



PAW PRINTS

The Official Newsletter of the
YMCA Jaguar Football &
Cheerleading Program

June 2008

Welcome to our 11th season of Jaguar football and cheerleading. If you are a returning family—it's nice to have you back. If you are new to Jaguar Football & Cheerleading—welcome to our Jaguar family.

The Paw Prints is our program newsletter which goes out periodically to our Jaguar families in the “off – season” and weekly during the “in-season”. This is the place to get the most up to date program information. We ask that you take time to read this newsletter and keep current on what is going on. For more in-depth information on the program you can check out our website @ <http://ymcacecil.org/jaguars/> where the most recent issue of the Paw Prints will be posted. You can also find back issues of the Paw Prints and the upcoming 2008 calendar of events.

Football Registrations

We will continue to take registrations until each team is full. We have 8 football squads registering players from ages 5 -14. Our two youngest squads are considered instructional. Players are placed on squads according to their “League Age” (age as of 7/31/06) first and then weight. Each squad has a maximum weight limit for players and their weights are checked **EVERY** week prior to the start of the game. Each week ½ pound is added to the weights.

The Jaguars program takes registrations on a **FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED** basis. This is an H/B league policy and widely publicized on our signs, informational flyers and on our program website. OBL (Older but Lighter) spots fill up quickly which is why we encourage everyone to sign up EARLY. As of this writing several teams no longer have OBL spots available. In addition we may need to start a “wait list” for our 5-6 squad. We are in need of 13 year olds so if you know anyone interested in playing on this squad please have them register at the YMCA.

Football Jerseys

If your child needs a football jersey make sure that your payment has received at the front desk of the YMCA. Orders will be placed next week. All football players are required to wear a program issued jersey.

Cheerleading Registrations

There have been a few changes in our cheerleading program this season. These changes will help to make our cheerleading program better and stronger. We are excited to have several new coaches this season and there is only ONE competition squad. To help our competition squad improve their performance we are planning on participating in a camp to assist with stunting, gymnastics and choreography. Anyone interested in participating on the competition squad will need to attend a mandatory meeting in June. The date and time will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available. The competition squad will be open to girls between the ages of 9-14 and will require a huge commitment for both cheerleaders and parents

In addition we will also offer cheering opportunities for those not interested or “not yet ready” to be a part of the competition squad. There have been several requests for a “pep” squad for our younger groups and this will be offered if we are able to find a coach for this group. If you or anyone you know would be interested in coaching please contact Kellee Trice @ ccjaguars@comcast.net or 410-392-4951. There will be a cheerleading coaches meeting on Tuesday June 3, 6:00 pm @ the YMCA.

Physical Forms

All **Football players** are required have a physical form on file in order to participate in Jaguars football. You can obtain the form from the <http://ymcacecil.org/jaguars/> website under the football forms menu or at the front desk of the YMCA. Please schedule your physical now—some physicians have a several month backlog for physicals.

Upcoming Events

Football Equipment Distribution

Football players will be scheduled by squad the week of July 21st - 25th for equipment distribution. Coaches will contact each player regarding the date and time. Anyone not able to attend on their scheduled date/time will receive their equipment the first week of practice. Please DO NOT call and ask to pick up your equipment early—if you miss the date you will need to wait! We will once again accept donations of used cleats. There will be boxes set out during equipment distribution for anyone to donate or take cleats. This is a great way to recycle these items that our children have outgrown.

Football Practice will begin on **Monday August 4th, 6:00 -8:00 PM** at the YMCA Sports Complex. A list of items needed is included with this letter or available on the website.

ID Day

As part of the H/B football league all football players, coaches and cheerleading coaches are required to have an official league ID. In order to obtain an ID for your child you will need your child's **ORIGINAL** birth certificate and \$5 cash. The league will not accept copies or records of birth only original birth certificates with a raised seal. Those who players who will need to have an ID are: any new player, anyone who's ID is more than 3 years old, and anyone changing status (i.e to or from OBL or Tackle-to-tackle). Questions regarding ID's should be directed to either your head coach or Jim Trice. Our program ID Day will be Friday August 8th during practice. Parents please plan on being with your child for ID's in order to complete the required paper work. Anyone not obtaining an ID on this day will be required to travel to Bel Air on what is called a "Straggler's Day". Players will not permitted to play without a league issued ID.

Cheerleading Uniforms

The cheerleading coaches will notify you of your child's uniform fitting day. It is important that you show up at the scheduled date and time if you want your child to have a uniform this season.

A list of cheerleading accessories that you will need to purchase is included in this mailing. All shoes must be purchased **NO LATER THAN JUNE 15th** or delivery is **NOT** guaranteed. You can purchase these through M & M Sports in Elkton.

Cheerleading practices will begin on Monday August 11th 6:00 -8:00 PM @ the YMCA Sports Complex.

MOT Classic

Our program has been invited to attend the 3rd annual MOT classic on Saturday August 23rd. The theme of this year's event is: "**Honoring Those Who Serve**". Each of our 8 football squads will participate in this "scrimmage day". Dates and times will be announced at a later date. Every participant will receive a free MOT Classic T-shirt. This is a great way for all of our players to practice what they have learned in practice prior to the official start of the season.

Parking

There are approximately 300 children registered in the Jaguar program this season. As you can imagine this creates a major traffic flow problem entering and exiting the YMCA between 5:30 – 6:00 PM and again between 7:30 – 8:00 PM. We ask that everyone please abide by the traffic pattern set up for pick-up and drop off. Signs will be posted and very visible. You will **NOT** be able to stop for drop off or pick-up in front of the fields you will be directed through a specific traffic pattern. Please know that this is for the safety of our children and we expect full cooperation from all of our families.

Fanware/Merchandise

We are thrilled to announce that you can now purchase all of your Jaguar fanware through our new virtual "storefront" (<http://www.ymcajaguars.com/>) which is also linked to our website. The site offers many choices of merchandise, cheerleading warm-ups along with the flexibility to order items that you may want customized or special ordered at a reasonable price We hope that you enjoy this exciting enhancement to our program.

Thank you for choosing the Jaguar program for your child. We look forward to another successful season and the opportunity to work with your child.

See you in August!