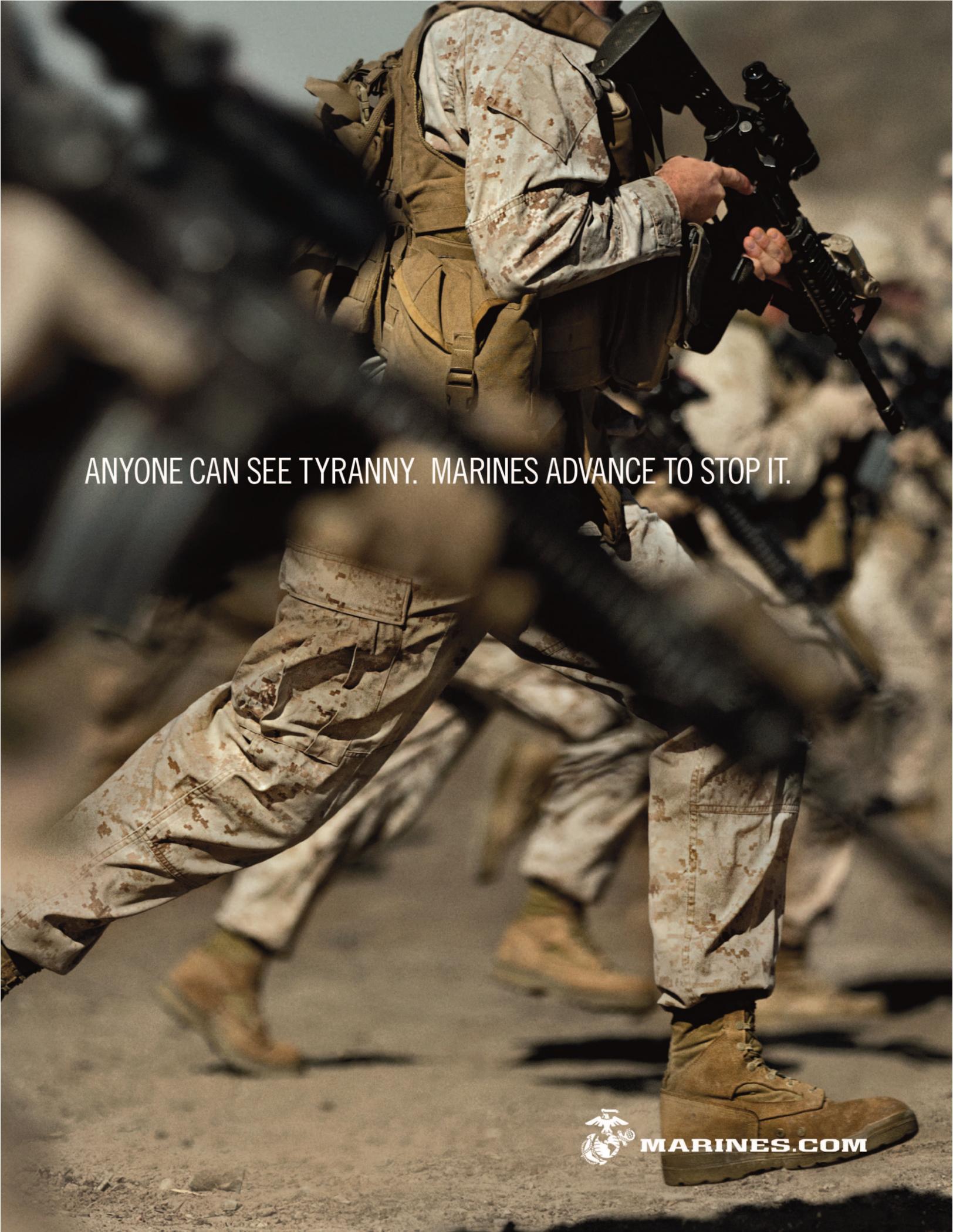
Chuck Raykovich, *Chippewa Falls HS*

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Bob Brainerd, *Media Broadcaster*

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Anton Graham, *Racine Case HS*



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He was the rock and foundation of his family. As a coach, John always put his team first and gave the credit to his players. One of his former players remarked,

John was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2013. You will find John's full obituary on line at: <https://oconnellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/roland-rollie-hall/>

JOHN BRODIE

September 5, 1932 - December 17, 2024

John Alexander Brodie, son of Homer (Ping) Brodie and Lorena Forcier, died at home surrounded by family on December 17th. He lived for God and his country. He is survived by one brother, Dan, his children, Jeff, Tami Tess, Mike, and John (Boo), seven grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. He also has a brother in arms from the US Marine Corp. Paul Smith from the USS Los Angeles Task Force 77.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ellen (Jefferies), his son Scott, his brothers Doc and Dick.

John was born on September 5, 1932, in Eau Claire, WI. He graduated from Janesville High School and then went on to graduate from UW LaCrosse. He married Mary Ellen Jefferies, and moved to Florence, WI where he had his first head coaching job. He also played semi pro fast pitch softball in Iron Mountain, MI. He moved on to Ladysmith, WI and taught most of the area children to swim. Monroe, WI was his next stop, where he started the 5th and 6th grade youth touch football and city wrestling tournament as well as junior high tackle football and was president of the summer swim club. He then moved to Mequon, WI to coach Homestead football, wrestling and girls track. He was the first coach of the North-South All-Star game.

John was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 1992. John's full obituary can be found on line at: <https://www.schramkafuneralhome.com/memorials/john-brodie/5526687/>

GEORGE CWIKLOWSKI

November 25, 1938 - December 28, 2024

George was born on November 25, 1938, in Milwaukee WI, to father George Cwiklowski and Mother Florence, who preceded him in death. He graduated in 1955 from Pulaski High School, Milwaukee WI, where he earned 11 major letters in track, football, baseball and basketball. After graduation, he attended UW-Madison on a baseball scholarship and after 1 year transferred to UW Milwaukee where he became the captain of the baseball team. He graduated in 1964 with a degree in physical education and went on to earn two master's degrees in education in 1985. George married his lifelong friend and love of his life; Joan Cwiklowski on July 25, 1959. They were married for 56 years during which time they lived and raised their four children in Milwaukee, WI.

George, admirably known as Coach Cwik, had a strong passion for both teaching and coaching. He leaves behind a remarkable coaching career, having been part of athletic programs

at Whitefish Bay, Waukesha Memorial, Milwaukee Washington High School and most notably, West Allis Nathan Hale. In 1970 he joined the Nathan Hale staff as a Phys. Ed, health and history teacher and held the title of head football coach for 29 years. After 53 years of coaching in Wisconsin he was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Nathan Hale Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024. The weight room at Hale is named in his honor due to the countless hours he spent volunteering his time there. You will find George's full obituary on line at:

<https://www.schafffuneralhome.com/obituaries/George-Russell-Cwiklowski?obId=34265627>.

GREGG DUFEEK

December 24, 1933 - February 17, 2025

Milwaukee, WI on December 24, 1933, to the late Charles and Leona (Fischer) Dufek. He attended St. Florian Grade School and Milwaukee Boys Tech High School where he excelled in football earning a scholarship to Montana State University. After college, Gregg returned to Milwaukee where he began his teaching career with MPS which would span 38 years. Gregg taught biology at Milwaukee Pulaski High School as well as being the head football coach and assistant track coach.

In 1961 Gregg married Susan (Sobocinski), and together they welcomed five children. Gregg will be deeply missed by his wife Susan of 64 years, his children Michael (Diana), MariJane, Peter (Carol), Daniel (Stephanie), James (Colleen), his grandchildren Amanda, Dominique, Vincent, Iliana, William, Joseph, Megan, Amelia and his great-grandchildren Ethan and Ruby, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends, too numerous to mention by name. Gregg is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Charles (Rita), Jerry (Ethel), Robert (Audry), Marvin (Carol), and sister Patricia (Joseph) Frinzi.

Playing pick-up games of football with his older brothers begin Gregg's love of the game. The love of the game continued at St. Florian's and continued at Milwaukee Boys' Tech High School where he earned All-Conference and All-State awards as a tackle. Gregg's education continued at Montana State University where he played football for the Bobcats and earned all-Rocky Mountain Conference mention. In 1956 Gregg was a member the of National Championship team earning a trip to Arkansas to play in the Aluminum Bowl. After graduation, Gregg returned to Milwaukee to begin his teaching and coaching career. At Pulaski, the Rams won two conference championships and finished as runner-up ten times. Gregg was the longest-tenured head coach at one school in the history of the city conference. Gregg was a part of a committee that helped set up the WIAA football playoff system, he served as president of the Milwaukee Coaches' Association. He received numerous football honors including being inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999.

You will find Gregg's full obituary on line at: <https://www.maxsass.com/obituaries/gregg-dufek>.

ROLLIE HALL

April 21, 1961 - January 15, 2025

Roland "Rollie" Hall, age 63, of River Falls, passed peacefully on Wednesday, January 15th, in the comfort of his home surrounded by the people he loved most in life—his bride and his children.

Rollie was born on April 21st, 1961, in Rice Lake, Wisconsin to Charles and Marla (Bayer) Hall. He was raised in Cameron, where he graduated with the Class of 1979.

During high school, Rollie excelled in sports, particularly as a leader on the football team. His exceptional athleticism and leadership earned him attention from several colleges, and he ultimately chose to attend the University of Wisconsin – River Falls in order to play linebacker for legendary coaches Mike Farley and Ted Thompson. His college football career at UWRF earned him numerous awards.

Rollie began his long football coaching career as head coach of the Cameron football team in 1987. After one year in Wautoma, serving as a teacher and head football coach, he took his dream job as a physical education teacher and the head coach of the Lake Holcombe football team.

Overall, he had a record of 115-50 in sixteen years as a head coach with eight conference championships. He was the District 3 Coach of the Year three times and served on the WFCB Board of Directors for six years. In 2013, Rollie was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

You will find his full obituary on line at: <https://oconnellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/roland-rollie-hall/>.

JOHN OLSON

May 31, 1935 - January 24, 2025

John was born on May 31, 1935, in Madison, Wisconsin, to John and Dorothy Olson. As the oldest son, he attended Madison East High School, where he excelled in football, basketball, and track. Inspired by his high school coaches, Herb Mueller and Milt Diehl, John pursued a career in athletic coaching and administration.

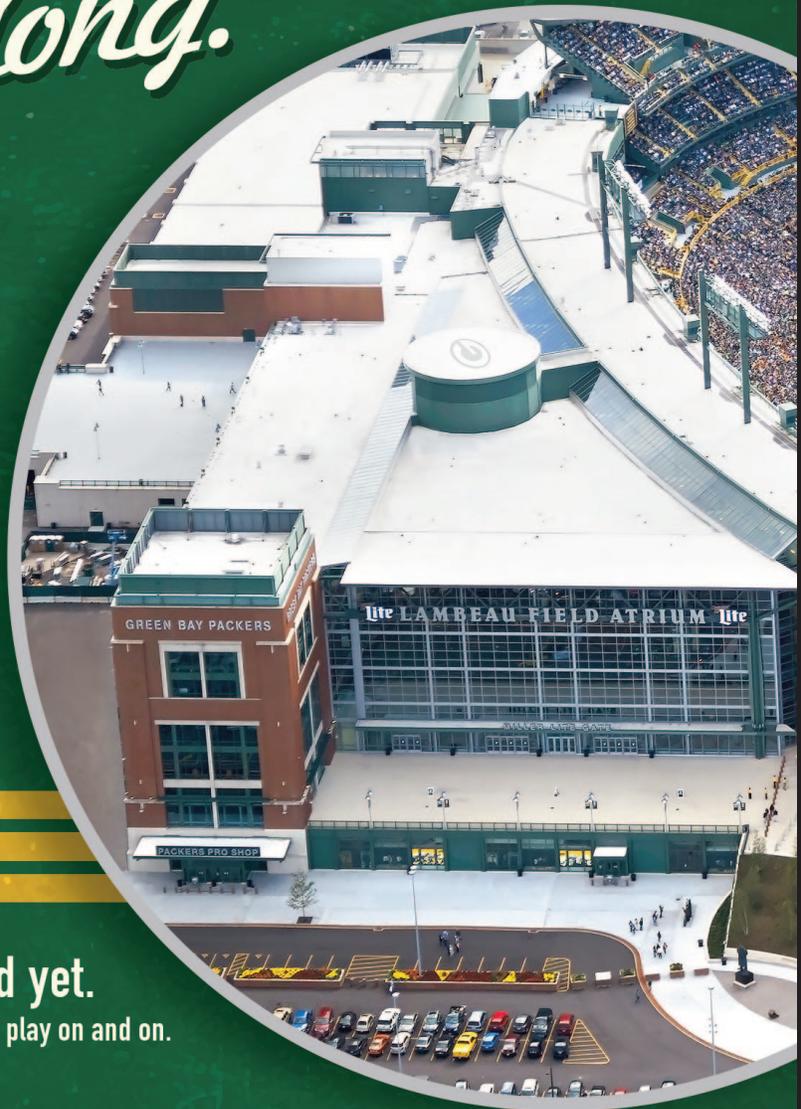
A lifelong Badger, John earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, completing his doctorate in Educational Administration in 1979. He was a member of the University of Wisconsin Crew Team during his time at the University.

John dedicated his life to education and athletics. He began his coaching career at Madison Central High School in 1959. John served as Assistant Principal at Madison Memorial and later as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was employed for 44 years in public education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He also prepared aspiring teachers and coaches for careers in education for seven years while teaching at the School of Education at UW-Madison.

John was a member of several professional organizations, including the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Association and was inducted as a Citation member into the Hall of Fame in 1993.

John's full obituary can be found on line at: <https://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituaries/john-olson-2025>.

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2024 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WFCA HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Lee Ackley	\$100.00	Bob DeKeyser	\$100.00	Wayne Jentz	\$100.00	Keith O'Donnell	\$100.00
Mike Anderson	\$100.00	Bob Detlaff	\$100.00	Dennis Johnson	\$100.00	Bill O'Leary	\$100.00
Pete Baganz	\$100.00	Tony DiSalvo	\$100.00	Richard Jones	\$100.00	Dan Pedersen	\$100.00
Jill Bark	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Bruce Larson</i>		Dave Keel	\$100.00	John Phelps	\$100.00
<i>In Memory of Doug Bark</i>		Mike Dressler	\$100.00	Randall Keister	\$100.00	Bob Prah	\$100.00
Mike Beck	\$100.00	Gregg Dufek	\$200.00	Terry Kelly	\$100.00	Pat Rice	\$100.00
Bob Berezowitz	\$100.00	Gregg Dufek	\$100.00	James Kemerling	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Bill Rice</i>	
Tony Biolo	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Toby Golembiewski</i>		Don Kendzior	\$100.00	Dave Richardson	\$100.00
Brian Borland	\$100.00	Phil Dobbs	\$100.00	Gary Kolpin	\$100.00	Duane Rogatzki	\$100.00
Dan Brunner	\$300.00	<i>In Memory of Ron Davies</i>		Carlos Kreibich	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Dick Rundle</i>	
Louis Brown	\$100.00	Mike Dressler	\$100.00	Joe LaBuda	\$100.00	Jeff Rosemeyer	\$100.00
Frank Budzisz	\$100.00	Paul Engen	\$100.00	Terry Laube	\$100.00	Jerry Sinz	\$100.00
Frank Budzisz	\$270.00	Bill Forster	\$100.00	Bob Lieberman	\$100.00	Fred Spaeth	\$100.00
Jim Bylsma	\$100.00	Tom Fugate	\$100.00	Len Luedtke	\$100.00	Scott Statz	\$100.00
Thomas Carroll	\$100.00	Jerry Golembiewski	\$300.00	Rock Mannigel	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Gayle Quinn</i>	
Tom Chase	\$100.00	Jerry Griffin	\$100.00	Jim Meckstroth	\$100.00	Jim Strommen	\$100.00
<i>In Memory of Tammy Chase</i>		Stan Grove	\$100.00	Jim Meckstroth	\$100.00	Dan St. Arnauld	\$100.00
Doug Chickering	\$100.00	Ron Grovesteen	\$140.00	Mick Miyamoto	\$100.00	Tom Swittel	\$100.00
Jim Chossek	\$100.00	<i>& '18 South Large All-Star Coaches</i>		Danny Mock	\$100.00	Dario Talerico	\$100.00
Rick Coles	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Toby Golembiewski</i>		Dennis Moon	\$100.00	Tom Tenpas	\$100.00
Bill Collar	\$100.00	Harlan Gruber	\$100.00	Rick Muellenberg	\$100.00	Mark Traun	\$100.00
<i>In Memory of Ron Miller</i>		Keith Hensler	\$100.00	Brad Neme	\$100.00	Mark Traun	\$100.00
Bill Collar	\$100.00	Douglas Hjersjo	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Bruce Larson</i>		Jeff Trickey	\$100.00
Bill Collar	\$100.00	Bill Hoagland	\$100.00	Paul Nievinski	\$100.00	Bill Turnquist	\$100.00
<i>In Memory of Toby Golembiewski</i>		John Hoch	\$100.00	Tom Noennig	\$100.00	Carey Venne	\$100.00
						Jay Zimmerman	\$100.00

These gifts have been received between January 1, and December 31, 2024. Contributions are being accepted now for 2025. You can make a donation online at <https://wfca.sportngin.com/register/form/297074764> or by sending a check to the office: PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955. Questions can be directed to Charna at office@wifca.org or 608.635.7318. Donations will be accepted until December 31st, 2025.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Register now for this year's WFCA membership which includes attendance at the 2025 WFCA Spring Football Clinic, April 3-5, 2025.

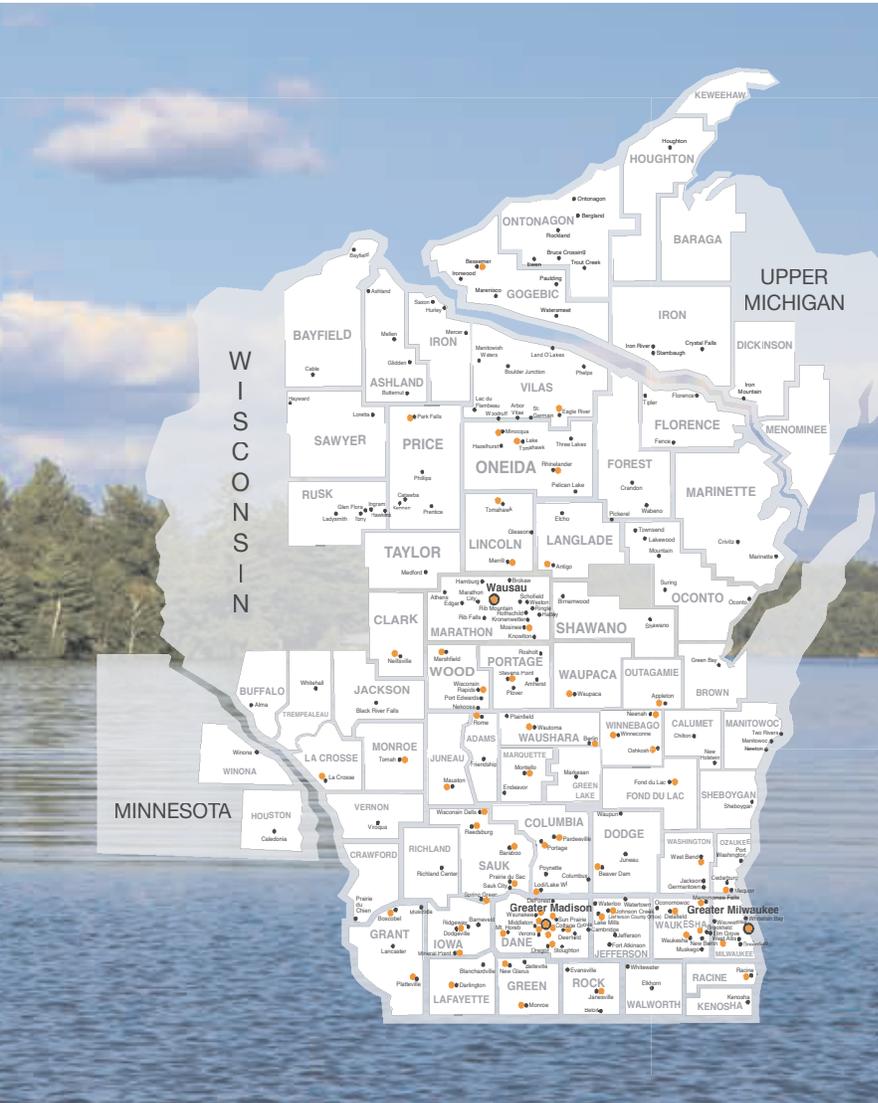
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- 🏠 Bessemer
- 🏠 Eagle River
- 🏠 Marshfield
- 🏠 Merrill
- 🏠 Minocqua
- 🏠 Mosinee
- 🏠 Neillsville
- 🏠 Park Falls
- 🏠 Rhinelander
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2024-25 WFCA HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Abe Amundsen
Prairie du Chien HS



Jerzy Brocker
Shawano HS



Landon Chalupny
Roncalli HS



Parker Dutzle
Elk Mound HS



Aiden Eckert
New Richmond HS



Brodie Erickson
Hurley HS



Carson Fletcher
Racine Horlick HS



Paige Friske
Pewaukee HS



Sara Hensler
Badger HS



Carter Isenberger
Stanley-Boyd HS



Chase Jacklin
Slinger HS



Aiden Jamieson
Hudson HS



Alexander Klun
Sun Prairie East HS



Luke Leair
Cedarburg HS



Andrew Nies
River Ridge HS



Robert Salm, III
Appleton North HS



Zachary Sullivan
De Pere HS



Jack Tubbs
Stratford HS



Henry White
Sheboygan South HS



Alexander Marsh
Seymour HS
Lineman's Scholarship

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Bay Port High School - Green Bay, WI



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Neenah High School - Neenah, WI



Kimberly High School - Kimberly, WI



St. Croix Falls High School - St. Croix Falls, WI



Appleton North High School - Appleton, WI
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Appleton East High School - Appleton, WI
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THURSDAY, APRIL 3

1:00-8:00 p.m.
4:30-5:50 Room 1 **CLINIC REGISTRATION**
LUKE MEADOWS, OL, NIU
"Offensive Line Identity & EDDs"
Room 2 **TRAVIS MOORE, DL, NIU**
"Run Game Fundamentals"
Room 3 **DJ BLAND, DB, NIU**
"Catch Man"
5:55-7:15 Room 1 **QUINN SANDERS, OC, NIU, "RPOs"**
Room 2 **ROB HARLEY, DC, NIU**
"Ball Disruption & Takeaways"
7:20-8:55 Room 1 **THOMAS HAMMOCK HC, Northern Illinois**
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl Champs
"Maintaining the Culture"
Room 1 **DRAWING FOR PACKER TICKETS**
(Must be Present to Win!)
9:10-10:10 Rooms 2&3 **WFC A HS COACHES BASH!**
(QB) **BRIAN RYCKZKOWSKI**, Ashwaubenon
(RB) **JUSTIN BUDIAC**, Neenah, (OL) **MIKE BECK**, Franklin, (Rec) **DAN KEEFER**, Baldwin-Woodville, (DL) **TIM WAGNER & DAVE POLTROCK**, Johnson Creek, (OLB/DE) **BRANDON MITCHELL, DC Everest, (DB) CASEY KNOBLE, La Crosse Logan, (Strength & Conditioning) REGGIE LARSON, New Richmond, (8-player Round-table) DALE LANGE, Lena St./Thomas**
10:10-12:30 Rooms 2&3 **WFC A BASH CONTINUES** with free pizza & beer, refreshments & snacks, plus raffle & door prizes.
(Sponsored by Dynamic Fitness & Strength)

10:50-12:00 Room 4 **DEREK BRANCH, OL Coach, UW-Stout**
"OL – Development, Mentality and Drills Through the Season"
12:00 Noon GB/La-X Rm **HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON**
12:10-1:20 Room 1 **BRAD ARNETT, NX Level "Importance of Hip Position in Weight Room & Movement"**
Room 2 **PETER JENNINGS, HC, UW-Oshkosh**
"Installing & Executing RPOs"
Room 3 **TREVOR DISMUKES, DC, E. St. Louis HS**
Ranked #1 in IL, #16 Nationally "Three Safety High Structure"
Room 4 **JOSE RAMIREZ, DC, Racine St Catherine's**
"Defensive Scheme 4-3, Emphasis on Alignment & Stunting"

1:30-2:40 Room 1 **STEVE RUX, HOF, Retired HC, Waukesha West, "A Quarter Century of Chasing the Perfect Season"**
Room 2 **JOEL NELLIS, HC, Brookfield Central, Former Badger, Co-Owner, Trench Training**
"Mastering Half-Slide Protection & Pass Pro Skills for High School Offensive Linemen"
Room 3 **BEAU MARTIN, Run DC, UW-Whitewater,**
"Defensive Fundamentals"
Room 4 **BRYAN GREGORY, HC, Lomira, D-6 State Champ**
"Implementing a Strength & Conditioning Program at a Small School"
2:50-4:00 Room 1 **JOE SCHOBERT, Former Badger, & Pro-Bowl LB (Browns) "Proper Tackling Technique & Best Drills for LB Position"**
Room 2 **ERIC TRESKE, HC, WI Lutheran College**
WI Private College Head Coach of the Year
"Complimenting our Base Run Game"
Room 3 **CASEY CASPER, Kohls Kicking Camp,**
"Techniques of Long Snapping"

4:00-5:00 Room 2 **WFC A BUSINESS MEETING**
DRAWING FOR PACKER TICKETS
(Raffle tickets will be handed out as you enter the meeting room)
Room 1 **VENDOR HOSPITALITY HOUR**
E.J. WHITLOW, DL, WI Badgers "Defensive Line Fundamentals & Drills"
Room 1 **DRAWING FOR PACKER TICKETS**
(Must be Present to Win!)
Room 1 **JEFF GRIMES, OC, WI Badgers, "Wide Zone & Complimentary Play-Action Pass"**
Room 1 **LUKE FICKELL, HC, Wisconsin Badgers**
"State of Badger Football"
Rooms 2&3 **WFC A BADGER BASH, UW Position Coaches**
KENNY GUITON (QB), JORDAN REID (WR), NATE LETTON (TE), DEVON SPALDING (RB), AJ BLAZEK (OL), MIKE TRESSEL (DC/LB), MATT MITCHELL (OLB), JACK COOPER (S), PAUL HAYNES, (CB) will answer your questions in an informal chalkboard session with refreshments and snacks provided
BASH CONTINUES with free beer, soda & pizza, along with raffle and door prizes.
(Sponsored by Dynamic Fitness & Strength)

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

7:45-8:45 a.m. Room 4 **FCA BREAKFAST**
8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. **CLINIC REGISTRATION**
8:30-11:30 Greenway **8-PLAYER FOOTBALL**
TERRY LAUBE, Owen Withee, WI State Champ "3-2 Monster Defense"
JASON KIRBY, West Central, IL State Champs, "Option Offense"
TIM OSTERMAN, Remsen St. Mary's, IA State Champs, "Defense, Zone Coverage with Run Support"
DON KENDZIOR, WFC A Hall of Fame, 8-Player Chairman, "Playoff Expansion, Qualifying Criteria, & 2026 realignment"
9:30-10:40 Room 1 **STEVE JORGENSEN, HC, Bay Port, D1 State Champ, "Counter DNA - More Than Just the Play..."**
Room 2 **RYAN MUNZ, HC, UW-Platteville, WIAC Champ, "11 Personnel Run & Pass Game"**
Room 3 **JASON TUBBS, Stratford HS, D5 State Champ, "Ten Keys to Building a Championship Program"**
Room 4 **JERRY SINZ, Edgar HS, D7 State Champ**
"1% Better Everyday"
10:50-12:00 Room 1 **BILL JACKLIN, HC, Slinger HS, D2-State Champ, GB Packers-WFCA Coach of the Year, "Slinger FB, Youth to HS"**
Room 2 **GILBERT BROWN & SANTANA DOTSON**
Green Bay Packers Defensive Linemen
"DL Technique"
Room 3 **JOE KENN, Dynamic Fitness, Former Strength Coach**
CAROLINA PANTHERS, "Building a HS Strength & Conditioning Program: 10 Considerations"

4:00-5:00 Room 2 **WFC A BUSINESS MEETING**
DRAWING FOR PACKER TICKETS
(Raffle tickets will be handed out as you enter the meeting room)
4:00-5:00 Green Bay Rm **VENDOR HOSPITALITY HOUR**
5:10-6:20 Room 1 **E.J. WHITLOW, DL, WI Badgers "Defensive Line Fundamentals & Drills"**
Room 1 **DRAWING FOR PACKER TICKETS**
(Must be Present to Win!)
Room 1 **JEFF GRIMES, OC, WI Badgers, "Wide Zone & Complimentary Play-Action Pass"**
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BASH CONTINUES with free beer, soda & pizza, along with raffle and door prizes.
(Sponsored by Dynamic Fitness & Strength)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

10:00-Noon McClain Center **BADGER PRACTICE**
Camp Randall *Attendees on the Field with Badger Coaches Conducting Individual Drill Sessions!*
4:30-5:30 Room 1 **HALL OF FAME RECEPTION**
5:30-7:30 Room 1 **HALL OF FAME BANQUET**

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mwscholastic.com

J.C. Fish

jcf.mws@gmail.com

2025 WFCA ELECTIONS

WFCA Spring Elections are right around the corner. With all that currently faces high school football in our state, now would be great time to get involved in the decision making process and serve the WFCA in one of the positions up for election. **The 2025 Spring Election is for the Following Positions.**

- #1 Region Rep of all 5 Regions (3yr Term)
 - Southern Vice-President (3yr Term from Regions 3, 4 & 5B)
 - President Elect (6yr Term from ANY Region)
- Please refer to the WFCA website to determine what Region your School/Conference is in and the responsibilities of each of the above positions.

NOMINATION PROCESS

All candidates should nominate themselves. E-mail your intent to Tony Biolo, WFCA Past President, at tony.biolo@wrps.net

Please provide the following information:

- Name
- School & Conference
- WFCA REGION
- Position running for
- Years of membership in the WFCA

VOTING

All voting will be done on the WFCA Website, www.wifca.org.

Members can access the Election link from **the e-mail that will be sent to your school's Head Coach.**

Once you enter the Election portal, you will be asked to supply your Name, E-Mail, & School. The elections you are eligible for will pop up for you to vote in.

TIMELINE

The following time-line will be observed:

- **Now – April 5th (Saturday @ Clinic):** Candidates nominate themselves by emailing the above information to Tony Biolo at (tony.biolo@wrps.net). OPEN NOW!
- **April 8th – April 16th:** WFCA members can vote by entering the WFCA website (www.wifca.org) Election link. Please refer to the above voting information to cast your vote(s).

April 19th: Election results will be available on the website.

WFCA OFFICER DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Understand Board Members' Duties & Responsibilities...

President-Elect Duties & Responsibilities include:

Eligible candidates for President-Elect must have served at least one year on the Board of Directors (District/Region Rep)

HIGHLY recommended that you are an active Head Coach THIS IS A 6-year Term/Commitment

- Serve as President-Elect for two years, President for two years, and Past President for two years
- Attend (& Run when President) 3 Meetings each year (Nov./March/July)
- Serve on the Executive Committee
- WFCA/WIAA FB Advisory Committee (Nov. Meeting)
- Attend All-State Banquet (Feb.)
- Attend All-Star Games (July)
- Oversee the affairs, funds, and property of the WFCA
- Appoint Committees as needed
- Attend Other Association meetings (you will need time off school)
- Run the Spring Election (along with other officers)
- Assist with, but not limited to, WFCA Clinic, Hall of Fame, Awards, Scholarships, Vendors, the Newsletter, All State selection, and the All-Star Games

N/S Vice-President Duties & Responsibilities include:

HIGHLY recommended that you are an active HEAD COACH

- Attend the 3 Association Meetings (Nov./April/July) each year
- Serve on the Executive Committee (WFCA/WIAA Sports Advisory Board, etc)
- Represent all of the Northern/Southern Region Representatives and Schools
- WFCA/WIAA State Advisory Board (Nov. Meeting)
- Attend All-State Banquet (Feb.)
- Attend All-Star Games July)
- Help support the All-Star Game and Teams
- Introduce Speakers at WFCA Clinic
- Other duties as needed (i.e. ~ Chair special committees, Assist/Run special functions, etc)

Region Rep Duties & Responsibilities include:

- Attend Association meetings including the All-State (Nov.), Spring Clinic and All-Star Game (July) meetings
- Represent/Contact Appropriate Conferences w/in Region
- Make sure there is a Conference Rep from each Conference w/in Region
- Acquire 3 Articles per year for *The Point After II* publication
- Make sure the coaches you represent have the proper information for nominating players for All-Region, All-State, and the All-Star games
- Conduct All-Region meetings and present Region candidates for All-State
- Introduce Speakers at WFCA Clinic
- Vote on appropriate All-State Teams (and Coach of the Year)
- Other duties as needed



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2024 WIAA FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 07, 2025

Present: Dave Lew (Elk Mound), Mike Gnewuch (Mukwonago), Brian Kaminski (Sun Prairie East), Coaches Association Rep, Paul Ackley (McFarland) Kevin Wopat (Lourdes Academy) Mike Olson (Pepin-Alma) Brandon Wiese (Belmont). Non-voting participant in attendance: Dan Brunner (WFAA Executive Director) and Charna Kelsey (Executive Assistant). WIAA Staff Participating: Stephanie Hauser (Executive Director) Mark Gutknecht, Chad Schultz, Mel Dow, Todd Clark, Deb LePak, Hailey Barth. Tom Shafranski joined the meeting remotely, and Melissa Gehring joined to discuss work by the Conference Realignment Task Force. Meeting was called to order by Stephanie Hauser at 8:30 am.

I. Review and Approval of Advisory Committee Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the Football Advisory Committee meeting of November 28, 2023 as presented was made by Kevin Wopat and seconded by Brian Kaminski, being no further discussion the measure passed 7-0.

II. Season Regulations

A. Review of 2024 Season Regulations - Topics/Points of Emphasis and Interest - There were no regular season regulations of concern from the Committee.

Reviewed discussions regarding summer contact regulations but it was noted that the WIAA committee is not ready to put forward final changes. Currently discussing open summer contact from June 1- July 31 with a no contact in the week of the 4th of July holiday. Football will find the dead week restriction not unlike other fall sports, before the start of the season. Acclimatization will continue as is. Restrictions and recommendations for consideration come from this committee for review by Medical Advisory Committee which meets in April. They will provide guardrails to establish use of helmets and pads.

B. Coach/ Player Ejections

1. Ejection Policy/Procedures - The committee reviewed the hand out of the 2024 season ejections. Fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct jumped up this year. The review of misapplied ejection penalty was implemented 1 time this year. The challenge was upheld and the issue was successfully remedied. Coaches support the rule as it was changed.

C. Length of Season - Nine Game Season - No changes were indicated from the committee

D. Forfeits

1. Game Replacements - No changes were recommended, changes were made last year.
 - a.) Forfeited their entire season - This happens No recommendation for change.
 - b.) Forfeited a game - Rules regarding forfeitures within a conference were developed to limit manipulation and gamesmanship.
 - c.) Team pulled from a game - It was noted that this occurred this year and the score was changed as a forfeit for seeding purposes per regulations.
 - d.) Non-conference forfeit - No changes recommended

E. Football-Only Conference Realignment

1. Conference Crossovers - Count as a conference games Indicated in season regs.
2. Review of Football-Only Schedule/Alignment of 2023-24 (See Task Force updates) Current (2024-'25) Conferences available on the WIAA website. Initial conferences plan for 2026 also available.
3. 8-Player changes - The 8-player teams' head coaches have indicated they appreciate increased stability. Brandon indicated

a reoccurring questions regarding the hard 200 enrollment rule. Some schools have mapped their enrollment over a decade and indicated they intend to switch leagues in order to remain playoff eligible. This would not be possible.

4. Co-op Deadlines - October 1 - No changes were proposed.
5. Conference Realignment Task Force update - Melissa Gehring joined the meeting. She reminded the committee that Athletic Directors had to apply by Oct. 1, 2024, for changes that would be considered for the 2026 realignment cycle. There were 50 initial requests, 20 considered after overlaps were eliminated. These were reviewed on Dec 10th and the 1st version solutions were published. The committee is looking now at scheduled 28 appeals. They will rework where appropriate. Some discussion followed to consider a change the realignment to every 4 years in 2028. Task force feels that "All-Play" would reduce the asks for realignment. The Advisory Committee indicated that after several surveys over recent years, there is no support for "All-Play" among member coaches. The committee feels that the Wisconsin Matrix Proposal will provide relief for realignment.

Motion by Paul Ackley to consider Football Only Conference Realignment be changed to a 4-year cycle beginning in the Fall of 2028, second by Mike Gnewuch. Being no further discussion the motion was passed 7-0. Stephanie cautioned that the tournament sanction penalty for withdrawal from a conference would remain 2 years.

- F. JV teams allowed to play a tenth (10th) game if varsity is not in the playoffs - Clarified that there is no JV restriction on playing a 10th game when the Varsity team is not in the playoffs under current rules. Membership proposing amendment to remove 9th grade specific language across all sports. Football Advisory Committee on record in favor.
- G. Wilson Footballs - Continue contract - No known issues, no changes were recommended
- H. Items from Committee - Pre-event emergency medical meeting was new this year and although it was not on the agenda the WIAA inquired about how this was being implemented. Members of the committee expressed concern that the timing could be more clear, but it was also acknowledged that flexibility could be necessary because of individual constraints. It was suggested that adding this item to game itinerary for each contest would help with communication.

III. Tournament Procedures

- A. Review of 2024-25 Tournament Procedures - All Football Head Coaches, 431 surveyed, 400 head coaches responded to the following question: Do you want to stay with the current playoff format or adopt what we are calling the Wisconsin football Matrix? This represents an unprecedented, overwhelming response. **87.5% OF THE COACHES VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NEW MATRIX. THAT IS 350 OUT OF 400 VOTES! THIS SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE CHANGES MEMBERSHIP WANTS TO SEE MADE**

1. Qualifying Criteria -

a) Football Matrix -

- (1) To view the details of the plan, please click here. To view the impacts of this plan on the 2024 season (as well as 2023 & '22) if applied, please click here.
- (2) Explainer Video: <https://www.loom.com/share/7c231f2d83df4ecd95a6ff78d850e25>

- (3) 2024 Hypothetical Results Website:
<https://andylavoy.com/football>
- (4) Webinar/Q&A Video: <https://youtu.be/yLX7Enx-oiPE?si=IqREgIEExrG8r0O8>
- (5) Members of the committee were impressed and encouraged by the unprecedented response of the member Head Coaches. The WIAA staff present has gone on the record in support of changes. A representative from this committee will attend Sports Advisory Committee meeting. Brian Kaminski made information available through weblink and Q and A webinar to all WIAA members and staff ahead of the Sports Advisory Committee meeting.
- (6) This model is an adaptation of an existing system, implemented in Ohio and used for 20 years. The numbers were run and compared, establishing the criteria most important in Wisconsin as outlined in current rules. The following advantages have been outlined.

- Transparency, week-to-week
- Fair, objective rankings
- All games matter
- Consideration for strength of schedule
- Reduce Realignment asks
- 11-Player/8-player continuity
- Establishes competition equity
- Technology - Mark indicated this will be simpler than the current system
- Travel Reduction

Football is not All-Play making the sport uniquely different from other WIAA sports. Brian walked through the seeding portion of the proposal.

The WIAA Staff cautioned that any amendment to a proposal will result in a return to the Sports Advisory Committee in 2025. As a result the Football Committee agreed to separate the proposal into two motions in hopes of securing full support of the WIAA's governing body.

WIAA suggested separating the proposal into 2 motions as follows:

- Motion one regarding qualification
 - Motion two regarding seeding and groupings.
- Overwhelming, unprecedented support was in favor of both parts of the WI Matrix proposal (431 surveyed, 400 responded, 350 in favor, 87.5%) therefore the following motions were made:

Brian Kaminski motion to implement the WI Matrix proposal to determine Qualification for playoffs in the 2025 season. Second by Dave Lew. Being no further discussion the motion passed 7-0.

Mike Gnewuch motion to use the Wisconsin Matrix proposal to seed and establish geographic groupings in the 2025 season, second by Brian Kaminski. Being no further discussion the motion passed 7-0 .

Executive Director Stephanie Hauser went on record commending participating coaches for their tireless work on this proposal and their willingness to communicate and work transparently with the WIAA. A member of this committee will present the proposal at the Sports Advisory Committee meeting on 1/29/25.

- b) All-Play Arrowhead Petition - School administration is frustrated regarding the lack of discussion around qualification and how it affects constant conference realignment. The petition was withdrawn from circulation in response to the Matrix discussion which does address

qualification directly. It was noted by the committee that recent surveys of member Head Coaches reveal no support for All-Play. Additionally few teams not qualifying for the playoffs are taking advantage of playing a 10th game beyond the playoffs. Therefore, no action was taken.

- c) Forfeits and effect on qualifying - in the Current system only Conference forfeits count as wins for qualification. No forfeits count for the purpose of seeding as game is not played. The following scenarios were identified as problems under general non-specific language
 - (1) Coach withdrawing team - addressed in the motion
 - (2) Non-Conference game forfeit - not counted
 - (3) Conference game forfeit - addressed in the motion
 - (4) Forfeited entire season - no action
 - (5) Forfeited a game - addressed in the motion

These issues are addressed in the WI Matrix Proposal. However in the event that the proposal is not upheld by the levels of governance within the WIAA the following motion was made as a solution to the current system.

Brian Kaminski Motion to accept the following:

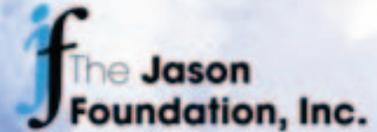
- Forfeits issued for a game in progress shall be recorded as a 1-0 forfeit for playoff qualification. If the team leading is issued the forfeit victory, the score at the time of the forfeiture will be recorded for seeding purposes.
 - Forfeits issued after a game is completed shall be recorded as a 1-0 forfeit for playoff qualification. If the winning team is issued the forfeit victory, the final score of the game will be retained for seeding purposes
 - Forfeits issued for a game in progress and the team leading forfeits, a 1-0 forfeit will be recorded for the team trailing for playoff qualification. No result will be recorded for seeding purposes.
 - Forfeits issued for a completed game and the winning team forfeits the victory, a 1-0 forfeit will be recorded for the team that lost the game for playoff qualification. No result will be recorded for seeding purposes.
- Brandon Weise seconded the motion. No further discussion this motion was passed 7-0

- d) 8-Player expansion - Supported by 98% of 8-Player Head Coaches surveyed. Because of the overwhelming support the following motion was made:
- e) Motion by Brandon Weise to recommend beginning the 8-Player season in the same week as the 11-Player season, expanding the season to 9 games, and the Playoff field to 32 teams beginning in 2025, Second by Mike Olson. Being no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.
- f) 8-Player qualifying – 200 three-year enrollment for tournament eligibility - no changes recommended
- g) 8-Player Semifinal Site Discussion has already started. The WIAA is working to find equidistant locations to fulfill requests for a neutral sites. Commented on the importance of legitimacy of 8-player football as a HS sport. no action taken.

- 2. Seeding Factors - The Football Advisory Committee reviewed these items to make recommendations to improve the existing seeding process only in the event that the seeding Motion of the WI Matrix proposal is not upheld by the governing bodies of the WIAA. These issues are addressed in the WI Matrix Proposal.

The WIAA identified Edits needed in the seeding portion of the Season Regulations on page 17 because they had simply been overlooked as follows:

First line of C Seeding Procedures of Season Regulations. Seeding will be conducted electronically. The seeding program will be run on the Saturday after the last regular season game (October 14 in 2023) WIAA will release pairings to the



Safe & Effective Messaging for Suicide Prevention

The way suicide is discussed can deeply impact its audience. When communicating about suicide, it is important to deliver a message that promotes hope, encourages help-seeking, and supports positive action. Tailoring the message to the specific needs and behaviors of the audience is key to its effectiveness. Suicide is preventable, and by providing the appropriate education and resources, we can save lives. If you need assistance in creating effective suicide prevention messaging, The Jason Foundation is here to help.

Approaches to Strengthen Public Awareness Campaigns:

The Don'ts

- ✘ **Don't present suicide as an inexplicable act or solely a result of stress.**
 Suicide should not be seen as a natural response to stress. Simplifying it this way overlooks its complexity and preventability. The Jason Foundation works to prevent suicide by educating others that it is a serious, preventable crisis.
- ✘ **Don't provide graphic details of suicide victims or methods.**
 Research shows that photos or detailed accounts of how or where a person died by suicide may cause susceptible individuals to follow suit. Clinicians caution that the risk increases when the method is described in detail.
- ✘ **Don't focus on personal details of those who died by suicide.**
 Discussing the personal details of someone who died by suicide may lead at-risk individuals to identify with the victim. This identification could encourage them to consider ending their lives in a similar manner.
- ✘ **Don't normalize suicide by treating it as a common occurrence.**
 While many people attempt suicide, it is important not to normalize it. Most individuals, including youth, do not view suicide as an option, and presenting it as common can weaken protective factors in the community.
- ✘ **Don't glorify or romanticize suicide or those who have died by it.**
 People, particularly youth, can be impressionable and influenced by the attention surrounding suicide victims. However, they should not be idolized as role models, as these actions provide an unhealthy example.

Information pulled from the [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)

media. along with the following bullet points under item (2):

- ~~Historical Conference Playoff Win Percentage~~
- ~~Strength of Loss Game Value~~
- ~~Computer Random Draw~~

Motion by Brian Kaminski to strike the line items from the Football Season Regulations as recommended by the WIAA, seconded by Kevin Wopat. Motion passed 7-0In order to meet the wishes of the football seeding committee and revert back to '21-'22 weights the following items in the event that the WI Matrix Proposal is not upheld, will need to be restored in the Season Regulations as follows:

In the first line of (C) only the date should have been struck and Historical Conference Playoff Wins should be restored. Therefore the following amendment was made to the recommendation:

Motion by Brian Kaminski to amend earlier motion regarding language on page 17 of the Seeding Procedures in the Football Season Regulations to restore the first line with the exception of the date, and the sixth bullet point "Historical Conference Playoff Win Percentage", second by Kevin Wopat. Amendment to the motion passed 7-0.

- a) Head-to-Head - When a consecutive seed, head-to-head contest is considered and the lower seed has won that head-to-head competition, flipping the seed is recommended. Mark indicated further when a seeding threshold is applied a 71% fix is realized. More specific language was shared with the committee regarding the application of the Final Seeding Threshold (FST).

Motion by Paul Ackley beginning fall of 2025, when considering head to head contests between consecutive seeds, the Final Seeding Threshold (FST), based on the average difference, identified by the WIAA, will be applied to finalize the seeds. Second by Dave Lew. This measure passed 7-0.

- b) Forfeits - as they relate to seeding were addressed in the motion by Brian Kaminski
- c) Out-of-State games – The committee reviewed current cases and possible scenarios:

Motion by Mike Olson to recommend using actual overall winning percentage record of bordering states by week eight will be applied for seeding purposes. The record applied in the case of non-bordering states will remain 500, seconded by Brian Kaminski. The motion passed 7-0.

- d) Playoff History - These recommendations will come from the seeding committee no action was taken at this time.
- e) Change in Weights for Criteria - WIAA does not share this portion of the program with the Advisory Committee but it can be addressed in the seeding meeting therefore no recommendations is made.

3. Other Concerns – From level 1 - State Semifinals
4. TV Coverage of the Football Tournament Field (10:00 - 11:00)
 - A. Reveal Show - Release is being addressed. It was noted that the recommended timing remain on Saturday and should be in the morning programing with regular media partners rather than simply on streaming. If the WI Matrix Program is upheld this process will be much less arduous and will take less time for the staff. no action was taken. WIAA would like to have live school reactions as part of the program.
5. Other Items from Committee - There were none, but it was reiterated that the WI Matrix Proposal is supported by 87.5% of membership and it is the Football Advisory Committee's hope that this will be upheld by the levels of governance at the WIAA. The motions put forward primarily in the seeding portion of the program are alternate recommendations as fixes if this is not the case.

IV. Miscellaneous

- A. Separate 8-Player Football Coaches Advisory Committee - No interest by neither 8, nor 11-man football in taking this up. Coaches feel that all football should work together regarding what is best for all of WI football. No Action was taken.
- B. NFHS VidSwap network/Pixelot update - NFHS acquired Camera source, a competitor to Hudl. Free to NFHS members. They understand in football this may not have a huge impact. There will be rebranding of the HS portion of the business.
- C. Competitive Balance - Cross-Country has requested an exclusion. Currently swim/dive and track and field are excluded from Competitive Balance if passed. No action
- D. Sport Meeting Video & Exam - Request a change to the scheduled date of the Football Advisory Committee to the 3rd Wednesday of December going forward. This allows the post tournament seeding meeting on the 1st Monday of December. Most communication from football coaches will happen after the Thanksgiving Holiday, and the NFHS meetings and meeting of the Conference Realignment as well.
- E. Items from Committee - Questions regarding the makeup of this Advisory Committee. Jason Gorst (Spencer-Columbus) will replace Brian Kaminski (Sun Prairie East) but no replacement was identified for Mike Olson (Pepin-Alma). WIAA recognized Mike Olson and Brian Kaminski going off the committee. The WIAA generally reaches out to the sports' Coaches Association for recommendations, usually 3 that will meet the balance requirements. Brian will work on this over the next couple weeks. Chad requested feedback from this group regarding application of the rules and calling games.

Mike Olson made the motion to adjourn at 2:04 pm, seconded by Brian Kaminski, motion passed 7-0.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Charna Kelsey and Deb Lepak

GLORY





FCA COACHES
BREAKFAST

APRIL 4TH | 7:30 AM

MARRIOTT WEST, MIDDLETON

ROOM 4



Join Wisconsin FCA for a FREE breakfast and program prior to the clinic breakouts.

Keynote Speaker: Bryan McKenzie (FCA Football Midwest)

<https://www.fcafootballmidwest.org/>

Register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/d8mKNUJFJ9>

CARROLL UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL



CARROLL UNIVERSITY HAS JR DAYS
APRIL 6TH & 13TH AT CARROLL
UNIVERSITY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT
RECRUITING COORDINATOR COACH
HOLLEY FOR DETAILS.

WE ARE OPEN TO CLINIC
OPPORTUNITIES. IF YOUR STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE A
CLINIC WITH US, DON'T HESITATE TO
CONTACT HEAD FOOTBALL MIKE
BUDZISZEWSKI.
MBUDZISZ@CARROLLU.EDU

2025 CAMP SCHEDULE

YOUTH CAMP JUNE 9TH-10TH
PROSPECT CAMPS JUNE 11TH/JULY 18TH
BIG MAN CAMP(PADDED) JULY 10TH

ALL CAMPS ARE AT CARROLL UNIVERSITY
AND COACHED BY OUR STAFF.

SMALL INTIMATE SETTING WHERE YOUR
PLAYERS WILL GET ATTENTION AND TOOLS
TO TAKE INTO THE COMING SEASON.

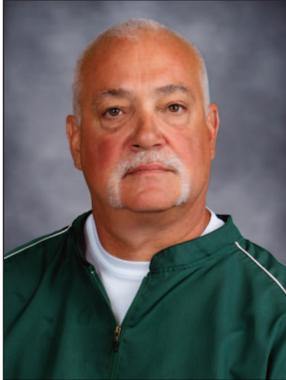


CONTACT EMAIL: GHOLLEY@CARROLLU.EDU



8-Player League Chairman, Don Kendzior

8-Player - Fourth and Goal



Don Kendzior

In 2022, 8-Player football had a 1st and goal -vs- the WIAA. They were intercepted and denied an expansion of the playoff field.

In 2023, 8-Player football had a 2nd and goal -vs- the WIAA. A fumbled snap and a re-

covery by the WIAA, forced a possible look at expansion in 2026.

In 2024, 8-Player football had a 3rd and goal once again against a stubborn WIAA defense. WFCAs region reps and chairman felt pretty confident of scoring because of their preparation and administration and head coaches support, but fell short of the goal line. 8 player football threw their red flag because they new they had (92%) of administrators support. The advisory council ruled that there wasn't enough evidence or information to over turn the play.

In 2025, 8 player football had a very critical 4th and goal -vs- a new WIAA defense. Being denied the last three years the WFCAs knew we needed to get more aggressive to reach our goal. We decided that if they felt there was inconclusive evidence (information) being brought forward we had to do it ourselves. Through multiple zoom meetings, attending spring and fall area meetings as well as emails and phone calls we felt confident

we could score this year. With time running out and 6-2 teams being denied a spot in the playoffs, 8 player football scored and was rewarded with a 32 team playoff field.

Thank you to the following people involved in preparation for Fourth and Goal.

- Brandon Wiese - WFCAs rep
- Ev Wick - WFCAs rep
- Ryan Karsten - WFCAs rep
- Corey Richert - HC Oakfield
- Ryan Schardle - Clayton Admin
- Chad Schultz - WIAA
- WFCAs executive board
- And numerous other Administrators and coaches.

Thank you to the WIAA at all levels of their governance for their recognition of the 8-Player league as an extension of football in the truest sense by extending the playoff field and committing to a State Championship Game!

UPDATE FROM THE WISCONSIN FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

By: Al Minnaert, President, Wisconsin Chapter, National Football Foundation

At the conclusion of each football season, the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, Inc. offers the opportunity to each Head High School Football Coach, in every high school in Wisconsin, to nominate their high school's Scholar-Athlete for the just completed season. After the 2024 season, 93 coaches nominated an eligible senior from their team. Including these most recent honorees, the Wisconsin Football Foundation has honored a total of 2,573 students, from more than 425 schools. The 2024 season was the 32nd year the program has been in existence. For the Wisconsin Chapter, the CRITICAL FACTOR IN THIS PROCESS IS THE SUPPORT OF THE WFCAs AND THE HIGH SCHOOL COACHES. Every nominee receives a personalized plaque, and each school receives a customized nameplate that can be mounted on the school's institutional plaque to recognize each year's honoree. (Note to Head Football Coaches: As the result of a collaborative effort of WFCAs and WFF in 2006, all public & private high schools in Wisconsin received an institutional plaque. We will have a form available, at the WFF table during the WFCAs Spring Clinic, and we would appreciate having you fill it out, if you currently do not have an institutional plaque.)

The primary focus for each of the 120 National Football Foundation Chapters, nationwide, is to recognize outstanding personal, academic, and athletic achievement among graduating high school seniors. The Chapter's Scholarship Committee plans to complete this year's selection process by the end of March. Including scholarships that will be given to this year's 11 member Wisconsin Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete "TEAM," the Chapter will have awarded \$145,000. (Detailed information is available by contacting

Chapter President, Al Minnaert. (Text/cell: 608-770-3433; online: wisconsinfootballfoundation.org or al.minnaert@gmail.com)

In addition to a focus on having local chapters honor high school Scholar-Athletes, the National Football Foundation (NFF) honors college scholar-athletes participating in all Divisions.

Also, in February of 2021, the NFF announced an initiative to partner with Coaches Associations, with 32 States currently participating, to honor a school's entire team for their academic success and contributions to their communities. The NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards are presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation. Nationwide, 65 teams were named as finalists for the honor of being recognized as the top individual high school football team in the nation for excellence in the classroom, on the field and in the community. The award comes with a \$10,000 donation for the winning school. Each state's high school Coaches Association selects their respective state's winners and a national selection committee is responsible for choosing one school as the recipient. Wisconsin was represented by 4 teams: Owen Withee HS (8 man), Bay Port HS (1), Green Bay Notre Dame Academy (3) and Stratford HS (5). WFCAs Executive Director was among other Coaches Association representatives who were quoted in a NFF press release re: this program. Dan Brunner stated: "We are extremely proud to participate in this award. We salute the NFF for recognizing the importance of Academic Achievement by sponsoring the Academic Excellence Awards." NFF Chairman Archie Manning said: "We are proud to recognize these football teams as the top academic performers in their respective states." Hemet High School in Hemet, CA was announced Feb. 4th, 2025 as the recipient of the 2024-2025 award.



COACHES ARE ASKED TO PICK UP THEIR HONOREE'S PLAQUE AT THE WFF TABLE AT THE WFCAs CLINIC.



All-Star Charity Game Chairman, Doug Sarver



Doug Sarver

The 2025 WFCAs All-Star Games benefitting Children’s Wisconsin, will take place at Titan Stadium in Oshkosh on July 18 and July 19. This summer 224 players and 40 coaches will report to one of four sites to prepare for the games. Since 2007 when the WFCAs partnered with Children’s these games have raised 4.8 million

dollars. The six 2025 head coaches were selected in November from a list of nominations. The head coaches then selected their staffs from a list of assistant coach nominations.

In January the WFCAs received over 400 player nominations for the six teams. The all-star coaching staffs reviewed and studied the nominations before selecting their teams by February 1. The WFCAs and Children’s then held player-parent meetings for the north teams at Mosinee High School on March 2 and at Jefferson High School for the south teams on March 9. The meetings informed players-parents about the fundraising for Children’s Wisconsin and information and details about camp week July 14-19.

Each player and coach were given 50 complimentary game tickets. All players and coaches will stay on campus and receive breakfast, lunch and dinner and laundry service. There will be two practices a day, morning and evening with opportunity to use the weight room and pool at specific times. The WFCAs thanks all coaches, players and event workers involved in bringing

about another successful all-star experience. Lets all come together and support this great event for an even greater cause. Your membership card is your ticket to the event. If you wish to donate you can do so on line at: <https://support.childrenswi.org/wfca2025>

Camp Sites

- UW-Whitewater – South large team
- UW-Oshkosh – South small team, South 8 - Player team
- UW-River Falls – North large team
- UW-Stevens Point – North large team, North 8-Player team

Camp Week:

- Coaches report – Sunday July 13, 1:00pm
- Players report – Monday July 14, 1:00pm
- Travel day – Friday July 18 (to UW Oshkosh)

Kickoff Times:

- Friday July 18 – 6:00pm 8 man game
- Saturday July 19
 - Small Schools Game - Noon
 - Large Schools Game - 4:00 pm

RIPON ATHLETIC & THE WFCAs: A RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON TRADITION

By: Ripon Athletic

Who We Are At Ripon Athletic, we’ve been making high-quality, American-made uniforms for over a century. Our company is built on integrity and craftsmanship—values that have been the foundation of both Ripon Athletic and Sand Knit for generations. As a Wisconsin-based, family-owned company, we take pride in supporting teams, coaches, and communities—because football isn’t just a game; it’s a legacy.

Supporting the WFCAs: Coaches, Clinic & All-Star Game Coaches do more than coach—they shape character, build stronger players and teams. They help bring communities together. At Ripon Athletic, we recognize the impact coaches have, which is why we support the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCAs) and the work they do to strengthen the game across the state.

For over 40 years, we’ve been proud to support the WFCAs All-Star Game—a tradition that honors athletes’ hard work, unites families and fans, and brings communities together for a common cause. Proceeds benefit Children’s Wisconsin, highlighting the event’s deeper purpose beyond the field.

We make and donate the official game uniforms for the All-Star Game, providing Wisconsin’s top high school athletes a chance to take the field wearing something made just

for them — right here in Wisconsin.

Who We Serve We work with school athletic programs, colleges, professional leagues—in-

size or level, has access to custom, high-quality uniforms that represent their identity. From small-town rivalries to championship matchups, Ripon Athletic is committed to supporting teams at every level.

Helping Teams Be Their Own Every school has its own traditions, colors, and history—and at Ripon Athletic, we believe in giving teams the ability to authentically represent themselves. That is why we specialize in fully custom uniforms designed to reflect each program’s unique identity—one-of-a-kind uniforms that teams wear with pride, made just like the pros. We don’t do generic: we do authentic.

Built for the Game, Made for Wisconsin Ripon Athletic is more than a brand—it’s a commitment. A commitment to craftsmanship, to coaches, to athletes, and to the communities that make football what it is. As the home of Sand Knit, we continue a legacy of quality and tradition that has outfitted champions for generations. Together, Ripon Athletic and Sand Knit represent decades of dedication to American-made excellence. Through our longstanding partnership with the WFCAs, we proudly uphold the values that built both brands: honesty, integrity, and a dedication to making the game better—one uniform at a time.



cluding teams in the NFL and CFL—and beyond, ensuring that every team, no matter their

COME AND VISIT CUW

JOIN THE FALCON FAMILY!



RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR *VISIT DAY*

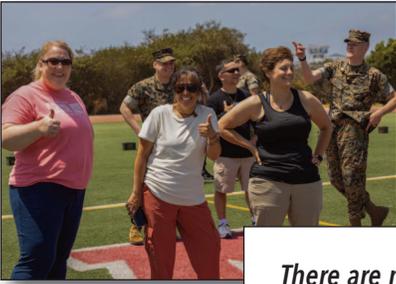
Meet our coaching staff, tour campus and athletic facilities

MAY 10
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

JUNE 13
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

JULY 20
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM





There are many similarities between leading Marines and leading a football program. From preparing young people to accomplish difficult tasks in demanding and high-pressure environments to tactics (play calling). However, our WFCA partnership for the All-Star games displays our greatest similarity in providing inspiration and selfless service within our communities. Our communities provide a lot of support to our programs, and the WFCA All-Star games are a great way to show our appreciation and give back.

We know your success is our success. Therefore, we have developed tools and opportunities to support teachers and coaches in their curriculums and programs respectively. Please visit the QR code to learn more about our Educator's Workshop opportunities and Leadership Cohesion Exercises.

– Major Nathan Blackwell Recruiting Station Milwaukee Commanding Officer.

Educators Workshop Registration!



Leadership and Cohesion Exercise





2025 PROSPECT CAMP

JULY 11TH

COST - \$60
PADDED
JUNIORS & SENIORS
SKILL DEVELOPMENT
GROUP COMPETITION

CHECK-IN - 9:00AM
SESSION 1 - 10:00AM
LUNCH - 12:30PM
SESSION 2 - 1:30PM
CAMP ENDS - 4:00PM



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

Gear Up for the Season with Healy Awards – A Proud Sponsor of the WFC



For decades, Healy Awards has been a proud and longtime sponsor of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFC), supporting coaches and teams across the state with the highest quality football helmet decals, award plaques, sideline dry erase boards, signs, dry erase boards, goal boards and record boards. As football programs prepare for the upcoming season, we're here to ensure your team looks its best and stays motivated on and off the field.

Visit Us at the 47th Annual Football Clinic

We're excited to connect with coaches at the 47th Annual WFC Spring Clinic, held April 3-5 at The Marriott Madison West in Middleton, Wisconsin. This premier event brings together football minds from across the state, and we invite you to stop by our booth to explore the latest in custom helmet decals, award plaques, and sideline tools designed to enhance your team's performance.

Start Designing Your Custom Helmet Decals This Spring

Spring is the perfect time to start designing your new football helmet decals. Whether you're looking to refresh your team's look or create a bold new design, Healy Awards offers the nation's toughest and most durable 20-mil vinyl football helmet decals.

We provide a full range of helmet decal options to ensure your team looks sharp and unified including, but not limited to:

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MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAGUE

Thursday Nights
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July 10

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Skill Development
Small Games Play
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YOUTH LEAGUE

Tuesday Nights
5:45-7:30
June 10, 17, 24
July 1

Warm Ups
Skill Development
Small Games Play
Flag Football Games

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WR ACADEMY

11:00 am - 2:30 pm
May 18
June 25
July 16

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WR Specific Drills
Film Session

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QB ACADEMY

with Coach Tarek Yaeggi

9 am - 12 pm
May 18th

9th-12th Graders
2 Hours of Field Instruction
1 Hour of Whiteboard/Film Instruction

UW - LA CROSSE FOOTBALL

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10:00 am - 3:00 pm
June 24, 27

1st SESSION:
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TECHNIQUES
FUNDAMENTALS

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2nd SESSION:
POSITION SPECIFIC
CROSSOVER DRILLS
INSTALL OF COLLEGE
OFFENSE/DEFENSE
SMALL GAMES PLAY

LOCAL COMPANY HELPS TEAMS CELEBRATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: Midwest Scholastic, Proud Sponsor of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association

Every season starts with high hopes and dreams of winning a championship and only a few ever achieve that ultimate goal. Those seasons are full of highlights, comradery and plenty of lifetime memories. It is no wonder that championship rings popularity continues to grow. What better way to capture those memories than with a high quality custom designed ring. A piece of jewelry designed by team members that is unique to only those team members.

Midwest Scholastic is a Mount Horeb, Wisconsin based company that has helped thousands of athletes and coaches with their championship needs. From major college D1 National Championships to High School Conference Championships, teams have enjoyed the personalized service that comes from this local company.

Meet the Owners

Mark Fredrickson and JC Fish bring decades of experience and passion to the business and understand what coaches go through as they are both veteran high school basketball coaches. In 2015 they were apart of the Mount Horeb High School State Basketball Championship team coaching staff which really helps them understand the time, effort, commitment and attention to detail that coaches and players go through to earn a championship.

Partnership with WFCB

Recently, the WFCB has embarked on a promising partnership with Midwest Scholastic, a trusted supplier known for its dedication to quality and service. This sponsorship allows the WFCB to expand its initiatives, such as coaching clinics, player development programs, and community outreach efforts. Together, they are setting a standard for how sports associations and suppliers can work

collaboratively for the betterment of student-athletes.

Affordability, Quality & Service

One of the primary concerns for many parents and schools is the cost associated with championship rings. Balancing quality with affordability is crucial. Midwest Scholastic offers transparent pricing and flexible payment plans. This approach ensures that every team, regardless of budget constraints, can celebrate their achievements without financial strain. Each ring is crafted with precision and care, ensuring that every detail reflects the excellence of your team's performance. We pride ourselves on providing unmatched responsive service to our customers. From the initial consultation to the final delivery, our dedicated team is here to guide you through every step of the process. We understand the importance of getting it right, and we are committed to making your experience as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

What are Coaches Saying?

In today's day and age, customer reviews are a great way to judge a company's performance and reputation. At the Midwest Scholastic website (mwscholastic.com), there is a page dedicated to "what coaches are saying". From Hall of Fame coach Pat Rice to WIAC Conference Champion UWP head coach Ryan Munz, there are plenty of customer reviews to read.

Check out some of our work!!

We have an expansive gallery of our completed rings. Visit this link or scan the QR code to see who has trusted us with their Championship rings. We are sure you will know most of these coaches.

<https://www.mwscholastic.com/copy-of-champ-ring-gallery>





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OFFENSE

TRANSITIONING A POWER-T OFFENSIVE LINE TO A SPREAD OFFENSIVE LINE: TWO PASS SET DRILLS FOR BASIC FUNDAMENTALS

By: Leif Engstrand, Offensive Line Coach, Wauwatosa West High School



Leif Engstrand

For more than a decade Wauwatosa West was a Power-T or Wing-T team, built on a handful of plays and a run-first mentality. However, that was going to quickly change. Beginning in 2023 under a new coaching staff, the Trojans transitioned to a Spread Offense. As a young offensive line coach, I was faced with the challenge of teaching an entire position group the skill of pass setting, a skill that they had never done consistently. To accomplish this, I leaned on my experience playing offensive line in college at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and prioritized 2 drills to get my group ready to perform under the Friday night lights

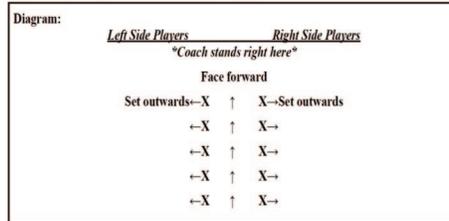
These two drills are an integral part of every practice, and the first one is central to our pregame routine. Both were instrumental in helping our offense go from last place in our conference in passing to 2nd in one season.

Drill 1: 4 Stage Drill

Everything we do as an OL, run or pass, is done while thinking “push to move.” This drill emphasizes this by getting players to get out of their stances fast, pushing to move, and transitioning between a kick and a post. Players are separated into Left and Right side players, lining up single file each side with space between them. Centers obviously would switch sides after each round. If you like to dual train your guys and make sure they have experience with both sides, they can switch as well

In practice, I separate it into 4 rounds of 4 stages each. The first two rounds are done on a knee. The reason for this is to get players to concentrate on pushing to move, and pushing off their inside leg as fast as they can. The second

two rounds are done out of a stance. There is still an emphasis on pushing to move, but now they can apply it to their stances.



Stage 1: Initial Set

On the snap count, players kick off their inside leg into a good football stance with their feet chopping and their hands protecting their chest against the bull rush. The emphasis in this stage is on getting out of their stance as fast as possible, and being ready to protect. I will go on 1, on 2, do a hard count etc. to get them focused on the stimulus of the snap count.

Stage 2: Initial Set plus Two Kicks

In this stage, players repeat Stage 1, and add in two additional kick steps. This takes the emphasis of Stage 1, and adds in the focus of covering as much ground as possible in their two kicks, to fight against the outside rush. When they reach the end of the stage, their feet are chopping and their hands are protecting their chest.

Stage 3: Initial Set, Two Kicks, + One Post

This stage is meant to fight against the second move of a pass rusher. Repeating Stage 2, now players add in one post step to simulate a response to an inside move. In this stage players focus on making the transition between a kick and a post quickly, to respond to the defender. Another point of emphasis in this stage is to think about getting their inside leg “in front” of the defender to cut them off.

Stage 4: Initial Set, Two Kicks, Two Posts, and an Anchor

The last stage is meant to counter a defender’s final move. This repeats Stage 3, but adds in another post step and a bull rush response. Players will take their extra post step, and then anchor hop.

Coaching Points

- Pushing to Move
 - Both in the rounds on a knee and out of a stance, I harp on pushing to move. If a player is pushing to move, he will not overextend himself and put himself in a compromised position. Presnap, run or pass, players should think about loading their backside leg or inside leg respec-

tively. This will put them in a position to be successful.

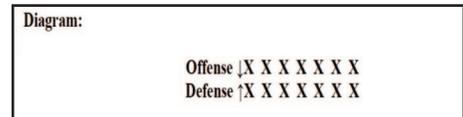
- Staying Square
 - When we do this drill, it is always by a sideline or the back of the endzone. This gives players a landmark to ensure they stay square to the line of scrimmage. When they reach the end of their set, their shoulders and hips should be square to the line of scrimmage, with only their head facing their target. Staying square keeps the width of the pocket and lengthens the edge for any pass rushers.
 - Protecting the chestplate
 - Once the players are out of their stance, they should carry their hands high, protecting the chestplate against a bull rush.

Optional Additions I Like to Add:

1. On Stages 1-3, once the players reach the end of the stage and are chopping their feet, I make them keep chopping their feet. This helps to build some stamina in their legs.
2. During the rounds out of the stance, I will simulate a long snap count, make checks at the line, etc, for the same reason as above.

Drill 2: Anchor Hop-Refit

This is a great drill to get players fundamentally sound on how to counter a bull rush. It is also a great “recovery” drill to run after a team period in that it is not very physically demanding, but more technical. The emphasis for the players is trying to redirect the defender’s force upwards rather than through them.



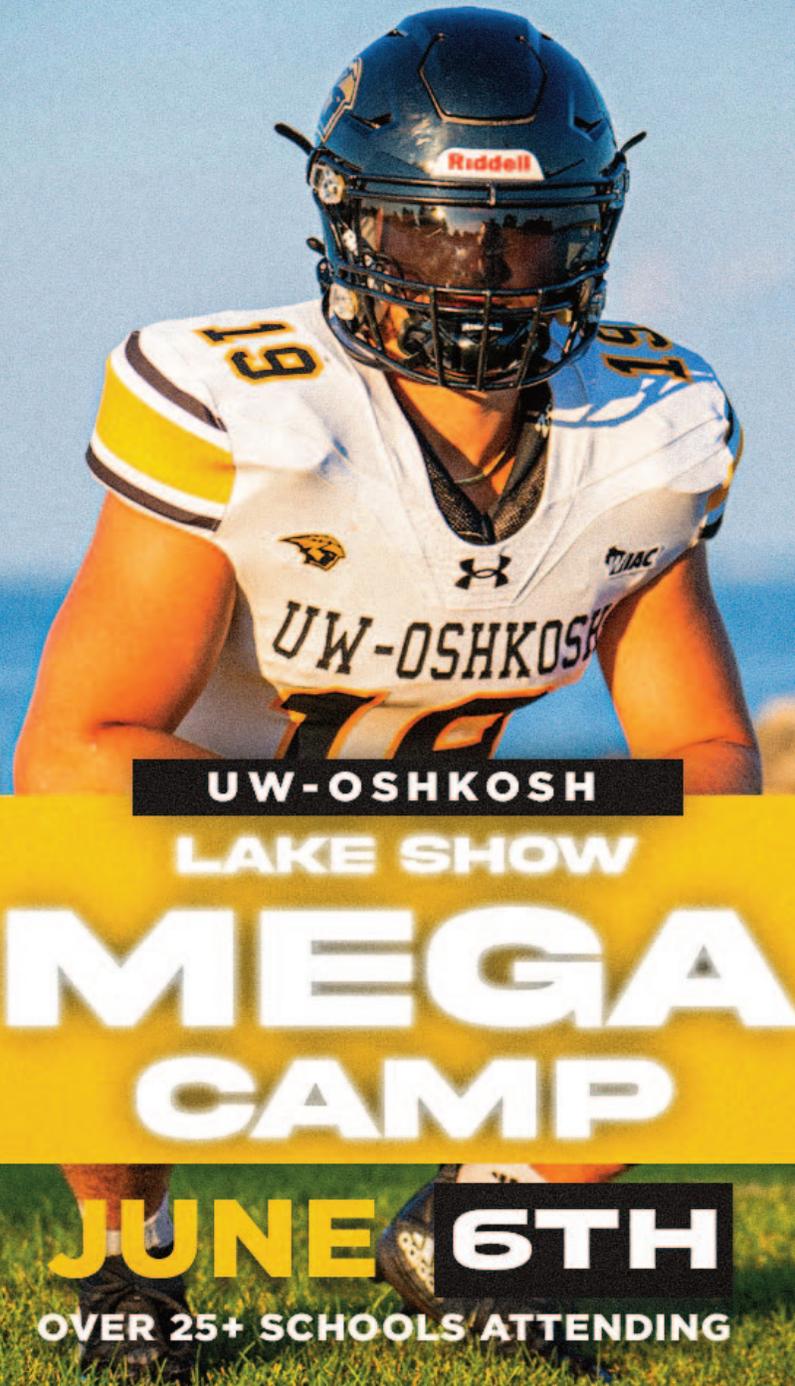
Players will partner up and face each other. One player is on “O” and the other is on “D”.

Step 1: The player on offense starts in a compromised position (high pad level, no hip bend, outside and on top hands). The player on defense will start in the better position (low pad level, inside and underneath hands).

Step 2: On the offense’s go, the defender will bull rush the offensive player at 50% effort. The main goal for this step is to simulate the feeling of a bull rush but allow the offense to concentrate on the technique.

Step 3: Under the bullrush, the offense now must anchor hop by simultaneously hopping backwards and dropping their hips under the level of the defenders. During the hop backwards, de-

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fenders will refit their hands one at a time to a winning position (under and inside). Once the hands are refitted, the offense should lift the chestplate upwards with force, while walking the defender back towards the line of scrimmage.

Success Criteria: If Step 3 is done correctly by the offense, the defender's force should be going upwards rather than straight ahead. The offense should be in a strong position with a negative arch in their back and their pads and hips lower than the defenders. Their hands should be on the chest plate of the defender, inside and underneath the defender's hands. Their shoulders should be over their hips and feet.

Additional Note:

- A secondary main point of this drill is to teach kids the fundamentals of defeating the bull rush *without using a chop move on the defender's hands*. I have found that most

high school O-Linemen like to use the chop move cause it's the "easiest" fix to beat the bull rush. This move is less effective than an anchor hop. Chopping leaves the chestplate unprotected which allows the defender to bull rush even harder, and does not adjust the offense's pad level leaving the OL to be pushed back into the QB.

Coaching Points:

- Technical Drill rather than a physical drill
 - Once the technique is mastered, you can ramp up the physicality to game speed.
- Redirecting the Defender's force upwards
 - When a defender is bull rushing, their force is going straight through the OL. Too often the OL will just catch the rush and get blown back. In order to successfully defeat a bull rush, the OL must redirect their force. The easiest way to do this

- within the rulebook is to redirect the force upwards by anchoring.
- Maintaining Points of Contact
 - At no point during this drill, should the OL have neither of their hands on the defender. Maintaining contact at a minimum helps control the tempo of the bullrush.

These drills will always be part of our daily routine because they are the baseline for pass setting and defeating the bull rush. They are meant to establish fundamentals and teach players how to become competent pass protectors. After Developing this foundation, coaches can add different techniques or increase the tempo as they progress. These drills will help any offensive line coach who is making a similar offensive transition, or is looking for new ways or tools for their players to achieve success.

RECEIVER PLAY AND PASSING GAME CONCEPTS IN A 'RUN FIRST' SMALL SCHOOL

By: Troy Ingli, Assistant Football Coach, Pepin-Alma



Troy Ingli

We are a base 'under center' two back, two tight end team. We are a run first, smash mouth type crew, and we have been for 20 years. Selling being a receiver in this 'old school' mentality of offense could be a challenge for some schools. After all, the high flying- no huddle type of aerial spread attacks that the college game, as well as many high school teams have turned to, may make our offense (on the surface anyway) seem behind the times.

Selling the System

We have little trouble 'selling' our offense to our kids for several reasons:

- A) We are successful. Despite being one of the smallest schools in the state that offers 11 man football, Pepin-Alma has compiled a record of ...120-43.... In the last 15... years. Our players believe that what we run will work. We will win at all levels with our offense.
- B) Although we are two-tight team-two back team, our offense will run multiple formations, multiple position groupings and sev-

eral types of motion, misdirection and play-actions.

- C) Our passing games offers true 'big-play' opportunities. Sure, we are not going to throw it 30-40 times per game. But when we do throw, our schemes lead to chunk yardage and often TD potential
- D) We may have fewer passing attempts in games than others, but we throw A LOT during the week. Both with our schemes and opponent schemes are worked on--- Individual, Group Time, and Full team 11 on 11 our offense practice time spends more minutes in the passing game than the run. We have 4 base running plays that we are good at--- that is the whole running package- This offers more leeway when it comes to work on throwing.
- E) Give every position a carrot. It was my philosophy when I was a head coach, calling offensive plays and Coach Olson, our current head coach has a similar mindset. We will have a special target play for every spot in our offense each week. This gets kids excited to know that they are 'part of the plan.'

This may be a special formation to free them up. It maybe a specific route concept to utilize or it could be as simple as taking advantage of a base play and a favorable match up. The other part of this, since we do run the ball with so much success, often our TE's or usual '3rd option' on offense get lost in the shuffle near the goal line. They catch a lot of TD's and two point plays for us.

Team Keys for Eagles Passing Offense

- 1 Share the rock! We will spread the ball in the running game and our passing game
- 2 Keep the QB upright. There are tons of great route concepts to get people open in foot-

ball. If our quarterback is under pressure or getting hit, our passing game is doomed. We will error on the side of extra protection compared to getting an extra receiver out in a pass route

- 3 Play Action is key, but not complicated. We will have an awesome play action passes that look like our best two running plays- These are the only two passes that our youth football teams run. We will be good at them at all levels. Every opponent knows we run bootleg/waggle from buck-sweep and a play action off of our FB ISO. We still run them with success. A great coaching point for us is this- Most teams want a play action pass to 'look' like a run We want our play action passes to 'SOUND' like a run.
- 4 Specific concepts for specific defense coverage. Coach Olson does a great job scheming people open vs coverage. We will have specific concepts to beat man, specific concepts to beat zone, and a couple varieties each week that are solid against both.
- 5 Take shots early in the game and on 1st down. Being a run first team, our play choices for success are sure limited on third and long. We love to take 'shots' on early downs and early in the game. Even if these passes are incomplete, we feel they will loosen up the defense for later on.
- 6 Special players = Special consideration. The last two seasons we were fortunate enough to have one of the top receivers in the state. Our game plans in the passing game centered around this special player's talents. When you do have those types of kids, it is a luxury but do not make it over-compli-



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cated. When teams chose to single cover our ‘top guy’ we were simply able to get the ball to him in our quick pass game. When teams choose to double team or bracket your ‘guy,’ scheme comes into play. Formations, motions, hybrid type routes, and even getting that receiver involved in the running game are all ways to get touches. Of course if that special player is drawing so much attention, it often leads to weaknesses the defense that other plays or players will exploit.

Individual keys for playing receivers at Pepin-Alma

1. Versatility is key. Our receivers will play

2. Blocking is not a choice. It is required. Our receivers must block. End of story. This is non-negotiable. Our base running plays count heavily on well executed blocks by our tight ends. Big plays in our offense are often a result of a down-field block by a receiver. Our receivers must base or drive block like a tackle, they have a key block on our outside running plays, they need to stalk or shield block when split out. In some schemes, a backside TE or wing will be asked to pass block.

3. Precise route running. We demand precise routes in our offensive schemes. Like many teams, our routes used are both base on step numbers as well as yardage. A simple example is our speed out/choice concept. It HAS to start with an inside foot forward. 4 step stem slightly outside and speed roll it to the sideline. This meshes with our QB’s 3 step drop. In our base bootleg package, our outside receiver is responsible for a ‘flag’ route. That receiver needs to execute that route from a variety of formation options. Since this is the case, we give that receiver a ‘landmark’ where he needs to be when the QB is at his half-roll launch

INSIDE ZONE PLAY VS. OUTSIDE ZONE PLAY

By: Jason Wagner, Former Offensive Line Coach, UW-Platteville



Jason Wagner

I would like to start out by thanking the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association for allowing me the opportunity to contribute this article. Also thank you to Head Football Coach Mike Emendorfer and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville football staff for all their support.

This is something I’ve been thinking about for a while and recently was brought to my attention when working with a local high school. There is still a lot of confusion about inside zone and outside zone. Part of this is that there are a lot of coaching points on these plays. Without a doubt, many college teams run nothing but inside and outside zone and maybe “power” and “counter” and therefore spend hours every week coaching the finer points of these plays. But that’s not a reason why the basics have to be so confusing. So here is a very basic explanation for what zone runs are, and the difference between inside and outside zone.

Many “zone gurus” learned from longtime NFL coach Alex Gibbs or Steve McNally. As I don’t consider myself a guru, I have taken a combination of them and put together what I feel you have to do to run the inside and outside zone play.

When I look at this I approach it in this way. Think of this as Newtonian physics for the run game. Yes, Einsteinian physics is more detailed and is needed if you want to understand certain extreme events, but Newtonian physics is tremendously useful, easy to understand, and will

explain pretty much all you need to know unless you’re currently an offensive line coach. Even if you are, my hope is that this is a pretty good reminder of some things.

On zone plays, the linemen keep the same blocking schemes, regardless of how many tight-ends or wide receivers they use. The aiming point for the running backs remains about the same. Many zone teams begin by focusing on the outside zone. Once that is established and the defense is flowing fast to the sideline, the offense comes back with the inside zone.

Yet there is much discussion of what “zone runs” even are. First, there is only so much “zoning” in a zone. Much of it is still just blocking the guy in front of you. On all zone runs, the linemen must ask, “Am I ‘covered’ (is there a guy directly in front of me, aside from a linebacker set back a few yards)? Or am I ‘uncovered’ (there is no one directly in front of me)?”

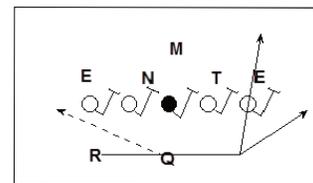
If “covered,” there is very little “zoning” at all: The lineman’s job is to block the guy in front of them. Fans, commentators, and even coaches often overcomplicate things. The “zone” aspect comes in with “uncovered” linemen. If “uncovered,” the lineman must step “play side” — i.e. the side the run is going to and help double-team the defensive linemen along with his “covered” mate. Once the two of them control that down defensive lineman, one of the offensive linemen slides off to hit a linebacker. It’s not that complicated. Indeed, let’s say the five offensive linemen are covered by five defensive linemen. In that case, each guy (save for maybe the backside offensive tackle) will just block the guy in front of them — there is no “zoning” at all.

It gets a little trickier regarding the difference between inside and outside zone, though this involves technique, not assignment.

On outside zone plays, the offensive linemen take a bit more of a lateral first step and try to reach the defender across from them. He wants to get his body between the defender and the sideline. It’s important to note, however, that the very act of trying to reach the defender often gets him flying to the sideline, at which time the offensive lineman can then switch to driving the defender to the sideline. I call this the reverse arm

bar. The running back aims for a point outside the (imaginary) tight-end, though he can cut it up field wherever a seam appears.

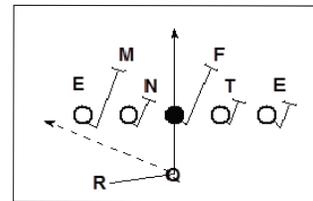
Once the defense begins flowing too fast to the sideline, coaches typically dial-up the inside zone. The rules are the same, covered and uncovered, except this is more of a drive block as the aiming point for the running back is inside. The play often results in a cutback if the defense



is flowing fast for the outside zone, but the difference between the outside zone is one of technique,

not assignment. And, again, it does not make a difference to the linemen (or at least not many of them) if you run this from a four wide set or a two-back one.

On the inside zone the runner aims for the front side leg of the center. Now, his read can vary by team. Some teams have him read that three technique defensive tackle, while others have him read the middle or “Monster” linebacker. In both cases the idea is for him to find



the vertical crease, either straight play side off the center’s hip or backside on a cutback.

A few closing thoughts. There’s obviously more to it than this. The biggest thing offensive line coaches work on is the initial steps for their linemen. This is often called a “lateral” or even slightly backwards “bucket step. Later they work thoroughly on the proper technique for double-teaming a lineman and then getting up to the second-level to block a linebacker. But again, if a defensive “covered” all the linemen, there is no zone. It still comes down to blocking the guy in front of you.

I truly enjoyed taking the time to write down my thoughts on the greatest game in the world.



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VOLUME CONTROL TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY WITHIN AN OFFENSIVE SYSTEM

By: Bob Dunn, Offensive Coordinator, UW-Eau Claire



Bob Dunn

Over the past several years offensive football at the college level has become increasingly creative, effective, and hard to defend. Social media has given coaches more avenues to explore new ideas and creative ways to attack defenses, resulting in greater point totals across the sport. As a coach, it can be easy to be enamored with “plays” that are effective in a single clip at a clinic or online, but what is important is creating a systematic approach to how much you install. A great system is simple, sound, and easy to teach – it will have enough volume that you can cover the situations you will face in the season, maximizes the skillset of your roster, and has answers for the defenses you will face in season.

To me, identifying the appropriate volume for a season begins with understanding how many times you will face each situation. Studying the historical number of plays for each situation over the course of several years will minimize the weight of both good and bad years offensively and give you a more accurate depiction of what to expect.

4 YEAR STUDY			
SITUATION	4 YEAR TOTAL	AVG/GAME	10 GAME
NDD	1449	32.9	329
2L [2-7+]	527	12.0	120
3S [3-1 TO 2]	101	2.3	23
3M [3-3 TO 6]	178	4.0	40
3L [3-7 TO 10]	177	4.0	40
3XL [3-11 TO 14]	34	0.8	8
3XXL [3-15+]	35	0.8	8
ALL 3RD	548	12.5	125
4TH	56	1.3	13
HRZ [20 TO 11]	119	2.7	27
LRZ [10 TO 4]	215	4.9	49
GL [3 TO 1]	81	1.8	18
TOTAL	2995	68.1	681

The goal of assessing raw situational data is to avoid overloading one area of your offense with concepts. At UWEC, we have concepts that we like to call in certain situations that we won’t necessarily call in every situation. If you are like us and call certain plays in certain D&D’s, then situational analysis is important. Once we have our assessment of raw situational volume, we begin to examine any philosophical changes we want to make for the year. Your philosophy for each situation can differ from year to year based on several factors, but it is ultimately driven by what you want the offense’s identity to be. For example, in 2024 we wanted to maintain our formation and personnel multiple scheme while finding a way to feature a veteran QB and receiving corps. We added high % throw concepts that we felt could be an extension of our base run game and get touches to our best players. This led to the decision to throw the football more than we typically would overall, and ultimately to throw the ball more on early downs.

I should note that these figures are a guiding estimation and are not exact. As you go through the fall, your offense may become more effective in certain areas than originally anticipated, and you may call certain plays more. This is why critical analysis of the concepts themselves is important in the offseason – does what we want to install fit the philosophy for the program, and does it give our players a chance to be successful? I have found that by putting parameters on volume, it has forced me to look more critically at existing concepts in the system rather than al-

SITUATION	4 YEAR TOTAL	AVG/GAME	10 GAME	RUN %	PASS %	TOTAL RUN	TOTAL PASS
NDD	1449	32.9	329	45%	55%	148	181
2L	527	12.0	120	40%	60%	48	72
3S	101	2.3	23	75%	25%	17	6
3M	178	4.0	40	45%	55%	18	22
3L	177	4.0	40	30%	70%	12	28
3XL	34	0.8	8	20%	80%	2	6
3XXL	35	0.8	8	20%	80%	2	6
4TH	56	1.3	13	50%	50%	6	6
HRZ	119	2.7	27	50%	50%	14	14
LRZ	215	4.9	49	60%	40%	29	20
GL	81	1.8	18	75%	25%	14	5
TOTAL	2972	67.5	675	46%	54%	310	366

SITUATION	TOTAL RUN	TOTAL PASS	5 REPS / SEASON (RUN/PASS)	7.5 REPS / SEASON (RUN/PASS)	10 REPS / SEASON (RUN/PASS)
NDD	148	181	30	36	20
2L	48	72	10	14	6
3S	17	6	3	1	2
3M	18	22	4	4	3
3L	12	28	2	6	4
3XL	2	6	0	1	0
3XXL	2	6	0	1	0
4TH	6	6	1	1	1
HRZ	14	14	3	3	2
LRZ	29	20	6	4	3
GL	14	5	3	1	1
TOTAL CONCEPTS	310	366	62	73	41

ways looking for new plays. This has led to greater emphasis on personnel and formation multiplicity and adjusting core concepts week to week rather than adding something new entirely.

Using a situational philosophy to guide volume control has helped us have a greater feel for the amount to install on a yearly basis. It is important that we carry enough concepts that we can cover all our situations effectively, but not so much that our players do not learn the system at a deep level. To arrive at a more exact number of concepts, you must factor in things outside of philosophy. Do we have a lot of game experience returning? What is our situation at quarterback? Do we repeat a lot of plays in a game? Can a concept fit multiple situations? For us, we have aimed to call a play 8 times in a season to be a core component of the offense. It does not need to be called every game, but it shouldn’t be a concept we use once and never again after that. For 2024, we went into the season carrying 45 core pass concepts and 40 core run concepts. We divide our pass concepts into subcategories – Perimeter, Sprints, Naked, Quicks, Play Actions, Dropbacks, and Redzone. Our run concepts are sub-divided between core run schemes combined with ancillary tags to create our run menu. What our staff realized is that what you allocate for volume gets taken up quickly when you start to pick the concepts you want on the menu. You quickly realize what plays you must have in and what is superfluous.

Once we have established the volume, we believe we can carry for a season, we make philosophical decisions about adhering to those numbers based on expected factors for the upcoming season. We do our best to project what core concepts we already have that fit our returning players’ skillsets well, and if not, what additions do we need to make. We have made subtractions at times as well if we feel a concept wasn’t as productive as we would have liked in the previous year. A large factor for us is whether our current concepts effectively attack the defenses in our league. We spend a lot of offseason time studying the upcoming fronts, coverages, and pressures to make sure we have systematic answers ready. Consolidation has been key to our improvement from 2023 to 2024 and has helped us take huge strides, including close to doubling our points per game from 12.3 ppg in 2023 to 23.0 ppg in 2024.

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RUN/PASS GAME BALANCE

By: Paul Kinsella, Head Football Coach, Roncalli Catholic High School



Paul Kinsella

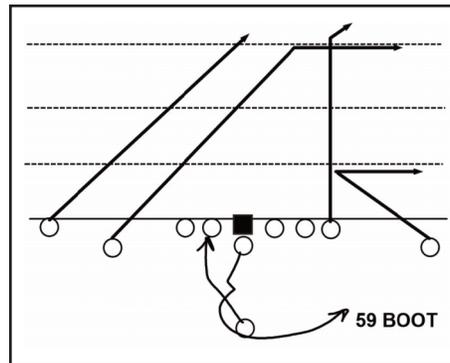
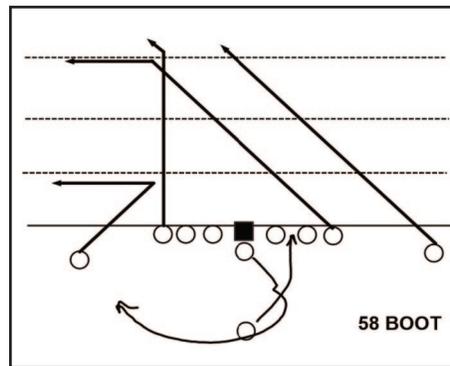
The Roncalli High School football program would like to thank the WFCA for the opportunity to contribute to this publication. I would like to take this moment to thank my staff. My name is on this article, but everything we do in our program depends on the men who essentially volunteer countless hours to provide a great experience for our student athletes, (the three digit stipend they get paid is but a token of our gratitude).

Our offensive goal is to be balanced in the run and pass game. This past season we were 55% run and 45% pass. We are a 10, 11 and 12 personnel team. Our number one play is the outside zone. Our number one pass play is the boot off of the outside zone. We threw boot 51 times in 10 games last fall. We only had three negative plays, all penalties.

We like boot for a few reasons. We have a receiver in the flat. If the QB gets pressure he can throw it out of bounds over the flat receiver's head without a grounding call. If he does not like any of his throwing options, he can run. The read is simple and his eyes go to the same places in the same order no matter the defense we are facing.

The boot being such a big part of our offense we needed a way to maximize our time on the concept during the limited practice time we have during the week. We have 30-40 players who all play both ways. Every night at practice we have a little over an hour to work on offense. Over the past few years, we have developed a drill to work our boot as efficiently as possible. We spend 10 minutes every day on this drill. We separate the OL and the skill kids. The OL go with their coach and works on the techniques and any scheme adjustments we need to make based on the team we are facing that week. The skill kids and their coaches stay together and work on the throwing portion of the play. All of our coaches in this group are expected to coach someone on every repetition. Every rep of this period is meant for double duty as skill learning and conditioning.

When we throw our boot it is out of a 2x2 formation. It can be 10, 11 or 12 personnel. We will align with four groups of receivers. Each group has four to five players. The TEs must be in a group of #2 receivers. WR will complete the groups, aligning as #1s and #2s. After they run a route they should change lines. This ensures they get practice running all the different routes. Depending on how the lines rotate, we will get repetitions with 10, 11 and 12 personnel. These different combinations of skill sets are important for our QBs to see.



On the play side #1 runs a whip and #2 runs a corner. On the backside #2 runs an over and #1 runs a deep over. All four receivers run their route every repetition. We try to have at least three QBs throw on every repetition. At least three of the receivers should get a ball thrown to them every time. If we do not have three QBs at practice we will have a coach throw one of the routes (which route depends on the ability of the coach). But we want as many balls in the air as we possibly can. The WR and TE coach are watching and coaching alignments (based on formation), the route depth, the speed, the landmarks and the catch.

We align with three QBs and Three RBs every repetition. Our QBs and RBs will go through their footwork and mesh point every rep. Our RB coach is responsible for watching footwork and timing. Our goal is to look exactly like our outside zone as long as possible. The RBs should work their outside zone footwork,

arm placement and eye location. Then burst through the line of scrimmage. Every rep is a 15 yards sprint for them.

All three QBs will get a snap from a coach or an injured player. After receiving the snap they go through their footwork and ball placement to mimic our outside zone play. After they watch the RB pass by, they continue with their boot mechanics. Once the play fake is executed the QB needs to pivot and sprint into the bootleg. While getting depth, he needs to snap his head around and find his first read. We look for a depth of 10 yards, we start in the gun at 5 yards. Then he sprints for the side line and starts down hill toward the line of scrimmage. Every rep they rotate to a different spot for a different throw. Every rep is a 20 yards sprint for the QB. The QB coach is watching and coaching their footwork, pace, eyes and throwing technique.

We want to stress the progression of the read to our QBs. There is no coverage in this drill. We teach the progression by stressing timing. The corner route should come out first and be thrown to the numbers. The whip should come out next and be caught at the numbers. Then the over route should come out last and be caught near the hash. The QB coach will coach the timing and the spacing of the throws.

The coaching staff is expected to be coaching their position every snap. We coach on the run. As the players are heading back returning from the repetition. They need to hear something they did well or something that needs to be adjusted. With young players, it might be what route they were supposed to run or how to properly catch the ball. With older players it is usually a finer detail or an effort issue. But we should have four or five coaches talking after every repetition and they only have about ten seconds to get in their thoughts.

We will take five minutes and run boot off the run to the right then five minutes for boot off run to the left. It is reasonable to get 3 repetitions per minute. Our players know what this practice period is and what is expected. Realistically, we get about 25 repetitions in ten minutes. With three throws per repetition that gives us 75 throws and 75 balls to catch. We run the pattern 25 times a day. Our receivers get to run all the routes every day. Our QBs throw all the routes multiple times every day. We get a lot of coaching, repetitions and conditioning in ten minutes. And we do this three days a week.

Once again, the Roncalli football program thanks the WFCA for the opportunity to share some of our ideas with you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at paul.kinsella@roncalliatholicschools.org.



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June 24-25th: Youth Football Camp – Grades 3 – 8
June 26th: High School Exposure Camp

2025 SCHEDULE

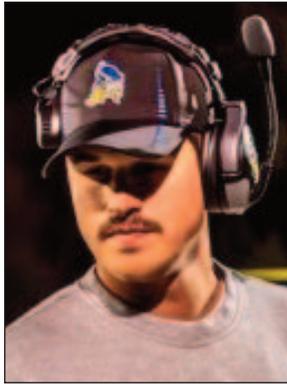
- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Sep. 6 | vs. Dubuque |
| Sep. 13 | vs. Wartburg |
| Sep. 20 | at Northwestern (MN) |
| Oct. 4 | at UW-Eau Claire |
| Oct. 11 | vs. UW-Oshkosh |
| Oct. 17 | at UW-Whitewater |
| Oct. 25 | vs. UW-Stevens Point |
| Nov. 1 | at UW-La Crosse |
| Nov. 8 | at UW-Platteville |
| Nov. 15 | vs. UW-River Falls |

#KEEP **SWINGING**



DEVELOPING AN OFFENSIVE LINE CULTURE FOR ANY PROGRAM

By: Thomas Noennig, Assistant Football Coach, New Berlin West High School



Thomas Noennig

Let me start off by just saying I want to thank the WFCa for everything they do for the great sport of football in the state of Wisconsin. This is my fourth year coaching; this will be my second year as Offensive Coordinator at New Berlin West, and I was an Offensive Line Coach and Run Game Coordinator at Sussex Hamilton. At both of my previous stops, the Offensive Line played a critical role in the team's success. It's imperative to have a great internal culture with any Offensive Line at any program.

Core Philosophy - It Starts With Us

The Offensive Line as a position group is asked to do the most - they are 5/11ths of the offense. They are tasked with doing the dirty work that allows their teammates to have success. If one of the five misses an assignment, the play is over before it gets started. So how do you get the offensive linemen to buy in and make them understand "It Starts with Us". The 45-yard pass completion started with us executing our protection. The power run that gained 30 yards started with us all executing our assignments. The group takes ownership of the little things by celebrating these successes and demonstrating importance. The players have the feeling of gratitude that the big play started at the line of scrimmage. It is about "Do and Know Your Job" and "Win your Rep." in micro terms. To help implement this grading players on a weekly basis helps understand the importance of

"Doing Your Job" and "Winning the Rep". I grade my OL in a spreadsheet, which includes the Hudl Clip, Play Call, Responsibility/Technique, W or L, and comment. Each player has access to the spreadsheet and can see what others were graded out as. This instills more importance of doing the little things correctly in front of teammates.

One good example of how this can be built in a short time was last summer when I was privileged to coach in the WFCa All-Star Game. I introduced this culture on the first day, not knowing how it would be received by All-

BC			
4	Red Lion	Seal Hinge	W
19	Black Pitt	Harpoon	W
20	Red Pitt	Seal Hinge	W
21	Teal	Kick out	L
22	Orange	Seal Hinge	W
23	Yellow	Gap Down	W
33	Red Pitt	Seal Hinge	W
34	Red Pitt	Seal Hinge	W
35	Red Denver	Base Block	W
36	Orange	Seal Hinge	W
38	Red Lion	Seal Hinge	W
39	Black Pitt	Harpoon	W
40	Black Pitt	Harpoon	W
41	Blue Protection	Pass Pro	L
42	Teal	Kick out	W
43	Blue Protection	Pass Pro	L

State players in such a short period of time. During our first practice with shells, things were not going well against our defensive line. Max Stuhlmacher from Nicolet High School yelled, "It Starts with Us," gathered the Offensive Line together, and reinforced the philosophy. This wasn't a one-off; it happened for the rest of the week of practice and into the game. It was pretty cool to see how quickly that came into play, and honestly, it felt like a pretty seamless extension of what I've tried to teach in my programs.

Communication

For players to play fast and confident, they need to know what everyone on the line is doing. Each system has its own unique way of identifying the defense, but if you stress communication, players will be more confident in their roles and responsibilities, enabling them to win their one-on-one matchups more consistently. I believe the center is the most important

offensive lineman in terms of communication. I refer to them as the "quarterback of the offensive line." All five of the offensive lineman need to be on the same page and know what the defense is showing.

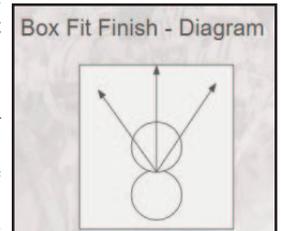
Physicality

Another important aspect is physicality in winning your rep. As high school football coaches, we are often working with offensive lines that aren't always equal to our opponents in regards to talent or size. A way to establish physicality within this unit is by incorporating drills that build toughness without the full-contact

physicality. Players need to learn how to move someone, but in a way that is not physically demanding on the athletes. One drill I implement is the Box-Fit-Finish drill. This drill works on players teaching how to become more physical in a one-on-one setting, without going live.

Box-Fit-Finish:

- WAKE UP — Competition
- Emphasize run demeanor
- Drive opponent out of box — OL is going live
- Get perfect fit — move feet — clap then go
- OL vs. OL — first out of the box wins the rep



Good luck on the upcoming season and if I can ever be of help, feel free to reach out via email at thomas.noennig@nbexcellence.org.

Contact the WFCa office at:

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SPECIAL TEAMS

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2-POINT CONVERSION IN 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL

By: Shawn Oaks, Head Football Coach, Murray High School Murray, IA

This past season I was told of a spectator who asked if it was illegal to kick a PAT after a touchdown in 8-man football. While not every game is totally without a PAT kick, kicking a PAT in 8-man football is not common. On a side note, in case you are wondering, in 6-man football a team earns 2 points for kicking a PAT and earns only 1 point for running/passing the ball on the point after touchdown play. Mastering the art of the dropkick is as important to the 6-man game as the 2-pt conversion is to the 8-man game.

Just how important is the 2-point conversion in 8-man football you might ask? Let's take a quick look at 2 games in recent history. Game 1 is the 2012 semi-final game between Murray and Don Bosco. The score at the end of regulation was 70-70. Both Don Bosco and Murray had scored 9 touchdowns and converted on 8, 2-point conversions (88.9%). Had either team decided to kick all 9 PAT's at a 100% success rate, they would have lost in regulation by 7 points, or one more touchdown and successful PAT kick just to tie. Game 2 is this year's state championship game between champion Newell-Fonda and runner-up, Fremont-Mills. Late in the fourth quarter, F-M scored and easily punched in the 2-PT conversion; but wait, there is a penalty which moves F-M to the 18-yard line to retry the PAT. F-M had a great PAT kicker, but they opt to go for 2 and come up short. Minutes later, in the closing seconds of the game, F-Ms powerful offense is now at N-F's 4-yard line for the final play of the game. They are down by 4 points instead of 2 points. They are just 1 yard farther from the endzone than the normal PAT, but they now must go for the TD to win vs chipping in the field goal. F-M, on the season, had probably kicked as many successful PAT's as any team in 8-man football, perhaps so they could get the chance to successfully make that kick when it counted the most. Either way, the championship game was on the line for both teams on the final snap of the game. During that final and very quick drive, I couldn't help but think back to the earlier PATs in the game. How important were they?

Every coach at every level tries to emphasize the importance of being mentally focused and never taking a play off. When that play is the 2-point conversion, whether your team is on the offensive or defensive side of the ball, everyone had better be mentally prepared to execute to the best of their ability. All too often in

high school athletics one mistake leads to a second; ie. giving up a touchdown and then a mental lapse during the PAT. Even the scoring team may go through the motions as they are still celebrating the TD vs finishing the scoring drive with an exclamation point.

The 8-man game, even though played on a smaller field, still has a lot of opportunity to create situations where the ball carrier is in the open field. It also takes a very disciplined and skilled defender to make the open field tackle, knowing full well that if he doesn't make the tackle, it will be points on the scoreboard. Even the red zone's stigma of not having the space to stretch the defense is truly neutralized.

The 2014 season marked my 27th season of coaching football (12 seasons of 11-man; 2 seasons of 6-man; and 13 seasons of 8-man). I have been fortunate to have coached with, and played for, many great teachers of the sport and have observed the PAT kick vs 2-PT conversion philosophy in action. In 8-man football, there seems to really be only 3 main strategies of thought, in my opinion: Go for 2 every time; kick when you have a good kicker and go for 2 in certain circumstances; or kick when the game will be decided by other factors.

Personally, I prefer the 2-point conversion over the 1-point kick, for several reasons. First, the execution of a good snap, good catch, good hold, good kick, and no missed blocks is quite a feat to accomplish in all weather conditions 100% of the time. Secondly, the amount of practice time it takes to prepare for all of the above (and a fake) takes away from valuable practice time that could be spent working on how to score 6 points, 2 points or preventing 6 points and 2 points. Thirdly, in the 8-player game, you lose 3 blockers and the kicking is generally done at a further distance for that reason. Lastly, most coaches say, "if you can convert on just 50% of the 2-pt conversions you come out the same as kicking at a 100% accuracy.

The second and third strategies of thought among 8-player coaches are very similar. They both choose to work on the snap, catch, hold, kick, blocking, and development of a reliable kicker. When a game will be decided by other factors, sometimes a team will kick to develop the confidence necessary to be successful at another point in the season when they may be in a position to kick a FG. A successful field goal adds 3 points to the scoreboard and it may gain

some momentum. 8-man football teams that have a good kicker have an additional advantage; no kickoffs will get returned for TDs. Kickoffs are likely the second biggest play in an 8-man football game. Again, back to the 2012 semi-final game, Murray returned one of Don Bosco's kickoffs for a TD. There is definitely added value in developing a consistent kicker.

A quick survey sent out to all 8-man football coaches concerning their thoughts on 2-PT conversions netted the following results (40/64 coaches responded).

Answer Choices	Resp. %	# of Resp
100% of the time	43.6	17
75% of the time	17.9	7
50% of the time	5.13	2
25% of the time	23.1	9
Never	2.56	1
Only when ahead/behind by >=2 TDs	5.13	2
Only when ahead/behind by >=3 TDs	2.56	1
Skipped answer	---	1

Answers	Resp. %	# of Resps.
Yes	75%	30
No	22.5 %	9
Skipped answer	2.5 %	1

Predictably, those coaches who responded in the comment section, said their answers to the second question (both 'yes' or 'no') was dependent on the quality of their kicker.

In summary, what advice would I give to a coach new to the 8-man game? Take a serious look at your personnel and the 2-PT conversion from both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. Do you have a kicker? Can he kick it into the endzone consistently? If not, work on that before spending any time kicking a PAT. I know firsthand, the consequences of the sheer number of kickoffs that will be returned for touchdowns in a season will far outweigh even a perfect PAT kicking percentage. If you are fortunate to have a consistent kicker, and you are confident in your offensive and defensive play, begin spend some time working on the aspects of a PAT kick. Next, incorporate it into your games as the circumstances allow. Good Luck!

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ELEVATING SPECIAL TEAM PERFORMANCE

By: Michael Maenner, Assistant Football Coach, Elk Mound High School

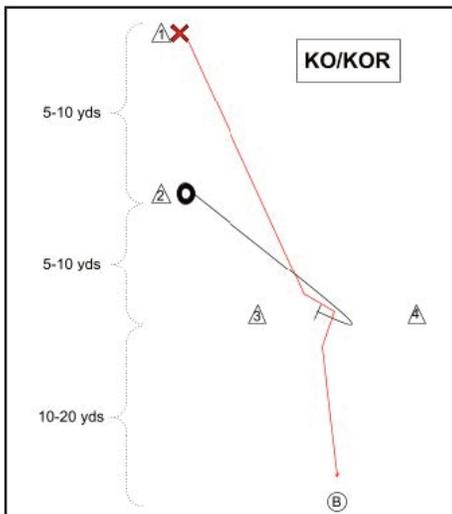


Michael Maenner

Within the not so distant past, the emergence of practice circuits have revolutionized practices, particularly at the small high school level. Tackling, blocking, block destruction, turnover... the list goes on and on. However, one area of football that is often neglected is special teams. Offense wins games and defense wins championships, but an ill prepared special teams unit can lose either for a team. Finding time to incorporate special teams circuits into practices can elevate your team's performance in the final aspect of the game.

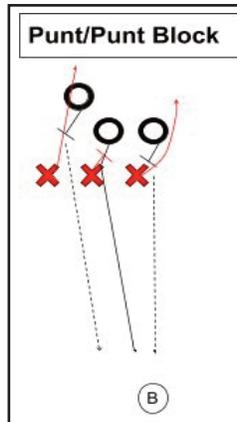
The following are a few of the drills that we have recently integrated into our practices at Elk Mound to improve our special teams play.

1. KO/KOR - For this drill, cones are spaced as directed in the visual. Distances may change depending on the personnel used or the time of season and cones 3 & 4 may be adjusted laterally to change angles. The kick off coverage man (X) starts on cone 1 and his goal is to avoid the KOR blocker (O) while the blocker is trying to stay between the coverage man and the bag (B). The blocker must drop between cones 3 & 4 while the KO man must run between them as well. The blocker's drop will slightly ad-



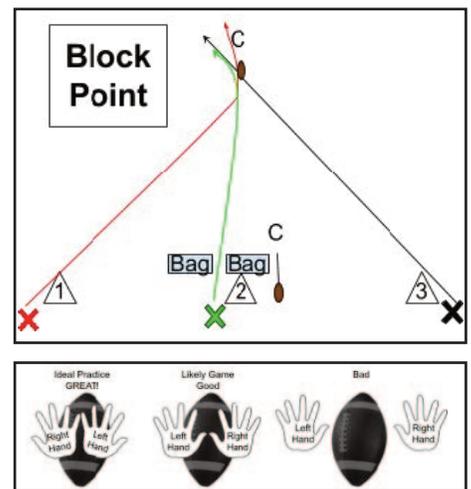
just based on a predetermined direction he must block the man (left in diagram) as well as the path of the man he is to block. For this reason, he MUST drop while keeping his eyes on his man. If he turns his head, he will lose the man and fail. A common mistake athletes make is lunging for a knockout block or turning their hips too early. Blockers need to stay square as long as possible so the coverage man does not know the direction of the return and then strike the coverage man on the breast plate with their hands. This will knock him off his course and then the blocker will turn and run with them. The coverage man needs to rip on the butt-side of the blocker, getting himself into the return action. Do not make a move too early. Once he has ripped butt-side, he needs to stack back on his path, over the top of the blocker so that the blocker has no choice but to either block him in the back, or block nothing at all. The drill finishes when either the bag is knocked down by the coverage man or the blocker stays between the coverage man sufficiently.

2. Punt/Punt Block - The set up for our punt/punt block station would likely change based on your particular punt scheme as well as your weekly scheme based on the opponent. The goals are simple. As a punt unit, we are to block our man/protect our gap and recognize if we have a threat or not. If there is not a threat, get out and cover for a punt. Work any type of move with your hands to defeat the blocker. As a punt block unit, we are either trying to get skinny and get by the blockers to disrupt a punt, or block our man to set up the return. Drill variations can be included by adding twists, changing alignment, or additional athletes to block a punt. Your own rules should be followed by the particular units depending on if you kick-slide, attack a man, protect a gap, etc.



3. Block Point - 3 cones are set up 5 yards apart, but distances can vary. Athletes will start in their particular stance based on their job on the punt block unit. On a coach's movement of a ball, the athlete will rush the punt by getting skinny through the line (bags can be held to force this issue). Then they will take the ball off the other coach's

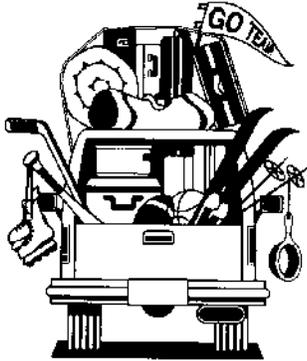
hands (punter) about 2 feet off the ground. This coach is at the block point of your opponent's punter (9-12 yards). Athletes are to have both eyes open and on the ball. Their arms are straight with their pinkies touching. Having their pinkies touch over emphasizes having their hands together so that in a game situation, the ball won't be kicked through spread hands. They should NOT leave their feet or swat at the ball. You may choose to have players cross the punter or to stay on their side depending on your preference. Players will rotate from cone to cone.



One great aspect of these drills is that BOTH sides of the ball are focusing on specific skills to enhance play on either side of the ball. I, for one, cannot stand wasted time, so there are no glorified tackling/blocking dummies on one side of the ball. We pair good against good and have athletes perform a small punishment (5 push ups) if they lose. Another benefit of this drill is that it can take the place of conditioning. In all of these drills, athletes are forced to run to be successful so we are able to kill two birds with one stone. Depending on the number of athletes and coaches, multiple of the same drill can be going at once optimizing time further. For those athletes who may not find themselves on a special teams unit, we may exclude them and have them do more position applicable drills or include them in the circuit. Many of them like the competition and it's fun for them and the team to see them try to "unhitch the trailer" to beat their man.

Finding the time to fit in all components of football in any given practice is tough. Using circuits to maximize efficiency is critical to the success of most small school programs. While most schools utilize offensive and defensive circuits, the addition of only a few special team specific drills could reap benefits for your program.

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DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE PLANNING STRATEGY

By: Mike Gnewuch, Head Football Coach Mukwonago High School



Mike Gnewuch

On behalf of the entire Mukwonago Football Program, I would like to thank the WFCAs for all of the work done in our state to make football the optimal experience for our athletes. I honestly believe that we have the best association in the country.

I want to share with everyone how we go about our defensive planning on a weekly basis. Our coaches shoulder a ton of work, but we expect a great deal from our players as well. Consequently, we have found that with having a system, schedule, and routine, players are able to better grasp the scheme and put themselves in positions to be successful on Friday nights. We use a weekly checklist to ensure that responsibilities

are divided up and we are covering each aspect of the game breakdown and game plan. Each day of the week covers one or more aspects of the game plan and by the time Thursday's practice is concluded, we feel that we have done everything to put our players in a situation to be successful. The checklist that we use has been adapted to suit our needs and structure. Feel free to do the same. I want to give credit where credit is due, but I cannot think of where I acquired it. Regardless, we adapted the checklist from its original form (And I have no idea where I got it originally.).

We try to work ahead as we get deeper into the season, but we technically begin the formal process of game planning on Saturdays, once Friday's game has concluded. By Saturday evening we want all opponent scout film to be broken down. We divide up the film breakdown and collectively work to label personnel, offensive formation, offensive play, backfield set, motion, hash, yard line, play direction, offensive strength, down, & distance. We shoot to have this all labeled by 8:00 pm on Saturday evening. When we come together as a staff to begin developing the game plan. We run the reports on the opponent's offense and begin building our menu for the week. Once the menu has been created, we move to diagramming plays and importing them into our GoRout system. We hope

to have our menu finalized by noon on Sunday to share with the players (We will tweak the menu throughout the week based on film.). The defensive staff then proceeds to plan what the practice week will look like. Our E.D.D.s (every day drills) do not really change throughout the year, but we may implement other drills if film reveals we lack certain skills or if the weekly game plan dictates something a little different or new. At Mukwonago, we are fortunate to have a dedicated technology crew and all the equipment we need. Therefore, almost every aspect of our practice is filmed. We have high pods set up in each end zone, a camera in the press as multiple drones (and operators) filming different drills and angles. Coaches take the time each night to evaluate the film and make any necessary adjustments the following day.

As you can see on the chart, each day of the week has a different emphasis. By the time Thursday's practice is complete, we feel we've covered most aspects of the opponent's offense. As a result of our game planning process, our in-game adjustments have been relatively minimal. Usually we just have to make a slight tweak to wrinkles added by our opponents. I hope this might help anyone looking to streamline and organize their defensive game planning process. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at any time. My email is gnewumi@masd.k12.wi.us

THANK YOU to all who so generously submitted articles for

“The Point After II”

If your article did not appear in this issue, please look in the next one!

Articles may be emailed to the WFCAs office at office@wifca.org, or send paper copy to: WFCAs, PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955. Please include the title of the article, and the name, school and title of the author, along with the author's photograph. Again, our thanks!

RANDOM TOP THREE LISTS

By: Josh Korth Defensive Backs Coach, Mukwonago High School



Josh Korth

Thank you to the WFCA for the opportunity to contribute to the Point After. I've been coaching football at Mukwonago HS since 2006. I feel I haven't had the traditional football coaching path that many have taken with a wealth of playing experiences at the high school and college levels. I only played two years in high school and had visions of one day being a high school basketball coach. When I was asked in the winter of 2006 to be a freshman coach, I had no idea what I was getting into. I had absolutely no clue of coaching football (2is/4is were Greek and Hebrew to me), but have learned a ton over the years having the experience of coaching various positions at all levels while working under three head coaches. 19 years since that winter conversation.....I feel there is nothing that replicates the atmosphere, energy and enthusiasm under the lights on a Friday night. I figured there's enough Xs and Os articles for each issue and my focus are some random top three lists with some of them geared towards the secondary; hopefully you can take a thing or two and apply in some way to make your program better.

Things we do well at Mukwonago

1. Weekly preparation- each position coach on our defensive staff has specific data columns in Hudl that they enter for each opponent on a weekly basis. All data is taken into account when developing our game plan.
2. Hudl Notes- we are very blessed and fortunate to be able to film practice every day. Defensive coaches make notes from various practice segments and share with the players continuously throughout the week. In particular, one thing that I have found useful is making playlists from our practice's 7-v-7 script and adding clips from actual game plays of our opponent. We all know that scout teams (we use our JVs for scout O and D) don't necessarily give a "Friday night" look and the players can get a false sense of success. Adding the game clips gives the

players a better idea of the route concepts/combinations, depth, spacing etc. that the scout team doesn't.

3. GoRout – The 2024 season was our first with GoRouts and it was a game changer (our scout offense were the ones wearing the devices). The days of printing off play cards, stuffing binders, trying to find certain play cards, keeping binders dry during rainy practices etc. are over. Once you get a system on how you want to organize scripts and the players get the hang of things, it is a HUGE time saver throughout the season. I would love to get in touch with others who have utilized them and if your program has any "tricks of the trade."

Things we coach for DBs

1. Eyes, eyes, eyes- this is the first thing we coach and the most important thing on defense, no matter the position. What is your key and where are your eyes? Those questions are asked constantly. Obviously eyes change at level 3 depending upon man-zone coverage.
2. Communication/formation rec./coverage – these three are all connected. Our safeties need to recognize the formation since they are in the MOF. Formation rec should trigger the coverage call based upon game plan, which needs to be communicated (both verbally and hand signals) and echoed across the field.
3. Footwork- there are an abundance of footwork drills, depending on the specific technique and coverage, that are drilled in indy both against air and specific route combinations.

Resources for DBs

1. Chad Wilson (@dbtips101 on X)- he has authored "101 DB Tips" and hosts a sometimes weekly podcast (Indy Drills Podcast) in addition to having many videos available on both X, Instagram and YouTube.
2. Cody Alexander (@The_Coach_A on X)- he's written a number of books (MatchQuarters, Breaking Down Your Offensive opponent to name a couple) and is very active breaking defensive things down on X with accompanying video clips.
3. Dan McKeown (@McKeownDB on X)- he was most recently the defensive coordinator at Western Illinois. He has shared a lot of his resources via X and is an innovative speaker when it comes to some footwork techniques.

Things I've learned/advice

1. Be a sponge – this is probably more for younger coaches, but attend meetings, ask questions, take notes and watch how other

coaches conduct themselves. You can learn both good and bad; I've learned a number of things to NOT do from fellow coaches, but at the end of the day come prepared and be willing to WORK.

2. Playing time – this is specific to the frosh and JV levels and obviously depends on your program's philosophy. We have intentions of getting all players on the field each game for our lower level teams and also making it meaningful playing time. This doesn't happen 100% of the time (but is pretty close) and my advice is to not wait until the second half or 4th quarter, use the first half to get guys in so you don't have to worry about it in the second half. It takes a little extra time, organization and communication with all the coaches, but pays dividends down the road. Varsity coaches want players at the lower levels to continue to play their junior and senior years; getting on the field as a freshman and sophomore plays a vital role in that.
3. Coaching technique/points – you can't get upset at players for doing things incorrectly that haven't been coached or repped (ex. finding the ball in man coverage...how many ball drills have been done practice?). Next time you're ready to jump a player for a mistake, think about whether or not it's been coached and the player has had the opportunities to rep it.

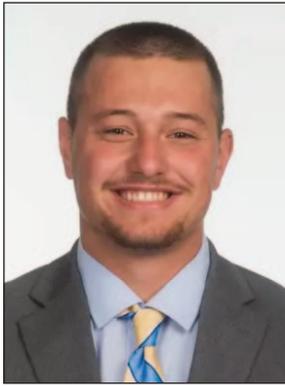
QUOTES

1. "You permit it, you promote it" - Are guys permitted to show up late for practice without consequence? If you permit this, then you're promoting it. Whatever team "rules" you establish and how things are enforced or not enforced will determine what your true culture is.
2. "Get comfortable being uncomfortable" / "Handle Hard Better"- Both of these are saying the same thing. There's a great video clip online of Kara Lawson (Duke women's basketball coach) addressing her team on handling hard better; well worth the three minute watch.
3. "Control what you can control"- we waste a lot of time and energy worrying about things that we have no control over. This is very similar to the E+R=O mindset; Events happen (we can't control), how we Respond (this we do control) determines the Outcome; is it going to be positive or negative?

Once again, thank you to the WFCA for allowing me to share some of my thoughts and more so for putting together this publication. If you have any questions for me about this, feel free to reach out at korthjo@masd.k12.wi.us.

DEFENSIVE GAME PLANNING EFFICIENCY

By: Carter Grant, Defensive Assistant, Grafton Football



Carter Grant

One thing I know all coaches struggle with is balancing the preparation, implementation, and communication of your game plan with your players within a limited amount of time. This challenge is particularly evident at the high school level, as athletes face numerous outside factors beyond football, such as assignments, tests, homework, relationships, family events, and even jobs. However, this dilemma is not exclusive to players; high school coaches also have responsibilities outside of football. So, the question becomes: how can we maximize our efforts in game planning with limited time? There are four key factors that I live by when game planning for an opponent.

EVALUATING FILM:

What to Look For, What Not to Look For

The biggest mistake I see coaches make when evaluating opponents' film is getting overwhelmed by the abundance of information at our fingertips. There are five key factors I specifically evaluate and look for when watching film: formation, down and distance, run/pass percentage vs. down and distance, motions, and game-changing players. All of these boil down to two key questions: What is the rhyme or reason behind why coaches are scheming, calling, and executing certain plays, and when are they running them? This is what you build your whole game plan on. If you evaluate film with the conscious thought that every

piece of a play call has a reason, it becomes easier to understand how your opponent wants to manipulate the defense. On any given play, I ask myself, "How would this formation give the other team an advantage in the box or on the outside against our defense?" "How does this motion manipulate the rotations of our secondary, the stems of the D-line, backer bumps, etc.?" and "What are their tendencies

in each situation?" It is also important to note any game-changing players that their team will rely on frequently or in tough situations.

You Can't Out-Scheme Everything, But you can Stop the Bread and Butter

Now that we have compiled all of this data, how do we use it? Another big mistake that I see many coaches making is trying to out-scheme everything your opponent does. We've already established that high school players do not have the time to learn and execute an extensive game plan. As a staff, we've boiled it down to stopping the opponent's top 10-12 run or pass schemes. Obviously, this is relevant to the opponent you're facing. If it is a double-wing, run-heavy team, stopping the top 6-8 run schemes will be more important than focusing your energy on stopping their pass schemes (although you shouldn't overlook their pass game). However, as teams become more multiple in their offensive packages and schemes, we've boiled it down to stopping their 10-12 best/most frequent run or pass schemes and built in coaching adjustments for the rest. Some coaches might say, "What if they start using their less frequently shown schemes?" To that, I say you have done your job up to that point. If you get into a game and your opponent starts delving deeper into their playbook because their "bread and butter" is being taken away, I would argue you have already won the game up to that point. We have to understand that just like your team, your opponent's team is also facing limited time to game plan. When looking at the bigger picture, you're forcing your opponent to execute schemes that they have not spent their bulk of their time on efficiently. The last part of this is the coaching adjustments. Great, you have won

your first battle by taking away their bread and butter; now your next battle is to make small, efficient adjustments based on what you're seeing on the field. It is crucial that these adjustments are not something your players are encountering for the first time. It is unfair to ask your players to execute something they have not discussed or practiced before the game. At the end of the day, we want our players reading and reacting as quickly as possible.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Avoid Overloading Your Players with Information

At times, I have felt the need to over-explain or overload our players with information. This can lead to players overthinking situations and reacting slower in key moments or plays. For most high school football players, they will only need the smallest amount of information you can provide to be successful on the field. This may include coverage checks, blitz checks, line movement, etc. Cutting down the amount of information given to your players is key to facilitating fast decisions on the field. Some of your more advanced players may be able to handle more information. In these situations, it is okay to provide them with additional details and explain the reasoning behind the decisions being made.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:

The Hay is in the Barn

However your team organizes practice, you must pick a definitive point in the week where you say, "The hay is in the barn." This means that you should not be adding last-minute adjustments to your game plans if your players don't have the opportunity to practice or walk through them. This ties back to the overload of information. If a player receives information too late in the week, without seeing it live or in a walk-through, how can we expect them to execute the game plan effectively? Wherever that point may be for you and your team, you must decide when the hay is in the barn and recognize that you have done everything you can to prepare your players for the battle on the field.



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GENERAL FOOTBALL

A NEW ERA FOR WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WHY THE FOOTBALL MATRIX IS A GAME CHANGER

By: Brian Zacho, District Administrator, Randolph High School



Brian Zacho

I want to thank Kevin Wopat for the opportunity to write an article again for the Point After and Wisconsin Football. I know over the years so many great coaches have shared ideas and thoughts that I have taken to help shape my leadership career, and giving my perspective on the new football change is the least that I could do.

As a former small high school football coach in Wisconsin, now an athletic director, principal, and superintendent serving on the WIAA advisory council, I have seen firsthand the challenges our schools face in providing fair competition each fall. One of the biggest frustrations has been the uncertainty surrounding playoff qualifications and seeding. This upcoming year, the collaboration between the WIAA and the WFCFA to implement the Football Matrix marks a significant step forward in addressing these concerns, ensuring a more equitable postseason structure for all teams across all divisions, with a level of transparency never seen before in our state.

The Football Matrix is designed to eliminate subjectivity and inconsistencies from the playoff qualification and seeding process. Through extensive surveys, the WFCFA gathered 400 responses from head football coaches, with an overwhelming 87.5% (350 coaches) supporting the changes. Athletic directors and administrators across the state have also been actively involved in the process, reinforcing strong statewide support.

Key Improvements with the Football Matrix:

- **Division Placement Clarity** – Seven divisions will be set before each season based on enrollment, ensuring fair competition. Each division will include 52 schools, with the top 32 teams qualifying for the playoffs.

- **Objective Ranking System** – A points-based system rewards wins based on the strength of opponents, eliminating bias. Just last year, there were widespread complaints about seeding decisions and travel assignments. This system removes those uncertainties and ensures fairness.
- **Consistent Playoff Qualification** – The top 32 teams in each division will earn postseason spots based on their rankings, providing clear and predictable expectations.
- **Geographic Seeding & Travel Considerations** – Teams will be assigned to one of four regions (A, B, C, D) to minimize travel burdens while ensuring balanced statewide representation.
- **Checks & Balances** – The Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCFA) will run a parallel, unofficial system to validate accuracy and maintain trust in the process. The WIAA will also publish weekly prospective rankings, ensuring transparency and eliminating surprises.

Addressing Key Concerns

Some may argue that football should follow the same playoff structure as other sports, but its unique nature makes a specialized system necessary. Unlike other high school sports, football teams must qualify for postseason play, are limited in the number of games they can play each week, and previously lacked clarity regarding their division

before the season began. The Football Matrix addresses these issues while maintaining the competitive integrity we all want.

Travel is another concern, but data from the 2024 pilot showed only a 6% average increase in mileage while significantly improving competitive balance. Additionally, the matrix provided better geographic representation in six of the eight brackets compared to past WIAA methods. While long-distance travel cannot be entirely eliminated in some divisions, the improvements in fairness far outweigh the drawbacks. Having participated in these advisory discussions, I can confidently say that those closest to Wisconsin high school football recognized the need for a better system. Moving into this new era, I believe the tradeoff of slightly increased travel for greater playoff clarity is a fair one.

The Advisory Council Perspective

As a member of the advisory council, I saw firsthand the frustration surrounding last year's flawed seeding process, particularly in 8-player

football, where only 16 teams could qualify for the playoffs, leaving many deserving programs without an opportunity to compete for a championship. By my second meeting, after listening to countless concerns about the old system, it was inspiring to see the WFCFA step up with real solutions. Their proactive approach highlights the strength of collaboration between coaches, administrators, and the WIAA in improving football for everyone in Wisconsin.

A Proven Model for Success

The Football Matrix is modeled after Ohio's proven system, which has successfully guided their high school football playoffs for over 30 years. This streamlined, fully computerized approach ensures real-time playoff selection on the final Friday of the regular season, eliminating the delays and inconsistencies that previously plagued the process. It also removes human bias, a major frustration for many coaches and administrators last fall.

A Step Forward for All Teams

This system isn't just about benefiting top football programs—it provides all teams with a clear understanding of what they need to do to earn a playoff spot and compete for a state title. The Football Matrix brings clarity, fairness, and structure, giving every team a legitimate opportunity to reach Madison for a championship.

As someone who has spent years on the sidelines and in administrative roles—including serving as a former WFCFA board member—I firmly believe this change is a win for Wisconsin high school football. I am proud of my time as a football coach, a WFCFA member, and now, as a superintendent on the WIAA advisory board, helping to improve Wisconsin football and its storied history!

“Football, like life is about change.”

-- Hank Stram

COMBINING SPEED & AGILITY TRAINING IN THE WEIGHT ROOM

By: Drew Morris, Assistant Football Coach, Greenfield High School



Drew Morris

As coaches, we all want to help our athletes reach their highest potential. At Greenfield High School, I would best describe our program as Tier System meets Feeds the Cats in a structured, year-round approach. We aim to expose our athletes to speed, strength, power, and agility on a three day system. The goal is to create the right combination of speed/agility with the correct exercises in the weight room to create a well-rounded athlete. Important to note that none of what happens below is possible without a very supportive administration and coaches that encourage their athletes to train! In the past three years we have been able to add Teambuildr, Just Jump Mats, Dashr Timing Gates, Perch, and a brand new 15 rack weight room!

Our sessions start with some sort of mobility work leading into a dynamic warm-up. Our warm-up does change some daily depending on what our “field” work is for that day. If the goal of that day is max velocity, then our warm-up includes a lot of drill work correlating to max velocity. The same would apply if our main goal

is acceleration or agility. Once our warm-up is complete, sometimes we have more technique work that doesn’t work in our warm-up lines, or we get straight into our application. One of the things we always try to ensure is that this speed or agility work is done prior to going into the weight room as we want our athletes to be the most fresh doing this!

Session #1 – for us is Max Velocity Acceleration followed by a total body lift in the weight room. This day is kind of unique for us in that we have a dual focus before going to the weight room. I like to expose our offseason athletes to max velocity twice a week so we will tailor our warm-up towards acceleration on this day, but after we hit two Flying 10’s (30 yard lead in) the rest of our day is focused on acceleration work. Once we transition to the weight room, our focus is horizontal plyos (think early accel) and core lifts that force the athletes to accelerate the bar. For those core lifts, we typically have power cleans (or derivative) and pause box squats or pin squats. Our assistance work for that day is then usually more upper body focused.

Session #2 – of the week is agility paired with an upper body emphasis in the weight room. Athletes’ legs are typically a little tired from the day before so we use low dosage agility training here. Even offseason athletes are busy year round with all of the travel and club sports they are involved in. The warm-up on this day is all about agility technique, really focusing on proper foot placement, and body angles. We then will complete low intensity lateral plyos, a planned change of direction drill, and a reactionary change of direction drill. In the weight room, our core lift of the day is bench press (or variation). We will pair

this with upper body plyos such as MB slams or throws. Our assistance work is lower body focused on this day.

Session #3 – for the week is our 2nd exposure to max velocity with Flying 10’s (30 yard lead in) and then lower body emphasis in the weight room. Again, our warm-up is more tailored to drills that translate to max velocity sprinting. Once in the weight room, this is our big squat day! We will go heavy in some squat variation paired with a vertical emphasis plyometric. Then we finish the week with speed bench. Our Assistance work is usually a combination of both upper and lower this day.

The program I described above is what we run for our offseason athletes after-school. It is usually about an hour and fifteen minutes on Monday’s, Tuesday’s, and Thursday’s. Perch, which was mentioned in the opening paragraph, is new to our weight room this year and the VBT aspect has completely changed the dynamic of the room. It ensures we are hitting the desired target speeds in lifting to pair with what we did beforehand. Perch has also taken the competition aspect of our room through the roof! I also teach Strength & Conditioning classes during the school day as well. These classes run a modified version of the program described above as we get about 48 minutes of work time for class 3-4 times a week. Our in-season athletes lift twice a week after school as well, but again, we modify the program to fit only two days and to fit their specific needs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article! We have found what has worked well for us based on our logistics, but everybody is different. I hope you were able to gain at least one thing from the information provided. If you ever have any questions or just want to talk shop, please reach out!

SIMPLE MEASURES

By: Adam Reed, Editor and Sports Contributor, AFCA Magazine

When it comes to getting better in the offseason, many coaches look at their strength and conditioning program as the best place to start. Putting in the work in the weight room has long been the centerpiece of a successful journey from the end of one season to the beginning of the next.

A bevy of distractions can and will detract from getting bigger, faster and stronger during the offseason, and seemingly innumerable options exist for coaches to try and raise the bar. With all the competing ideas surrounding how to run an offseason program “the right way,” how do coaches know if what they’re doing in the weight room is really what’s best for the players?

Bryan Kegans, strength and conditioning coach and the director of sports science at the University of Oklahoma, can relate to the strug-

gles of coaches trying to get the most out of every single player, while at the same time managing the needs of the team as a whole. Kegans is blessed with a lot of resources at his level of the game, but even FBS staffs find their hands full with so many different body types, injury histories and individual needs.

His advice? “It doesn’t have to be complicated.” “The simpler the better,” Kegans says. “My background is working at the high school level, and I understand the challenges of a tight budget and having no money, but you can have all the money in the world and spend it on technology and go nowhere with it.”

The staff at Oklahoma has adopted a myriad of different ways of tracking their athletes during the offseason, including GPS monitoring, heart—rate monitoring and force plate testing,

but the technology itself doesn’t drive the measurements the staff use to help their athletes, but rather the needs of their athletes drive the use of the technology. The staff prioritizes understanding what’s going on with each player, and then looks to provide more individualized attention as needed.

This sounds like a simple concept, but Kegans says there can be a tendency to over-complicate the process and fall in love with measuring and tracking everything. He advises coaches to avoid that trap and look to start with the most simple measures possible, with the goal of better understanding the players, and then adjusting programming accordingly.

Most coaches who want to get better insight into the load they are placing on their players will start with heart-rate monitoring, which pays

dividends without requiring a ton of extra work. But for Kegans, surveying athletes represents the absolute simplest step a strength and conditioning coach can take that doesn't require technology, and yet it provides meaningful insight into trends surrounding the effectiveness of the weight-room programming, how players are recovering, how they are eating and their individual perceptions about their own personal performance.

"The easiest place to start is to pick up some heart-rate monitors and track that and looking at the physiological load you put on your players on a day-to-day basis," Kegans says. "But if you can't afford heart-rate monitors or GPS tracking, monitor their rate of perceived exertion by sending out charts.

"If you have a hundred players fill out a survey, it's hard for players to get together and say, 'Everybody say you're really tired so coach will take it easy on us.' It gives you meaningful trends that you can look at, and players tend to tell the truth when they trust that coaches have their best interests at heart."

Surveying athletes may seem overly simplistic or lacking in value to some, but surveys provide a simple tool that, while it may not provide hard individual data, does accurately help to establish trends that coaches can use for the team as a whole. If budget is an issue, asking every player regularly about how they are feeling and what their recovery habits are should be a bare minimum for informing offseason training. It demonstrates care and sends the message that while everyone on the team wants to win, winning does not come before the safety and well-being of everyone on the team.

"Our number one job is to make sure that our players are ready to play," Kegans says. "Athletes and coaches eat from the same dinner table."

Balancing Improving Performance With Injury Prevention

Beyond the first steps that Kegans recommends, he also advocates for keeping things simple even when coaches start to incorporate more sophisticated means of measuring their players' load and performance.

One of the primary ways the Oklahoma strength and conditioning staff accomplishes

this centers on their use of force plate monitoring. Using an increasingly popular platform called Sparta Science, Kegans scans the team once a week.

Each individual scan takes about a minute, but the insight from each scan provides a wealth of actionable data to the Oklahoma staff, while at the same time enabling them to keep their adjustments to training simple.

Using force plate technology gives a better understanding of how players are performing in three primary metrics: First, the load metric shows how much force players are generating as they drive down into the plate and "load up" to jump. Next, the explode metric measures the explosion on the upward motion as players begin the initial movement of launching themselves off the plate. Lastly, the drive metric measures how long players can continue to push into the plate before their feet actually go airborne.

The goal is for the players to be well-balanced in all three of these phases. Whenever imbalance exists, the risk of injury goes up.

"We look at imbalances, not only individually, but as a whole," Kegans says. "We look for imbalances that are a trend as a team, and the things we can address as a group in our team workouts, and then we also individualize based off their jump scores, which helps not only with performance but also with injury prevention.

"Most football players are quad-dominant or what we call "anterior dominant. They use their quadriceps to do quick, explosive actions. So, a lot of times you'll see football players who do well with load, a wider range on explode, and lower drive numbers."

As an example of how this informs Oklahoma's programming, Kegans explains how they will focus more on single-leg work like single leg squats or single-leg Romanian deadlifts, for those who are struggling with drive phase. Armed with just one minute of data gathering per week can make all the difference between a player focusing on the exercises that will help them avoid an injury and the catastrophic results of a severe imbalance.

Adding force plate software to a football program may sound like a real chore, but again,

the simplicity of the process remains the key. Players come in, they stand on the plate, they execute a few jumps, and coaches are immediately able to recognize negative trends affecting both athletic performance and injury risk — it doesn't get much simpler than that.

With every metric that the staff at Oklahoma collects, an effort is made to streamline everything so it can be put to immediate use. If there's no way of simply putting the metrics the program is tracking into action, why track them?

When it really comes down to it, every football coach wants to get the most out of their players. At Oklahoma, they use camp as their opportunity to put the team to the test and find out what they are made of

"Our main philosophy is this: A football player is not going to go through anything harder than going through football camp," Kegans explains. "No practice or game will touch what you're doing in a football camp practice."

Many programs share this philosophy with Oklahoma, but haven't taken the steps the Oklahoma staff has to execute this philosophy in a safe manner. Putting players to the test in the offseason so they can excel when it matters most is admirable but losing players to injury because of ignorance is unacceptable.

Running an effective offseason strength and conditioning program requires coaches to know how hard they can push their players. With that, coaches need to accept the reality that this also means they need to arm themselves with more than gut instinct about where that line is.

"Catastrophic things can happen in college athletics," Kegans says. "We all need to be protecting the players and ourselves by making sure we are doing what's right. Do we want to take them to the edge [of their physical limits]? Absolutely. We want them to get better, and to do that, we have to push them. But we also have to do everything in our power to make sure we aren't pushing anybody over the edge."

Thank you to the AFCA for the expressed permission to republish this article which originally appeared in the March/April 2020 issue of the AFCA Magazine.

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TEACH BEFORE YOU YELL!

By: Jay Mau, Freshman/Quarterbacks Coach, Oconomowoc High School



Jay Mau

The Great Bobby Bowden was quoted saying “Teach before you yell”. If a young football player doesn’t know what to do the worst thing you can do is yell at them. This was discussed a few years ago before we started our first season

coaching Freshmen football at Oconomowoc HS. We all agreed it was about teaching at this level, more so than coaching.

At the Freshmen level we see a lot of brains slowing players down more than their athletic ability. It is fun to watch the light bulbs go on once they understand “why” we are doing something. The ones who understand football always play faster with more aggression. With that said we try and slow things down for them and really emphasize teaching.

For example with our offensive group on Monday’s we will set up garbage can’s simulating that week’s opponents defensive front. We will slow it down and explain it to them like they are 5 years old. We go very slow and walk through our base plays vs the defense we will be seeing that week. We make sure everyone knows exactly where to go and how to handle blitzes or wrinkles in the defense. There is an open dialogue between the players and coaches

to the point they know what to expect come game time. Because of this teaching session the players have a much better understanding of the “why” behind the drills we do the rest of the week therefore leading them to do them with more purpose and intention.

Come game day we continue with the teaching theme. We get their feedback after a series and confirm what the other team is doing (we don’t utilize HUDL sideline for Freshmen games). We use their feedback to make adjustments at half time which not only gives them a sense of empowerment but helps them understand.

Our ultimate goal is to get the boys ready to play on Friday nights. The game slows down when you know what is going on. Understanding the why at a young age helps them navigate their football life and gives them purpose as they get ready for what is about to come.

MAKE YOUR PROGRAM A FOOTBALL FAMILY

By: Derek Sweger, Assistant Football Coach, McFarland, High School



Derek Sweger

“If your child is only a better blocker, tackler, or runner after four years in our program, then I have not done my job as head coach.” For all eight years of being the head coach for Deerfield High School football, this is how I’ve kicked off my annual pre-season parent meeting. Our goal in Deerfield is to use football to make our players better future parents, spouses, and pillars of their community. We have many ways we look to do this, but over the last few years we have expanded our focus to really include the families of our players and our community. One way we have done this is by having an annual awareness game. This is my favorite thing we do in our program and it’s not close. We want our players to see what is happening outside the four walls of our small town and that just because you don’t see people struggling, you can’t assume that they aren’t. For our awareness game, we partner with a non-profit organization. In past years we have worked with

Wisconsin Childhood Cancer Network, Lupus Foundation of America-Wisconsin chapter, Hunter’s Disease Society of America-Wisconsin chapter among others. After Wednesday practice during the week of the game, the foundation provides someone from the organization to come and talk to our kids about what their foundation does, how it helps, etc. They also provide a family who has benefited from their services and/or has been affected by our cause. The family talks about their adversity, how the foundation has helped them, and some from behind the scenes about how it affects their family. This is always a heavy hitting moment for our kids and coaches and drives home how beneficial these programs are and what people in our own community are going through right in front of us. These families are our captains for the week. They accompany our captains for the coin toss, break the banner we run through onto the field, and receive pregame acknowledgment. For the game itself, we have t-shirts made and generously given to us at cost with all proceeds going to the cause. We run a 50/50 raffle for the cause during the game and a donation station for those who want to contribute. Our administration has also graciously donated 50% of the gate to the cause as well. I am very proud that in our awareness games we have raised and donated over \$15,000 to different charities. I cannot stress enough how beneficial this game is for our program goals and exposing our players to serving the needs of others.

We strive for a true football family in Deerfield. While our awareness game brings our community into the fold, we wanted to increase the family aspect. With that in mind we started a Mother/Female figure/Son breakfast. Satur-

day morning after the first game we have all Mom’s and players in to school for a catered breakfast from the program. There are many bleary eyed teenagers, even at 9am, but the mothers are always brimming with excitement. We tell the players to turn their phones over and make sure they are talking with their Moms. There are seemingly thousands of pictures taken but many smiles and a big group photo at the end. Many mothers have shared it is their favorite day of the season and social media is filled with happy posts and photos.

Similarly, we have a Father/Male figure/Son dinner during the season as well. In place of a weekly team dinner on Thursday, we have a meal catered in and invite the Dad’s of our players to join us. They take part in all of our awards for the week and helmet stickers. They are also invited onto the field pregame to join the tunnel that our kids run out of, which is a big hit with the Dads as they get to relieve some of their gridiron feelings of anticipation on the field. Oddly enough though, we take a lot less pictures during Father/Son dinner!

These meals and experiences have gone a long way toward creating stronger bonds with our families and communities. They feel more involved and have a place in our football program of more than just a taxi driver, checkbook, or fan in the stands on Friday nights. If you have any questions on how we’ve implemented these ideas, don’t hesitate to reach out to me at dereksweger@gmail.com. We’ve got an amazing platform to influence young people, don’t lose sight that the scoreboard matters a lot, but how we shape our players off the field will always matter more! Best of luck this season.

RETIREMENT?

By: Steve Lyga, Retired Head Football Coach, Cochrane-Fountain City High School



Steve Lyga

After 36 years, I retired from football coaching after the 2018 season. I had aspirations of traveling around the state to see various coaches that I have and admired and even worked with in three All-Star games. My plan was to see a different program each Friday evening. That retirement was short lived, to say the least. My retirement actually changed the week before the 2019 season started. I was contacted by an athletic director in dire need of a head football coach. The school's head football coach had quit one week prior to the season starting. I turned the head coaching position down twice. The A.D. stated that he would become a head football coach again if I would come up and teach him and the kids my spread offense. I fi-

nally broke down and committed to coaching (one to two days per week because I teach at a different school approximately 1 hour and twenty minutes away). I came back into coaching on the Saturday evening before the season started. I have to say, it was quite the "re-charging" experience!

New Challenge

Lincoln football was a traditionally weak program, but these young men seemed hungry. The young athletes were excited to learn a new offensive scheme and also be brought together by the brotherhood that we call football. The kids needed a change. The students needed a new challenge. The quarterback was playing the position for the first time in his life. He was a junior. He grew as a passer and an athlete every day, finishing the season with 38 touchdown passes. There were a couple of special athletes that surrounded him as well. Lincoln's slot receiver had 18 receiving touchdowns on the season. As the weeks moved along, new players joined the squad. These new athletes just wanted to be part of the changing program. The student-athletes were emotionally tied together like links in a chain (and they had the links to prove they belonged)!

Transitions

Moving forward from an 11-player alignment to an eight man was intriguing. I enjoyed the challenge of reducing the number of offensive and defensive squad members to fit what I

had been doing for years. Scheming, for an old football coach, is in the blood. Restructuring a playbook into an 8-player format brought back an excitement for learning. Watching film from successful programs in other states inspired new ways to do things.

It was a little tough to get used to the athletes wearing numbers that I wasn't accustomed to. Linemen wore running back and receiver numbers customarily worn by quarterbacks and receivers. Quarterbacks and running backs wore what I learned to be lineman numbers. By rule, there has to be five players on the line of scrimmage, so an "unbalanced" look placed linemen on the end of the LOS, making them eligible to receive a pass, even with those odd numbers. Other squads used this formation. I'll admit that I wasn't quite up to speed on this formation. All of us can learn new things.

Conclusion

I believe that there will be a lot more programs in the state of Wisconsin that will be playing 8-player football in the very near future. Should a person find themselves in position to help out or even coach 8-player football, be ready to be reinvigorated in the game of football again. There are a lot of young men who would not have the opportunity to play competitive football without this reduced-player game. The student-athletes need great leadership. This leader might just be you. Take a chance! Stay in the game! Be an inspiration to a young athlete who needs your experience and mentorship.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN MY FIRST YEAR

By: Jack Drake, Assistant Football Coach, Luck High School



Jack Drake

I would like to thank the WFCAs for the opportunity to add something to our organization by writing this article. I am very appreciative of this organization for all that it does for its athletes and coaches. The WFCAs is a world-class organization and one that I am extremely proud to be a part of.

First year coaching high school has been a whirlwind of emotions; being on the other side

of football, and being able to share my experiences and knowledge that I have taken from my college and high school coaches and passing it onto our athletes here at Luck High School is surreal. Stepping into our program I was asked to take the lead on our speed and agility program. The focus of our program is developing and honing our change of direction using a variety of movement patterns. We do this through a variety of 6-cone pattern drills, where the athletes are forced to transition from shuffling, sprinting, backpedal, and side run. As I'm sure you all know any letter of the alphabet works. Ts, Rs, Ws...

Another drill we have been using to help our athletes to incorporate game-like situations during drills is sprints out of different stances. Some of the different stances have been push up, lunge, 3-point, and "normal" sprinter stance; we will also start on our stomachs and backs, heads forward or back, and open up over our left or right shoulder. We tell our athletes that no matter how much we prepare you will be out of position during the course of the game. We know this happens with even the best of athletes and we are preparing so that when we respond

to the in-game situations and setbacks it is second nature..

The last thing we are encouraging our athletes to do is to participate in other athletics. It is our goal to have 100% of our athletes be two sport athletes in the school and 75% be three sport athletes. We know that all other sports will help with our players' overall athleticism in our off-season which will only help us on the football field, as well as train for football as well. During the off-season our "skill position" athletes will get into the gym once a week to keep their football mechanics sharp. These sessions do wonders for our leaders, as they give them the opportunity to use those leadership skills. The added bonus is that we are able to work on throwing, catching and rout running in a low stress environment. It also allows us to help maintain some of the knowledge they gained during the season so when the season comes around they are not starting from scratch. Any added "football" drill that can be done outside of the season should only help the team in the fall, and by only asking for one morning a week outside of season, we should be able to avoid the dreaded burnout.



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Today, most Coaches are involved in some type of sports camp. Please note that our General Liability Program follows insured members while working at camps and/or conducting their own personal camp.

In addition, Participant/Accident Coverage is required for coaches and/or participants. Should an accident occur during a camp, clinic or event, this secondary coverage helps offset the loss suffered by families affected by such accidents.

PROCEDURE FOR CAMP INSURANCE

As a member benefit of your state coaches association, all members in good standing have a \$1,000,000 per occurrence General Liability policy limit that provides coverage for their coaching activities. In order to protect the General Liability policy from potential claims, the insurance company has mandated that all coaches must obtain signed waivers and provide Participant/Accident insurance for their participants.

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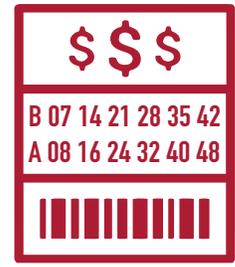
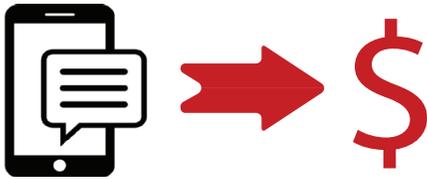
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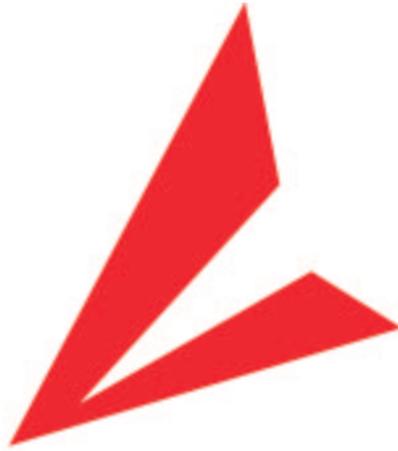
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