



# THE YARDMARKER



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We are now two weeks into the season and in great position in the league standings. Varsity and Junior Varsity both won over the weekend, improving their record's to 2-0.

The Freshman team lost a heartbreaker to River Rouge on Saturday. They have had two very tough games. Please, don't be discouraged, boys, you are on the right track. Remember there are 28 first year players on our Freshman squad. You are only going to get better as the year progresses. I still expect good things from our Freshman squad.

A special congratulations to the Varsity squad. Last year River Rouge embarrassed us on their field. This year you returned the favor and you did it with class. I am proud of you. You are off to a great start. Keep it up.

Junior Varsity continues to roll over their opponents. I know the coaching staff is working hard. The new offense seems to be getting better each week.

Once again our cheerleaders outperformed the other team...it wasn't even close.

This week we host Dearborn Blue. Remember NOBODY comes into our house and pushes us around.

Please make sure you contact Char Haener to fulfill your mandatory volunteer commitments.

**George Mrla**  
President, Grosse Ile Junior Devils Football



## FOOTBALL & CHEER AWARDS BANQUET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

CRYSTAL GARDENS

PLAYERS & CHEERLEADERS ATTEND FREE!

TICKETS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS ARE ON SALE NOW FOR \$20.00

SEE DEAN HIGDON FOR TICKETS. EMAIL AT HIGDON6@CAVTEL.NET

“The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.”

-Joe Paterno

## VARSITY FOOTBALL

We put another victory in the books for the Varsity Junior Devils on Saturday with a 20-13 win over the River Rouge Panthers. Our team fought hard and displayed great effort right from the start on offense as we drove down the field for two Joe Vollmerhausen touchdown runs. Our O-line knew we would be running right up the middle at Rouge and they did the job. Brendan O'Neill took over the center duties as a starter for the first time and had a great game. With 12 seconds to go before halftime, Andrew Mitroka hit Joe Vollmerhausen on a Post route for a 50yd TD pass. We turned to our defense in the second half and, despite some great pass receiving by Rouge, the team held on for the victory.

This week we come home to take on a very good Dearborn Blue team. The coaches and I know what we have to do to prepare this team and will be working them hard to do it.

A huge THANK YOU to our Varsity Cheer Squad and coaches. You're doing an excellent job keeping the team and the crowd PUMPED UP! Parents, thank you for your support and, although you were cheering loud last Saturday, I know you can do better!

Fire-up Big Red!

**Coach Woods**

THANK  
YOU

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## YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

Our fundraiser was a big success! We were able to sell over \$21,000 in candles. Congratulations to our top sellers:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Brandon Moskall
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jeremy McManus
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Neil Smorch

Thank you to all who participated!

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We're on the  
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## JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

It was a strong start for the Grosse Ile Red Devil Junior Varsity team on Saturday. We were able to score three times in the first half and took a 22-0 lead in at halftime. The offense played very well. Coach Simone knew we had to establish the middle of the field to be successful and we were able to do that from the start. Neil Smorch broke a 60 yard run early in the first quarter and this set up the first touchdown for Hunter Johns. He executed his role to perfection on the half back direct snap. Zach Townley, Marc Vega, Loren Sauve and Andrew Vollmerhausen led the way. Tim Beach scored the 2<sup>nd</sup> touchdown on a reverse. Smorch showed what a versatile player he is by throwing the block that gave Tim the corner. Hunter John's finished the scoring on another direct snap. He has really done a good job of running the ball between the tackles and getting the tough yards. Christian Short, Hunter Suave and Justin Moores opened the hole and he scooted for a 30 yard touchdown.

Our kicking game is the best in the league. Tim Beach converted two of the three extra points. This is huge for our team. Any team that can not kick will actually be down two scores due to our ability to execute the two point conversion. Zach Townley has not missed a snap and Smorch has been consistent on the hold. This is very advanced for players in this age group.

The defense played very well. Coach Nitzkorski preached containment all week and that is exactly what we did through all of our defenses. The River Rouge running backs are among the fastest in the league. We were able to prevent the big play. Tim Beach is among the best open field tacklers that I have ever coached and that was evident on Saturday on a number of occasions. Frank Baker had a very solid day at end that included three tackles for loss. Andrew Vollmerhausen and Marc Vega were in the backfield all day and Loren Sauve flows to the ball as well as any linebacker in the league. The entire team was able to play defense on Saturday and the coaches were pleased with the performance. The playing time will help as we get further into the season.

The cheerleaders were loud and enthusiastic. I actually know a couple of your cheers by heart now and I can not get them out of my head. Great job. The cowbells were on full alert Saturday. I think they could hear you from Grosse Ile. They players enjoy the support that you provide. I really enjoyed meeting many of you at the Parent Party. Thanks for a great time.

We play Dearborn Blue this weekend. They knocked Grosse Ile out of the playoffs last year. We will pay it back this weekend. They are a power football team and try to establish the 5 and 6 holes. It is imperative that we get penetration into the backfield. Do not engage the blocker. #24 is a tough runner and we need to hit him low and hard. Square your shoulders and drive through the ball carrier. Pursue to the ball and tackle as 11. The defense lines up 8 in the box. We need to establish the pass this week. We will work hard on this in practice. This will be a successful weekend for the Red Devil Football Team.

Fire Up Big Red!  
**Coach Mrla**

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 SIZES**

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## FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

We played River Rouge pretty darn tough. I really felt that it was a game that could have gone either way. In my opinion, we controlled much of the game. We were tougher, we were smarter but we lost our focus on a few game-changing plays and they won - so we'll give them some credit for that. Mentally, I think we need to get tougher.

We will continue to work on the fundamentals that the players need to execute in our offensive and defensive schemes. We will also continue to make personnel changes where the staff deems it necessary. Overall, I really thought the team played better against River Rouge than they did against Huron River. Continued hard work will be the theme for this week. We will also change our practice plan to get more direct coaching as to specific positions. We need more leadership and better play from our veterans. Overall, though, the younger players are playing well.

All we have is each other. We will definitely continue to work hard not only for ourselves but for the good of our teammates. We will circle the wagons and have the "us against the world" mentality. Either you're with us or you're against us.

Dearborn Blue will visit us this weekend. They think they can come to our field and pound us. We must refuse to lose this game and be prepared to do whatever is necessary to win. This is a winnable game and our focus should be on playing our very best. Execution of the game plan along with mental toughness spells victory.

Thank you for the continued support from the parents, fans and cheerleaders. Not only are we trying to win for ourselves, but for many of you as well.

**Coach Cam**

## GAME SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time/Game Order</u>
September 12*	Home	11:00 F-JV-V L- W -W
September 19	River Rouge HS	11:00 F-JV-V L-W-W
September 26	Home	11:00 F-JV-V
<b>October 3*</b>	<b>Kennedy HS</b>	<b>11:00 V-F-JV</b>
October 10	Home	11:00 F-JV-V
October 17	Away - TBD	11:00 F-JV-V
October 24	Home	11:00 F-JV-V
October 31	Woodhaven HS	11:00 F-JV-V
November 7	Playoff	TBD
November 14	Peanut Bowl	TBD

**\*Note the change to game order**



## VARSITY CHEER

What a week! We've been learning the dance, and continuing to perfect our halftime cheer. Along with that, we're working on some more sideline cheers! Keep the spirit up girls, you are looking and sounding great.

Let's remember what we talked about this week, and be on our best behavior at the game. If you want people to take you serious, then act like it. You are the veteran squad and should set a good example.

This Saturday we are playing Dearborn Blue. Let's show them some GI PRIDE!

Who are we? VARSITY!

**Coach Emily**

## JV CHEER

Great job at the game on Saturday! You girls have cheered the boys to another victory. I would like to congratulate Mattie for winning the Spirit Bear at the game!

We will start working on our dance for the competition this week. Keep smiling and be LOUD!

Go Big Red!

**Coach Alex & Coach Kim**

## FRESHMAN CHEER

The girls did fantastic at the game on Saturday. They are really maturing into great cheerleaders.

We are going to start practicing the dance and stunt parts of our competition routine so everyone must show up and be on time for practice. We have a lot of work ahead of us! It is going to be fun!

Go Devils!

**Coach Laura Zajac**



## BAKE SALE - OCT 24

PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE OUR BAKE SALE A SUCCESS!

TO DONATE - PLEASE CONTACT

Gloria Baller at [windgypsea@aol.com](mailto:windgypsea@aol.com) or call 675-6796.

# GET TO KNOW...

## JUNIOR VARSITY COACH ROB MRLA



*How long have you been coaching and how did you get involved with GIYRA?*

**This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year coaching in the program. I started coaching when my daughter was a Freshman Cheerleader. I did not have a player on the team. Coach Woods recommended me to Coach Camilleri and I helped coach the running backs and linebackers on the first Freshman Peanut Bowl Championship team.**

*Do you have playing experience?*

**I played junior football for the Huron River Yellow Jackets and at the high school level for Gibraltar Carlson. I actually played on the same team with Coach Nitzkowski and the other Coach Mrla since I was eight years old.**

*What is your overall philosophy as a coach?*

**A player must give 100% all the time. This applies in everything that they do. It will carry over to other aspects of your life and in the long run drive success. If you want to be successful you must maximize your abilities. This is only done by hard work and maximum effort. To succeed in football you must work in practice. To succeed in school you must complete your homework and study more than the next student. To succeed in business you must put in the necessary hours to be successful.**

*What skills are essential to being a good coach?*

**Organizational skills are essential. In addition, you must have the ability to attract and develop talent. I have been blessed with very good assistant coaches. We perform best when I stay out of their way.**

*What do you enjoy most about coaching?*

**I enjoy spending time with the Coaches and Players. The best part of my day is practice.**

*Describe your coaching strategies and how you prepare for both practice and game day.*

**Every practice is scripted. The scripts are given to each assistant coach prior to practice. This helps us stay on point and ensure that we accomplish goals that we set for each practice and keeps us from wasting time. In addition, the coaches watch a lot of game film. We watch film from our previous games and we obtain film for each opponent that we play. We develop a strategy based on the specific opponent that we are playing. We cover all of the players on the scouting report. The players will know prior to the game what type of defense and offense the team will be running against us. They will know the blitz packages and how we must block. They will know what type of formations and based on the formation what play they can expect. They know who the key players are on the opposing team. We game plan to stop these players from beating us.**

*What's the hardest thing about coaching kids at this level/age?*

**The hardest thing is trying to find the optimum amount of playing time for each player. We took 43 kids this year. It will be very difficult tracking and balancing the playing time. All players deserve to play. They put in the effort at practice. It is essential that you listen to the coaches and pay attention when it is your time to be in the game.**

*How do you evaluate players and choose captains?*

**All of the players are run through a combine on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of practice that consists of sit-ups, push-ups, a double big lap, 30 yard sprint and shuttle run. They are rated from 1-43. In addition, we have chalk talk every day that allows us to rate the player's football knowledge. The players are constantly evaluated on their ability to hit and make tackles. As the season progresses we watch film to evaluate a players ability to function at their assigned position. Players will move up and down the depth chart throughout the year.**

**Four captains are chosen by the coaches. We pick players that lead by example and have shown the leadership qualities that can make our team successful. The remaining two captains will be chosen by the players this year.**

# GET TO KNOW...CONTINUED

*How do you motivate your athletes?*

**We encourage them when they play well. Players will be recognized in the Yardmarker. Players will lead the team cheer at the end of practice. Coaches will ensure that we recognize a good play or when a player performs his assignment correctly as they come off the field. On the other hand we will instill discipline. This is when the hat goes flying and we do big laps and down-ups.**

*What do you do in the off-season to make you a better football coach?*

**I coach other sports. I stay involved. I watch a lot of game film and look for ways to improve. The coaches have met and we re-worked the playbook based on the type of talent that we have returning. In addition, I speak to a lot of the other coaches within the DJFL. I seek out advice from the teams that are successful.**

*What can parents do to make your job as coach easier?*

**Please understand that we are volunteers doing the best that we can. We are here for the players.**

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

It is very important to arrive on time (see the Volunteer Job Descriptions or talk to Char for details) so that everyone can watch his or her child play or cheer. **Please sign in and out in the concession stand so that you receive credit for working.**

JOB	VOLUNTEERS		
<b>PRE-GAME</b>			
Field Setup (3)	Klarr	Stroia (Devon)	Reich
Concession/Grill Setup (5)	Nicole Ernst - Supervisor	Livernois	
	Test	Carnago	
Admission Gate (1)	Adams		
<b>11:00 FRESHMAN GAME</b>			
Admission Gate (1)	Starkey (Marko)		
Announcer (1)	Morey		
Scoreboard (2)	Vega	DeRossett	
Spotter (1)	Blackburn		
50/50 (2)	Grieve	Grieve	
Chain Gang (3)	Bammer	Tucker	Klarr
Concession Stand (6)	Susan Tylutki - Supervisor	Davis	Green
	Chessrown	Blackburn	Crowell
Grill (2)	Garner	Yops	
Merchandise (1)	Hoffman		
Field Cleanup (1)	Moco		

<b>1:00 JV GAME</b>			
Admission Gate (1)	Donohue		
Announcer (1)	Paul Townley		
Scoreboard (2)	McCarty	Holmes	
Spotter (1)	Stroia (Nick)		
50/50 (2)	Prentice	Jones	
Chain Gang (3)	Frazier (Adams)	Carrico	Prentice
Concession Stand (6)	Swamy	Zochowski	McKee (Grodi)
	Tolot	McCarty	Groff
Grill (2)			
Merchandise (1)	Collins		
Field Cleanup (1)	Grieve		
<b>3:00 VARSITY GAME</b>			
Admission Gate (1)			
Announcer (1)	Estrada		
Scoreboard (2)	Baker		
Spotter (1)	Martinelli		
50/50 (2)	Volmerhausen		
Chain Gang (3)	Holden	Zochowski	Bitner
Concession Stand (6)	Beach	Gladowski	
	Beach		
Grill (2)	Gugliemetti	Bixler	
Merchandise (1)	McNamara		
<b>POST GAME</b>			
Concession Cleanup (4)	Swamy	Cisco	Force (Kelly)
Field Breakdown (5)	McNamara		

