

**CONNERSVILLE YOUTH
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
2016**

The Connersville Youth Football League's 2016 season was an outstanding success on many levels. The 116 young gridiron warriors that took the field from late July to the 1st of November competed at a high level against very strong competition in the Southern Indiana Youth Football Association. Those involved not only saw progress in terms of play on the field, but also saw big strides taken in the quality of the coaching, the involvement of community members, and the many contributions by our community businesses. The dedication by players, coaches, organization board members and our parents allowed us to start the season with a renewed focus on teaching the fundamentals of the game and developing a family atmosphere.

The league's top priorities, player safety and affordability, were a big focus heading into the season. Through vigorous fundraising and sponsorship from civic minded companies such as Wilson Lawson Myers Insurance, G&M Contracting, Caliber Property Management, Kunkels Drive In, Dr. Andy Yaryan and CK Fasteners the players took the field in style. New uniforms and some new equipment/helmets helped contribute to a safe and positive experience for both players and parents. CYFL's league fee of \$85.00, which is actually only \$65.00 with early registration, is significantly less than the other programs in the league. With the help of the corporate and community support 20% of our participants received "scholarships" for the season. Every kid that wants to play has the opportunity to do so. The hope is our community members and businesses will continue to support the league in an effort to provide the communities youth this great opportunity.

Player safety continues to be addressed through coaches training and acquiring the most up to date equipment. The season started with all of our helmets being recertified and over half of our participants in new helmets that contain the latest technology in concussion safety. The league will continue to purchase these helmets until every player is wearing one. The CYFL can also boast that it is a U.S.A. Football Heads-Up Certified League. The coaching staffs' will continue to educate themselves during the offseason by attending clinics, camps and collaboration with the varsity staff. With a focus in the areas of how to best instruct the athletes on proper technique in blocking and tackling. This training along with the proper instruction puts the players in the safest position possible on the field.

In terms of wins and losses, the CYFL was led by H.C. Tony Corsaro's 6th grade squad with a 6 win regular season and a win in the tournament before bowing out to a very good Batesville team. Jeff Cerqua's 3rd grade team was equally impressive putting together a 6 win season that included a win in the post-season and a regular season tie. Coach Rob Paxton's 5th graders and Coach Tony Fox's 4th grade squad showed a lot a lot of toughness impressively competing throughout the season with a minimal amount of players suiting up. After coming up short in several close games the 4th grade squad was able to close out the regular season with a overtime win against rival Rushville. Phillip Keller's 2nd graders showed great improvement finishing strong with a 3 game win streak with a win in the playoffs. CYFL's youngest and meanest squad Coach Dunaway's 1st graders competed in 8 instructional league games, (score is not recorded), extremely well. This young squad worked very hard at learning the game, being a good teammates, and developing a strong work ethic.

The 2016 season was a fantastic display of what youth league sports are all about. There were moments of great triumph and moments of failure. There were great displays of comradery among both players and parents. There were a lot of people working behind the scenes to provide the families of Fayette County a positive experience. It was a year that created traditions and laid a solid foundation for a league that should continue to grow in terms of both participation and civic pride.

With Football being the epitome of a team sport it is often difficult to single out individual players for their accomplishments. However, during the end of the year banquet CYFL recognized players voted on by their teammates for M.V.P. Best Mental Attitude, and the Spartan Warrior award. Listed below are the names of those receiving these honors.

1st Grade:

Co-MVP's Cooper Grizzell & Braiyton Bentley

B.M.A. Brenten Woodward

Spartan Warrior Peyton Tomlin

Big Stick Award- Kenden Catron

2nd Grade:

M.V.P. Brayden Keller

B.M.A. Alec Harmon

Spartan Warrior Isaac Shipley & Leland Brauner

3rd Grade:

M.V.P. Parker Flanigan

B.M.A. Curtis Whitaker & Reed Whitaker

Spartan Warrior Dale Snyder

4th Grade:

M.V.P. Silas Foster

B.M.A. Ben Godar

Spartan Warrior Clayton Rozell

5th Grade:

M.V.P. Draiden Perez

B.M.A. Kaleb Caldwell

Spartan Warrior Aiden Maze

6th Grade:

M.V.P. Kyle Siefert

B.M.A. Gavin Pearson

Spartan Warrior Gavin Frank

Congratulations to these players, as well as their teammates, their coaches, and their parents for the time and efforts they put into this season. The league has already begun to prepare for 2017 with a list of events already scheduled for the month of March to include to free camps being put on by the entire Connersville Football Staff. Information about the league along with pictures, registration, and important dates can be found on the league website www.connersvillefootball.com. Coach Kelly is also available to answer any questions concerning the league

Upcoming Events:

Spring Football Clinic

- **March 6th – 9th 6:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. C.H.S. Gym Grades 2, 3, 4, 5**
- **March 13th – 16th 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. C.H.S. Gym Grades 6, 7, 8**

5th Annual Spartan Football Youth Speed Camp

- **March 20th – 23rd 6:00p.m. to 7:30p.m. Spartan Bowl Pre-K - 6th**

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