

Local football squad goes undefeated



Members of the Warm Springs and Madras football team that went undefeated in the Bend Metro Tackle Football League.

By Leslie Mits
Spilyay Tymoo

Football players are getting even younger with the help of teams in the Bend Metro Tackle Football League.

Roy Spino and Randy Haugen coached a team made up of fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Warm Springs and Madras that remained undefeated throughout the football season.

Spino said they originally began coaching the team several years ago while watching a team from Madras compete.

"We ended up helping volunteer to help out any way we could," Spino said. "That's how we ended up getting involved in the tackle football league."

The league is made up of regional teams, he said, and broken down with a fourth and fifth grade combined team and another team for sixth graders.

There is a weight limit, however, Spino said. Players over 125 pounds must play on the sixth grade team.

The goal of the league, he said, is to give players the opportunity to play football before they reach middle school where they are able to play on a team.

Spino explained, "It's a developmental program to teach the kids the basics of football."

"The kids that grow through the program usually have a step up once they get to the middle school," Spino said. "When they roll into the middle school, the middle school coaches don't have to start at ground zero."

Players from Warm Springs include Robert Spino, Dylan Miller, Colton Stephens, Tristan Smith, Rodney Mitchell, Darren Tanewash, Colton Stiffarm, who were undefeated as part of Spino's sixth grade team.

While the league doesn't feature a playoff system, Spino added, teams usually play six games per season.

Spino and Haugen's team is one of two teams in the league that played an undefeated season.

"Overall I think our strength this year was our offensive line," Spino said. "We rotated in probably nine boys. Together they'd been playing together for two or three years. They really came together and a team and gelled."

In general, Spino said, he was proud of the team for the strong communication skills players displayed.

"The worked hard and they learned the game," he added.

A challenge for many players is the aggression involved in football, Spino said.

"A lot of them, when you first bring them in the program, they're real timid," he explained. "They find out it's easier to hit someone than get hit. Then they start getting more aggressive."

For Spino, the best part of coaching the team is watching players develop.

While most of the players begin without any football knowledge, he said, he enjoys watching them learn how to play the game.

"It's just looking at the gleam in their eye. When the game is over you just see the smile, the glow on their face," he said.

Now, he said, "They have a good, basic understanding of the game, and they all want to play football."

Sign ups for the league are in May, Spino said. While many kids are still focused on the baseball season, a lot of them miss the early sign up for football—because of that, Spino encourages parents to watch for a sign by Westside Elementary and for an advertisement in the Pioneer.



Photos courtesy of the Greens

Casey Green (below) and his son Tysen (above) recently returned from a successful hunting trip – they came back with a big horn sheep. They bagged the animal during a three-day float trip in the John Day River Basin.



Clinic hosting training program

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness is hosting a training program for the Registered Nurses that would enable them to provide women attending the clinic with a comprehensive clinical breast examination, breast self-examination training and a pap test.

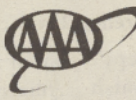
This training is being conducted to provide women attending the clinic additional providers for these "Well Woman" examinations.

The Mayo Clinic from Rochester, Minn., is providing the training to the Registered Nurse staff on December 4-8.

The Mayo Clinic partners with the Indian Health Service and the American Indian/Alaska Native Community Networks Program to conduct cancer related outreach activities.

If you are in need of your annual "Well Women" examination and would like to participate in the training of the Nursing staff, please contact medical reception, 553-1196, to schedule an appointment during the week of Dec. 4-8.

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