

Free football clinic aimed at children

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FITCHBURG -- It's time to start thinking and preparing to play football in Fitchburg.

Fitchburg High School and Fitchburg Youth Football are joining forces later this week for the first "Friday Night Football Clinic" at Nikitas Field.

Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and the clinic for all children in grades K-8 is from 6-8 p.m.

"One of the first things I did when I took over the program was to meet with the AYF board and really have in-depth discussions on how we can develop a partnership, help each other out and promote football in the city of Fitchburg," said first-year FHS football coach Tom DiGeronimo. "We thought what a great way to introduce our staff and get to know the kids who are part of your feeder system. So we decided on one camp before they began practicing."

And a huge bonus is that this football camp is absolutely free.

"It's an opportunity to give back to our community," DiGeronimo said.

DiGeronimo - a Super-Bowl winning coach at Narragansett Regional High School - says the main goal of the camp is to "develop relationships with the younger players, the coaches and to teach the game of football."

The camp will focus on drills for specific positions, tackling and some team drills.

DiGeronimo confirmed that the entire FHS football staff and the Fitchburg American Youth Football coaches will be in attendance.

Some current Fitchburg High players will also be helping out, too.

"This is the third community service event our players have been involved in," DiGeronimo said. "They are great about volunteering and giving back to the city of Fitchburg."

Getting to know the coaches at all levels is an added bonus for parents/players that attend this free clinic.

"This is a great opportunity to get to know the coaches and players in the AYF program and build strong relationships between the programs," DiGeronimo said. "I want to be available to help out and support both the coaches and players."

DiGeronimo is hopeful any child who attends the camp will learn something that will help them in the upcoming pigskin season.

"Obviously we want them to leave the camp with at least one thing that they can take away to help become a better player," he said. "But more importantly, we want to be enthusiastic and passionate about the game of football. Also, getting to know the high school staff."

All the Fitchburg coaches from the youth level to high school are excited for Friday night to roll around.

"We hope that it's a great night and kids leave excited to play the great game of football," DiGeronimo said.

Contact admin@fitchburgyouthraiders.org with any questions.

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