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Doing it the right way

Free football camp coming to Warren Community Center

By Christian Davis
C & G Sports Writer

WARREN — For Pat Cavanaugh, his Believe to Achieve free football camp is an opportunity to teach young athletes confidence using a game in which he is very familiar.

“When you can get a bunch of people believing in themselves, then you can really achieve something,” Cavanaugh said.

He should know; he’s had plenty of success on the football field.

An All-State quarterback at Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Cavanaugh moved on to Saginaw Valley State University where he became a three-year starter at defensive back and a two-time captain. He is elementary school teacher by profession, but football is still one of his great passions.

“I was very fortunate to have people help me out when I was playing,” Cavanaugh continued. “Now that my playing days are over, I have the opportunity to coach and teach kids to believe in themselves. For me, it’s a blessing.”

The camp, now in its second year, is for boys and girls ages 8 and up and is open to athletes from all communities.

The camp runs from 6 to 9 p.m. July 13 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14 at the Warren Community Center.

Cavanaugh said he is excited about the wide range of ages that will be in attendance this year. Last year, the camp was offered to 11- to 14-year-olds and 62 youngsters

participated. He said he expects more this year because of the younger age groups.

“It’s possibly the first experience of football for these kids,” he said. “It’s a great opportunity to get them involved and excited about football.”

Campers will not only learn the value of self-confidence, they will also learn every position on the field. A 20-member coaching staff will help out at the camp, many of them coming from the collegiate level.

“I have a lot of great people around me,” Cavanaugh said. “The coaches either played or coached each position. They bring so much to the table.”

Cavanaugh also said without the help of his sponsors — Independent Bank, Warren Parks and Recreation, Fast Signs, Kachi Deli, Champion Karate, Jet’s Pizza and McDonald’s — none of this would be possible.

Food will be provided at the end of each day of the camp, as will a commemorative shirt. Campers are asked to bring proper footwear — preferably cleats — and comfortable clothing.

To register, please visit the Warren Community Center, located at 5460 Arden Road, or visit www.freeyouthcamp.com. Registration ends July 10.

For questions, call Cavanaugh at (248) 225-2145.

You can reach Christian Davis at cdavis@candgnews.com or at (586) 498-1062