

Youth football making comeback

BY BRIAN CHAPPELL
Correspondent

After a few lean years in local youth football, the popularity of the sport seems to be on the rise. Five years ago, we (Edenton) could barely field one youth football team. There

were only 22 players that year. But since then, it has steadily been on the rise not only in Edenton but in the whole Albemarle area.

Edenton plays in the Albemarle Youth Football League which just three years ago consisted of Edenton,

Gates County and Elizabeth City. Now it has increased to six teams adding Camden, Currituck, and Ahoskie.

There has also been a change in the age breakdown. In the past, each area had one team from ages 9-12 but four years ago we broke it down to allow for younger kids to participate. Now there are two age groups: 8-10 year-old Pee Wee League and an 11-12-year-old Midget League. There are certain weight restrictions, but it is solely for the injury factor in the increasing group population. This year Edenton had 60 kids to sign up to play football, up from 22 just a few years ago. League-wide there is a group of 335 kids playing Youth Football ages 8-12.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, the Recreation Department hosted the annual weigh-in and scrimmage at Lat Purser Soccer Complex. All eleven teams and 335 players converged for a great day of football. Our local teams are coached by volunteers who give their time and effort to these kids.

Coaching the 8-10 year-old Pee Wee team is Head Coach John Reinhold, assisted by Ron Andronowitz, Mitchell

Stanley, Travis Lilly and Edward Perry. Coaching the 11-12 year-old Midget team is Head Coach Brian Chappell, assisted by Rick Rankins, Hassie Allen, and Mark Lindsey. The coaches, kids and the Recreation Department would like to thank the businesses that have offered support to our local football team.

With the emergence of the football program, we started a cheerleading program which has also grown since it started. We now have 17 girls in our 6-7 starter group. These girls don't cheer at games but they learn the basics to get ready for the next groups. In our 8-12 groups, we have around 50 girls participating. Our cheerleaders are also coached by volunteers Kristie Mize and Sharica Page. With the growth of these two programs and the rapid rise in popularity of soccer throughout the United States, the fall sports calendar is mighty full for many parents, but we are ready to see the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow enjoying themselves, interacting with others and getting some much-needed exercise all at once.

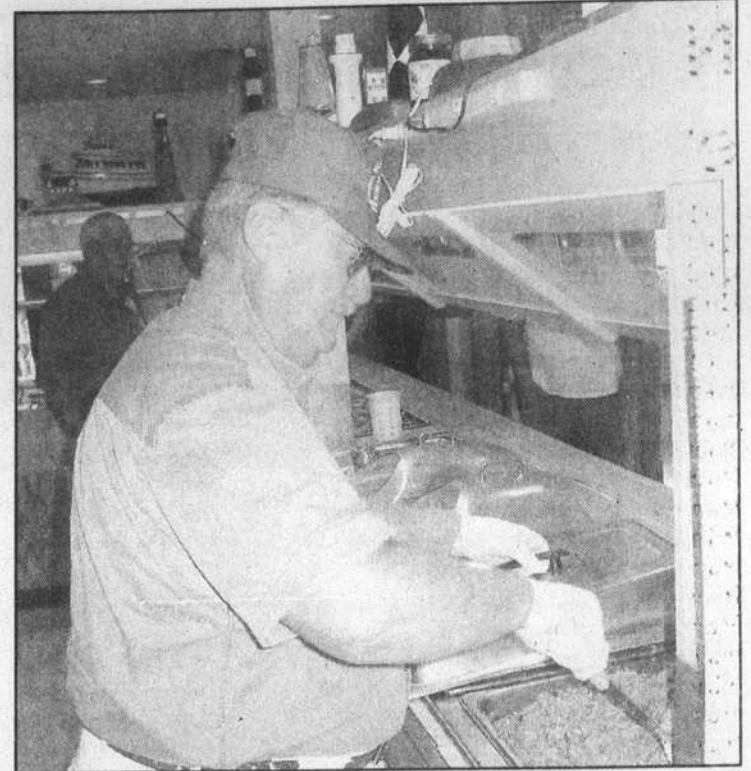


Plate sale successful....

Earl Johns fill up one of the 918 plates the Rocky Hock Lions Club sold on September 11. The club would like to thank all of those who worked hard filling the plates, selling tickets, and delivering the meals to local businesses.

The newly formed club is also distributing pickup boxes where used glasses may be dropped off. The glasses will be collected and distributed to needy individuals all over the world. The Rocky Hock Lions would also like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to local business for their support. (Photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

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Aces JVs off to good start

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After the first two weeks of non-conference schedule for the JV Aces football team, they have had their ups and downs but the coaches are looking for big things from this group of freshmen and sophomores.

A great number of this year's team members are freshmen that played at Chowan Middle School last year, where they only lost one game. Coach Andy Downing commended the Middle School coaching staff for a great job of teaching the players in their first year. The JV Aces have 42 players on the team. Last year the JV Aces finished with a 6-4 record overall and 3-3 in conference play. They will once again play in the Northeastern Coastal Conference.

Offensively for the JV Aces, the look will be similar to the Varsity Aces. They will mostly run out of the wing-T with a little option thrown in. Freshman Brian Leary will

lead the team at quarterback. Other players seeing time in the backfield will be Lindsey Lawrence at tailback, Latrone Robbins and Quintin Drew. Sophomore Mike Dowd will anchor down a young offensive line. Downing said this group was progressing, and that scrimmaging Gates County and Columbia helped the team a lot. He also added that they are behind the defense still.

Defensively for the JV Aces, Downing said they have an aggressive bunch that like to hit something that he attributes to players having played football and the Middle School also.

The JV Aces will run mostly a 4-3 and 4-4 defense. Downing said the strength of his defense is its secondary and the linebacker corps. He added that this group in the secondary is one of the best he's had. With safeties Earthan Ward and Quinten Drew, along with Lindsey Lawrence and Broc Sutton, big things are expected this year. Linebacker William

Dowell, defensive end Linnell Evans and defensive tackle Javon Skinner are others to look at this year to step up for the JV Aces.

The JV Aces have gotten off to a good start, going 1-1. They lost their opener to Northeastern (Elizabeth City). They had a great defensive game, as the Eagles scored two late touchdowns. Last week, the JV Aces defeated the Williamston Tigers, 20-6. The JV Aces were led by Lindsey Lawrence's running, had a 20-0 halftime lead and coasted in for the victory. Coach Downing was pleased with the athleticism of this group.

"They were real good players and thought they would have fun and make a run at the conference championship," he said. "We are looking forward to this year and are preparing for conference play." He said that Northeastern, Bertie and Hertford County would be teams to contend with.

Foresters holding membership BBQ dinner

The Albemarle Chapter of the Society of American Foresters will be holding their Membership Recruitment Beef BBQ on Thursday, September 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Boat Basin Picnic Shelter near Edenton.

All Albemarle area foresters and those interested in joining the Society are invited to attend. Please contact Brian R. Long at 794-4181 ext. 11 for more information.

Rec Report

Please Return Equipment and Uniforms

To all coaches, players and parents of Recreation Dept. sports: If you have any equipment or uniforms that you have not returned, please return these items as soon as possible.

Men's Over 40 Basketball Free Play

The Recreation Department will offer Over 40 basketball free play on Thursdays from 7:00-9 p.m. at the Recreation Department (old armory).

Adult Volleyball Free Play

The Recreation Department will offer adult volleyball free play on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Northern Chowan Community Center.

Youth Fall Soccer Monday, Sept. 9

Headers defeated Netters

Booters defeated Kickers

Thursday, Sept. 12

Streaks defeated Hurricanes

Sharks defeated Lightning

Adult Co-ed Softball Thursday, Sept. 12

Brabble Plumbing defeated

Pepsi Dew Crew, 15-2

Kings and Queens defeated

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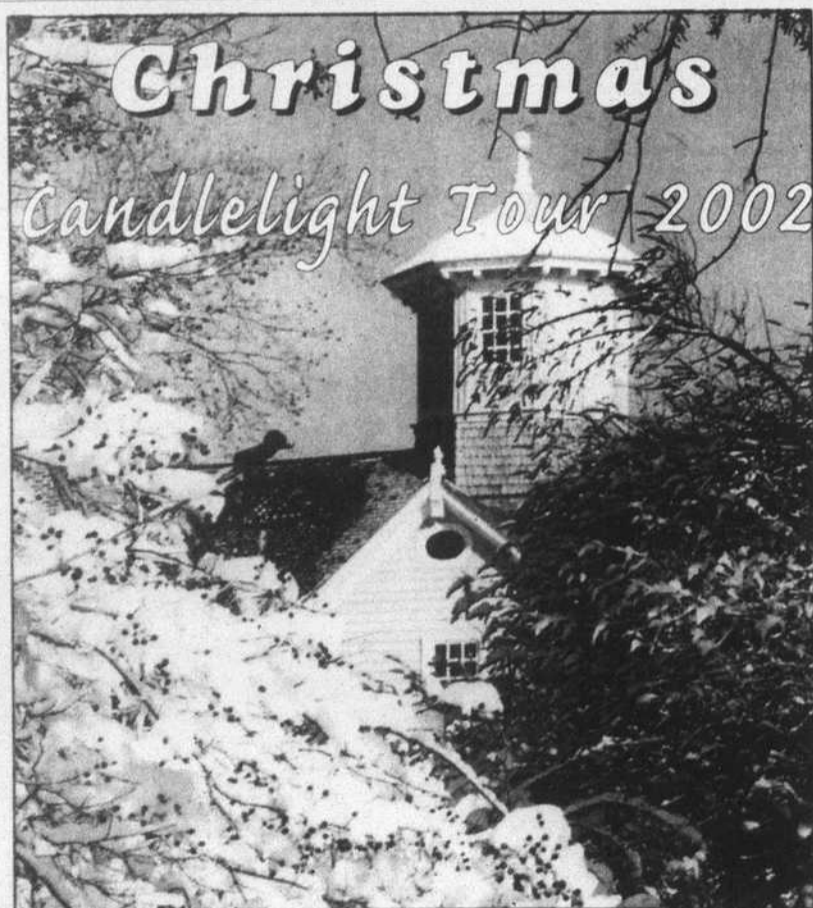
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