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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

SWEEEEEP! Week 3 was sweet revenge. Dearborn Blue knocked our Junior Varsity team out of the playoffs last year. This year all three teams won in a blowout. It was a perfect weekend.

The freshman team played very well winning their first of what I'm confident will be many games this year. I am proud of the boys and the coaching staff. We are a good team and I am convinced that we can have a good run to the end of the season.

Junior Varsity and Varsity are both 3-0 and sitting pretty at the top of the league standings. Both teams are off to a great start. I know that everyone is working hard and it definitely shows on the field.

Our cheerleaders were in top form. Once again, it wasn't even close. Our girls bring it every game.

I would like to thank the parents and friends of the players and coaches. Those cowbells were on full display. The boys really responded to the crowd. The louder you were the better they played.

This week we travel to play the Taylor Cobras and I expect the same outcome as last Saturday. Please note that the order of games has changed. Our Varsity boys play first at 12:00, with Freshman next and Junior Varsity last. It is shaping up to be a special season. Let's stay on a roll.

George Mrla
President, Grosse Ile Junior Devils Football



FOOTBALL & CHEER AWARDS BANQUET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

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"Ask not what
your teammates
can do for you.
Ask what you
can do for your
teammates."

-Magic Johnson

VARSITY FOOTBALL

Our Varsity men kept on rolling to 3-0 after a convincing 34-6 victory over Dearborn Blue. Danny McCarty led the way with four touchdowns set up by great blocks from Tristan Groff, Wyatt Force, Brandon Moskall, Roger Berry, Max Holden, Jacob Zochowski and Brendan O'Neil. We also got strong runs from Joe Vollmerhausen, Phil Camilleri and Andrew Mitroka. Camilleri also found the end zone on a powerful run for his first TD this season.

Our defense played very strong and should have had a shutout but a bad fumble call put Dearborn inside our five and they finally pushed one in.

A great game as a team, and that's what we are a TEAM! Now we must set our sights on the Taylor Cobras.

A big "THANK YOU" to all the Varsity Cheerleaders and their coaches! You really keep us FIRED UP! Thank you, parents, for cheering very loud and a SPECIAL THANKS to my assistant coaches & junior coaches who are doing a fantastic job keeping this team focused and on track.

There is one other player I don't thank enough, Tyler Higdon. Despite sustaining a season-ending injury, he is there every practice and helps the coaches with whatever we need. Thanks, Tyler!

Fire-up Big Red!

Coach Woods

THANK
YOU

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JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

The Grosse Ile Red Devil Junior Varsity continued its strong start on Saturday. We defeated the Dearborn Blue Lions 32-6 to extend our record to 3-0. This was a very satisfying win for many of our players. Dearborn Blue knocked Grosse Ile out of the playoffs last year. The team was fired up and executed the game plan to perfection.

The offense was unstoppable this week. Coach Simone knew we had to establish the pass and outside runs this week to be successful. We worked hard all week and it paid off on Saturday. The offensive line led by Zach Townley, Marc Vega, Andrew Vollmerhausen, Loren Sauve, Hunter Sauve, Christian Short, Austin Davidson and Justin Moores controlled the line of scrimmage. We did not have a single play for negative yards. Neil Smorch scored the first two touchdowns. He leads by example and his ability to run the offense is unmatched in our league. Hunter Johns followed with a perfectly executed halfback direct snap. This was set up by solid running from Avery Doyle. Dylan Mrla finished the scoring on a five yard dive. Joshua Sheppard broke loose for a 15 yard gain to set up the touchdown.

The defense did a very good job. Coach Nitzkowski knew that we had to control the line of scrimmage to win. We not only controlled it, we dominated it. Every player was provided the opportunity to play defense and did a very good job. Joshua Sheppard played the best defensive game of his career. Mike Simone had four tackles for loss. Dearborn pulled five of our players from the defense due to the score and we did not miss a beat. All of the players responded. Cameron Brinkley was solid at linebacker, Ethan Adams shut down the "A" gaps, and Frank Baker was in the backfield all day.

Tim Beach had another great day on special teams. He was perfect on extra points going 4-4. He is now 9-10 on the season. I wonder how many high school kickers can say that. Not many. The kickoff coverage was very good and we were able to recover a kickoff that Dearborn failed to field.

The cheerleaders were awesome. You do a very good job of keeping the fans in the game and we are among the loudest fields in the league. They players thrive off of your support. Thank You.

We play the Taylor Cobras this weekend. They are the best team that we have played this season. They are led by three very talented running backs and are able to run both inside and out. We must contain #8 and #2. They are very fast and it will be important for the ends to stay home this week. Taylor runs a lot of misdirection. We can not be caught out of position. We must control the line of scrimmage and call out our blocking assignments. Taylor blitzes on nearly every play. Our success on offense will depend upon our ability to pick up the multiple blitz packages. This will be a successful weekend for Grosse Ile.

Fire Up Big Red!
Coach Mrla

"Guess what? I got a fever – and the only prescription is more cowbell."

- Christopher Walken / SNL skit

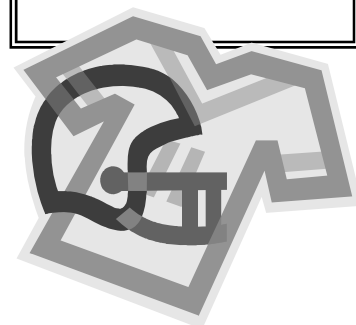
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FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

It was nice to win against such a quality opponent as Dearborn Blue. Overall, it was a very good team effort and I was happy with the play of the entire team. We're coming together and I do believe we have improved each and every week.

What I have noticed is that this team is starting to learn how to practice better. Our effort was better towards the end of the week. The boys seemed focused and rarely did we need to tell players to pay attention. We need to continue with that effort this week and thereafter. Some players finally picked up a few important fundamental skills that are necessary to our offense and defense. We can continue to improve and still will move players around on our depth chart. Our basic message to the players that "those that give more will get more" will stay the same. Winning this game certainly does not mean we have reached all of the goals we set for this team.

The Taylor Cobras are next on the schedule and I do foresee another win. The defense will need to be at it's best and containment will be extremely important. I want my defense to be tough, to gang tackle, and hit everything extremely hard.

I like the personnel changes we made to the offense, but those players will need to continue to play at their best against Taylor. That team is very beatable if we play hard.

Thanks for all the great fan support last weekend and a special "thank you" to our cheerleaders.

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 W-W-W
October 3*	Kennedy HS	12:00 V-F-JV
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**



ORDER OF
GAMES THIS
WEEK IS
CHANGED!

VARSITY	12:00
FRESHMAN	2:00
JV	4:00

VARSITY CHEER

We are finishing up the dance and perfecting the competition cheer, along the way we are also adding more and more sidelines. Way to get your voices up there girls! Keep practicing your jumps, dance and cheer at home. If you need help, ask any of the coaches! We are here for you, and we want you to succeed! Do not be scared to ask to repeat something, or for some extra help. We are a TEAM; everyone works together, for the TEAM!

Remember to wear appropriate clothing to practice - no hoods/zippers/kangaroo pockets on your shirts, and no pockets or strings on your pants. Remember no metal in your hair either! This counts for barrettes, bobby pins, and even your pony holders. The rules for what you can and cannot wear are set by the Downriver Junior Football League.

Don't forget we are the first game this week, so be at the field by 11 am! Be sure to have a good breakfast, we need to cheer loud and hard! Our boys are doing great, so lets help keep their spirit up!

Your Coaches,
Emily, Sandi & Kate

JV CHEER

Great job at the game. You girls have cheered the boys to another victory!

The girls are doing a wonderful job at halftime and we have started to learn our dance portion for competition. Attendance is very important. Everyday we are learning something different and we need everyone to do stunts. Thank you, Junior Coaches for all the work you are doing. Congratulations to Kelsey Sroka for getting the spirit bear at the game on Saturday.

Let's Go Big Red!
Coach Alex & Coach Kim

FRESHMAN CHEER

Congratulations to the Freshman Football team! What a great win!

The cheerleaders had a great time cheering for the boys this weekend. The girls have improved so much from the week before. They are louder, had smiles on their faces and had a great half time cheer!

I do enjoy working with the girls and watching them improve each week. I also want to thank the junior coaches for everything that they do. The dance routine would be the "mashed potato" and the "robot" for the dance routine if it weren't for the junior coaches! Thank Goodness for the junior coaches!

We have started working on the dance routine for competition. The girls are really excited about the dance, and they were so excited that they insisted on showing what they learned at the pep rally on Friday night. They love to dance!

Keep up the great work girls!

Go Devils!
Coach Laura Zajac



GET TO KNOW...

FRESHMAN COACH KEN CAMILLERI



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

I started coaching when I graduated from college, even before I had children. I've coached just about every sport. I got involved with GIYRA when my oldest son, Phillip, started playing sports. As his GIYRA years come to an end, I will probably continue to be involved in the program with my youngest son, Jimmy.

Do you have playing experience?

I was a Junior Devil myself. I played one year of Varsity. I was an offensive tackle. I went on to play through middle and high school for Grosse Ile. I was on the same team with Coach Dembinski. Every year we played against Coach Woods who played for Gibraltar Carlson. Coach Woods was much smaller back then, he looked a lot like his son, Kamron.

What is your overall philosophy as a coach?

I'm pretty old-fashioned in my approach. I believe teams need discipline and that hard work is a prerequisite to having a successful season. The one thing I emphasize to the players as well as myself is to never cost your team a game due to laziness. As a coach, if you're asking the players to work hard every day, then you need to do the same. By the time the players step on the field for the first practice of the week, I've spent hours reviewing game tapes, looking at my opponent's roster and talking to assistant coaches.

What skills are essential to being a good coach?

You have to know every player on a personal level because each one is unique. Getting to know their personalities helps me as a coach to know exactly how to approach that player when necessary. I've always felt that a good coach also needs to know how to delegate responsibility. No head coach can do it all, and in the past I have relied heavily on assistant coaches. This is a necessity due to the amount of time spent preparing a weekly specialized game plan coupled with the fact that we have a limited amount of practice time.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

By far, it is the players. I try to stay close with each and every one of my players, present and past. I have a certain respect for them in light of the great commitment it takes to play on a Jr. Devil team. It's not easy to go out there every day and bust your butt at practice.

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

My coaching strategies change week to week depending upon our opponent. To me, strategy means game plan and that's always changing. Our practice plan is based on what our opponent is going to try to accomplish against us and, likewise, what we want to accomplish against them. Our weekly practice plan is based on a review of our game tapes as well as those of our opponents. Come game day, I like to be by myself. I don't like to even talk to people. Even my wife knows not to try and talk to me.

How do you evaluate players and choose captains?

Once I find a player with good overall athleticism, I keep my eye on him to see if he can still perform at a high level once he puts the pads on. Some players that excel out of pads, simply can't take the physical nature of hitting. If I can find a player that has physical toughness as well as mental toughness, then I know I've got a football player. Picking captains is extremely difficult and in the past I've given the job of choosing them to the assistant coaches. Because neither myself or the assistant coaches had coached at the freshman level last year, we were unfamiliar with most of the players. So I based the decision on how the players performed in the first weeks of practice.

How do you motivate your athletes?

I try to make players understand the importance of their role and how it affects the team. Everyone is important to the overall success. Usually when I talk to the team, I will use a speech one of my coaches made to me that got me pumped up. Sometimes I think players just need a kick in the butt. Overall, I think motivation and motivating players is overrated. The joy of winning should be enough to motivate a kid to go out there and do his best.

GET TO KNOW...CONTINUED

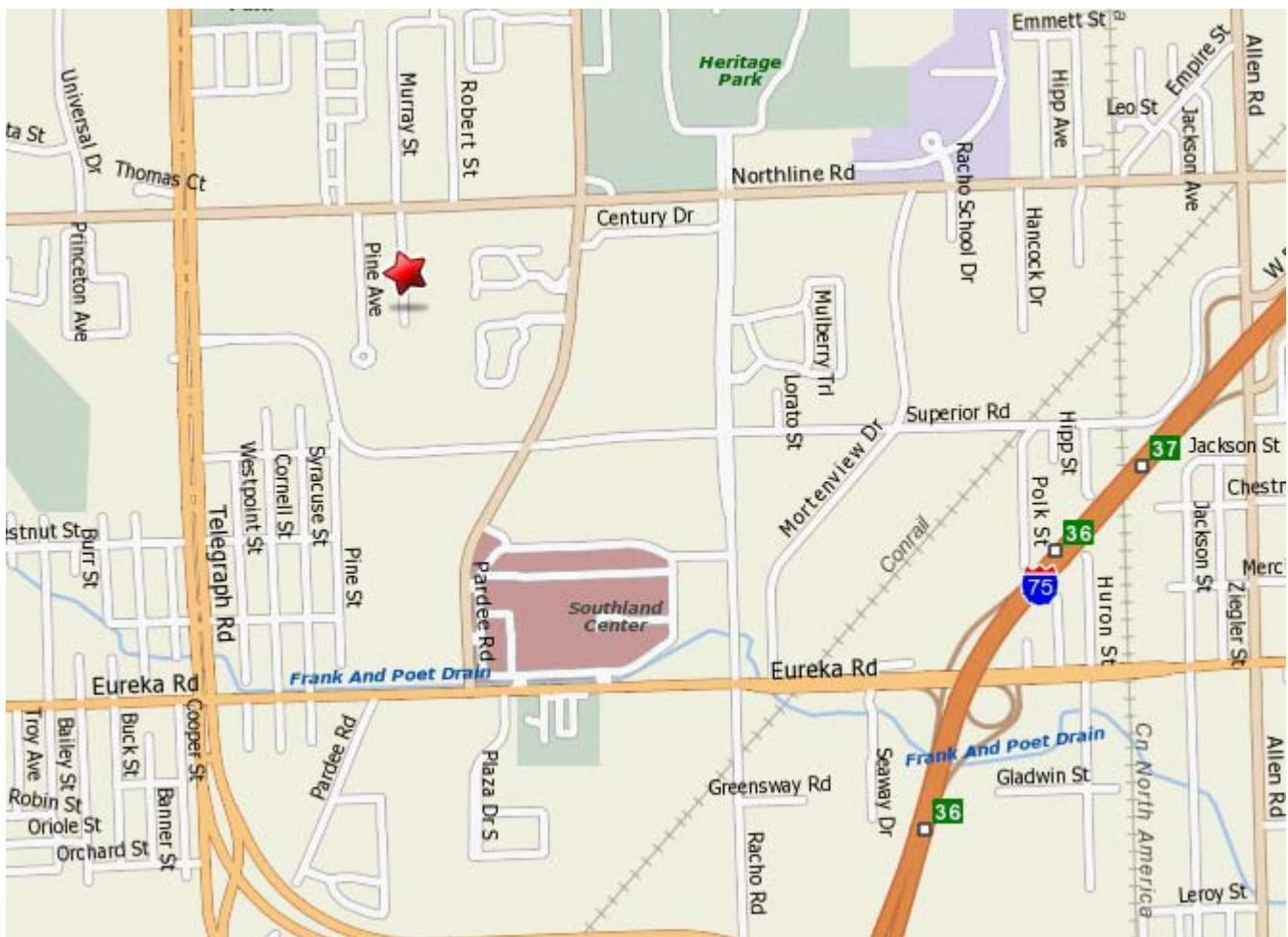
What do you do in the off-season to make you a better football coach?

I stay close to the kids. I coach and watch a lot of basketball and baseball games, always keeping an eye out for good athletes. When I see a kid with potential, I'll ask them if they've considered playing football. I always try to surround myself with quality, knowledgeable people.

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

It's important to have the players to games and practices on time and properly equipped. The biggest mistake I think a parent can make is to make negative comments about the coaching staff in front of the player/their kid. The player thinks "if Mom/Dad doesn't like Coach, then why do I have to listen to him". Trust me, this negativity will affect the player's performance. I coached a baseball team and there were a couple of parents that made negative comments about coaches in front of some of the players on that team. It became obvious to me that the parents' negative comments about the staff were having a detrimental effect on the effort the players were putting forth on the field. Ultimately, it ruined a very good team. I think we can all do without the drama and I just want to coach. Thankfully, most of our parents do a great job and this turns out to be a great experience for the kids.

Taylor Kennedy High School 13505 Kennedy Dr. Taylor, MI 48180



“I have seen women walk right past a TV set with a football game on and - this always amazes me - not stop to watch, even if the TV is showing replays of what we call a "good hit," which is a tackle that causes at least one major internal organ to actually fly out of a player's body.” -Dave Barry