

## **Mukwonago Football Newsletter – January 2012**

There are a few words that seem to be almost interchangeable to me – teacher and coach, football and family, school and community – that is why I am so honored to be welcomed into Mukwonago as a teacher, coach, community and family member.

One of the ways community and families stay strong and are productive is through communication. That is why I have always believed a monthly newsletter pertaining to the football program is vital. Believe me when I say it is a privilege to be able to sit down and write my first Mukwonago Football Newsletter, as I have always held the district, high school, and football program in the highest regard. As we get to know each other over time these newsletters will tell you of achievements, goals, exciting events, and many other excerpts of the journey that takes place in an outstanding high school football program. The newsletters will be normally student-athlete and program centered. However, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself.

My name is Clay Iverson and I am entering my 11<sup>th</sup> year in high school coaching. I started my coaching career overseas actually, as a player/coach in Germany, two great years for a young man in his early 20's. Especially for me, since I had a business degree but no real idea what I was going to do with it. Things changed for me the minute I stepped on the football field. As soon as someone added the term "coach" in front of my last name I knew right there where my future lay. Despite any language barriers, facility issues, or even being home sick and jet lagged I knew I wanted to teach and coach.

Upon return from Europe I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater to work on my Master's Degree in Education. During that time I was the lucky enough to be given the chance to work under John Sterner as his offensive line coach at Muskego High School. John was and is a terrific mentor and coach. No disrespect to John, but I was even more lucky to meet my future wife during that time. Many of you might already know her, as Emily teaches Business Education at Mukwonago High School. We are currently blessed with two boys Calvin (6) and Corey (3) – yes we are always looking for sitters.

After two years at Muskego I was hired as a teacher and coach at Pewaukee where I was an assistant coach for 2 years and the head coach for the last seven seasons. My time at Pewaukee was very special, and I was fortunate enough to coach with great men and most importantly great student-athletes.

### **Mukwonago Football**

Growing up in the area and coaching in SE Wisconsin for a decade I have always felt Mukwonago Football has been the staple of what a football program should be. Not flashy, or arrogant but dedicated and positive, a tremendous youth program and a supportive community; we will strive everyday to meet the expectations that have been laid before us by hall of fame coaches and many great alumni. Again, it is with great honor and humility that I begin this journey as the next Head Football Coach at Mukwonago High School.

### **Expectations**

Somewhere in recent history what is right has become less popular than doing what is easy. It is the expectation of any Mukwonago Football Player to do things the right way, even if the masses at times seem to be looking for shortcuts. This applies not only on the football field and during conditioning but in the classroom, in the community, and at home. We will take great pride in running a character first program that teaches young men more than just blocking and tackling. Skills such as time management, problem solving, overcoming adversity, teamwork, and working towards a goal bigger than themselves is what will make each of our student-athletes successful; now and in their chosen career path. All of our football players will be accountable for their behavior.

## Accountability

Also in recent years, it seems, accountability has turned into a negative word. I have always believed that accountability is like a door – it swings both ways. When we do what is right, when we sacrifice and travel the path that leads to the top, not the one that slopes downward, we are held accountable for that. That comes with great rewards, some instant, some that will not be seen for years to come. Of course, if choices are made in a different manner we will hold our athletes accountable for that as well. As a coaching staff we will hold ourselves accountable for not just teaching but modeling the behavior that is deemed appropriate for our young people. We love to celebrate the good – and we will.

Being a Mukwonago Football Player means you are more accountable for your actions than the others because you represent so many and so much. That should be exciting to our young people; I know it is to me.

## Finally...

A number of years ago I had the pleasure of listening to Urban Meyer speak when he was the Head Coach at Utah. He talked for a little over an hour and to be honest only one thing has stayed with me. He was talking about one of his favorite plays and in the middle of drawing it up he stopped, looked the crowd over and said very passionately, “You know people think we win because we run the shovel pass, if you want to know why we are successful come see us February to July watch us work, then you will see all the secrets to our success.” That has never left me. It is not about a person’s ability or their intelligence, rather their willingness to out work others.

To put in the time when others won’t, to work when one does not feel like working, to do away with all excuses is what truly makes a successful man, student, athlete, and ultimately a football program. We will start this with our **morning lifting program**. We will start the first Wednesday in the second semester and work out from 6-7:10 AM M/W/F. This will be for all student-athletes going into 10-12 grade next year. If a student-athlete is in a winter sport we would like to see them get two lifts a week and if their in-season coach deems it non-detrimental to their current team we would love to have at least one of those lifts occur in the morning. If a player is not in a sport currently they are accountable for getting three lifts in during the week via our morning lifting sessions and pick up one more in the afternoon during the week for a total of four workouts. That would be a total of less than 5 hours a week. We have to be willing to give that.

The morning lifting program is a wonderful way to come together as a family, to grow strong bonds as athletes, to use our time wisely, and to practice doing what is right and not easy. It is open not just to football players but to all athletes, and I look forward to working with everyone towards one goal – increasing our potential as student-athletes both mentally and physically.

This will be an amazing journey filled with ups and downs, twists and turns, but we will follow the right path and do things the right way – the **Mukwonago Way!** Please feel free to contact me with any questions at the below email. Make it a great day and **GO INDIANS!**

Coach Iverson

[iverscl@masd.k12.wi.us](mailto:iverscl@masd.k12.wi.us)