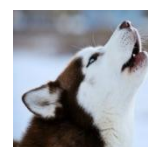




THE HOWLER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OAK PARK RIVER FOREST HUSKIE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY

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Opening Drive

* What's happening in Huskie Football *

"Game week!" After enduring summer camp and triple practices, these two words are music to everyone's ears. After putting in the hard work on the field and in the weight room, the idea of playing the first game of the season has everyone excited. A new season is upon us. We have new head coach. We have a new attitude. We can't wait to get started.

We kicked off the season with our annual **Orange & Blue Scrimmage** on Saturday, August 20. The Freshman and Sophomore teams scrimmaged at 8 AM leading up to the Varsity scrimmage at 10 AM. Attendance was great and there was an exciting buzz in the air as the **Orange & Blue** teams entered the field. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. Only ten minutes into the scrimmage the thunder and lightning began, delaying the game for 3 hours. But, we did get the scrimmage in. The game tape has been evaluated and the depth charts are filled out. Now it's on to **Glenbard North Friday night**.

Hope to see you there!!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
OPRF Football Alumni Association.

VARSITY SCHEDULE

8/26	AWAY	Glenbard North
9/2	HOME	Proviso East
9/9	HOME	DGN
9/16	AWAY	York
9/24	HOME	Glenbard West
10/1	AWAY	Lyons Township
10/7	HOME	Hinsdale Central
10/14	AWAY	Morton
10/21	AWAY	Proviso West

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HOMECOMING/
ALUMNI SOCIAL IS
SEPT. 24!



OPRF Youth Football

OPRF Youth Football is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides organized contact football for children ages 6 - 14. The experienced coaching staff stresses the fundamentals of the game with an emphasis on instruction, teamwork, and fun! Each fall, every night after the high school teams finish practicing, between 250 and 300 youth players can be found working hard on the OPRF practice field. Home games are played at the OPRF stadium on Saturday and Sunday. This year we have 12 teams competing. Our first home games are September 4th.

**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE
OPRFYF.ORG.**

The youth program is divided into five levels of competition depending on age, weight, skill, and experience. At every level, there are competitive and developmental teams. All teams travel around "Chicagoland" to compete in the largest independent youth tackle football league in the United States, the highly regarded Chicagoland Youth Football League (TCYFL), which includes several of the state's finest programs. The TCYFL fields many thousands of players on hundreds of teams from 33 Member Communities based throughout Chicagoland and southeastern Wisconsin. There are nine regular season games, followed by two rounds of playoffs, and a Super Bowl. OPRF Youth Football teams have won many Conference and Super Bowl Championships!

**COME SEE US PLAY
AND HEAR US CHEER:**

**"WHO ARE WE? HUSKIES!
WHAT ARE WE? CHAMPIONS!"**

HUSKIE PUP PROFILE



PJ "Gonzo" Gonzales is a 101-lb. defensive lineman for the youth middle-weight team. This is his fifth year playing football in Oak Park. He says his family has lived in Oak Park for 7 years and the best part of being here is all the friendly people. But he sure does love suiting up and hitting them! "Tackling is the greatest part of football!"

As a sixth-grader at Brooks, Gonzo enjoys reading and is a fan of *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*. He is also a movie buff, naming Johnny Depp as his favorite actor and "Ocean's Eleven" as his favorite movie. He credits his Mom's cooking as the source of his strength to play D line and really enjoys eating steaks after practice.

In Gonzo's 5-year football career (so far!), he has one memory from two years ago that stands out above the rest. Defensive linemen don't often get a chance to touch the ball. But Gonzo got a chance, and he made his mark. For one play he was able to fill in at quarterback. That play was all his and he got to carry that ball seven yards for a touchdown! Gonzo says he will always remember how amazing it was to cross that goal line, even if he never gets to carry the ball again!

JV SCHEDULE

8/27	AWAY	GBN	11:00am
9/3	HOME	PE	TBA
9/10	HOME	DGN	11:00am
9/17	AWAY	York	11:00am
9/26	HOME	GBW	5:00pm
10/3	AWAY	LT	5:00pm
10/8	HOME	HC	11:00am
10/15	AWAY	Morton	11:00am

SOPHOMORE SCHEDULE

8/26	AWAY	GBN	5:00pm
9/3	HOME	PE	11:00am
9/9	HOME	DGN	5:00pm
9/16	AWAY	York	5:00pm
9/24	HOME	GBW	11:00pm
10/1	AWAY	LT	5:00pm
10/7	HOME	HC	5:00pm
10/14	AWAY	Morton	5:00pm
10/21	AWAY	PW	5:00pm

FRESHMAN A/B SCHEDULE

8/27	AWAY	GBN	9:00am
9/3	HOME	PE	9:00am
9/10	HOME	DGN	9:00am
9/17	AWAY	York	9:00am
9/24	HOME	GBW	9:00am
10/1	AWAY	LT	9:00am
10/8	HOME	HC	9:00am
10/15	AWAY	Morton	9:00am
10/20	AWAY	PW	6:00pm



Directions to Glenbard North High School,
990 Kuhn Rd, Carol Stream, IL 60188:

Take 290 West, to Exit 7 (I-355 South) towards Joliet. Take the Army Trail Road exit. Take the ramp towards Bloomingdale/Glendale Heights. Merge onto Army Trail Road. Drive about 5 miles, then turn left onto Kuhn Road. To use MapQuest, click [here](#).



Photo by J. GEIL

MEET NEW OPRF HEAD COACH JOHN HOERSTER!

Age: 35

High School\Class: York, Class of 1994

Position in high school: QB/FS

Position in college: QB for U of Dayton, Fullback for UW-Madison Rugby Football Club

Years Coaching: 13; At OPRF: 1

Current Coaching Position: Head Coach; QBs and RBs; Offensive Coordinator

Favorite Football Coach: My father, John

Favorite Football Quote: Not exactly about football, but, "The Zen master says 'seek not the target, rather, become the bow'...that's some heavy stuff.

Best Excuse Ever Heard: "Coach, I woke up this morning with a "Devil -Mind."

Worst Excuse Ever Heard: "I fell into a campfire."

Favorite OPRF Football Memory: I will get back to you on that...

Favorite App: What's an "App"?

Most vivid football memory from HS: Throwing a last-minute touchdown pass to beat Maine South.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON: MAX SAKELLARIS ('02)



Coach Sakellaris, #62, leads the UWW Warhawks onto the field.

WHAT ARE YOU REMINDED MOST OF WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT PLAYING FOOTBALL AT OPRF?

Out of the many things I remember the most, I'm reminded most of going to Doc Ryan's after the games with my entire family and some teammates to eat an unreal amount of food and just talk about the game and hang out.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL MEMORY FROM OPRF?

My favorite football memory at OPRF was getting moved up to varsity as a sophomore. Even though my first game I was physically abused for four quarters against the #1 Downers North Trojans, it was a great experience.

DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TEACHER WHILE AT OPRF?

My favorite teacher at OPRF was Todd Black. His P.E. class was hard and demanding but fun at the same time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-FOOTBALL MEMORY FROM OPRF?

My most favorite non-football memory at OPRF involves my senior basketball season. My junior year we recorded a 5-20 season. Putting in the time and effort in to get to a 17-13 recorded was one of the greatest experiences in my life.

WHICH FOOTBALL COACH INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST DURING YOUR TIME AT OPRF?

At OPRF I was greatly influenced by 3 coaches. Bob Organ, Al Allen, and Chris Ledbetter. In different ways each coach help me progress as a football player, student, and person.



Max leads the way for head coach John Hoerster during the Coaches Vs. Alumni game.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE LEAVING OPRF?

Since leaving OPRF, I attended University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where I played 5 years for college football. At UWW our team was extremely successful, posting a 42-8 record with 2 conference championships and 2 national championship runner ups. After UWW, I starting coaching football and basketball at OPRF while getting my teaching certificate in PE. I'm on my 4th year coaching football at OPRF at the varsity level and my 2nd year as head sophomore basketball coach at OPRF.

I recently got married to Kara Sakellaris who teaches 4th grade at Irving Elementary School and together live now in Forest Park, IL. I also was newly hired to District 97 as the traveling P.E. teacher at Irving, Longfellow, Mann, and Lincoln elementary schools.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Take a look at what recent
OPRF grads are up to....



Zach Howard '08 - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Sr. - WR/KR



Levell Coppage '08 - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Sr. - 5' 8"
180lb RB #33



Gabe Woullard '10 - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, So. - 6' 2"
195lb DL #96



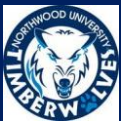
Hans Goldenberg '10 - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, So. - 6' 0"
220lb #57



Clarke Cuthbert '08 - Knox College,
Sr. - 6' 1" 175lb WR #7



David Pickard '07 - Southern Illinois
University, Sr. - 6' 5" 306lb OL #64



Brad Oxnevad '11 - Northwood
University, Fr. - 6' 4" 275lb OL



Dan Green '08 - Northern Illinois
University, Jr. - 6' 2" 245lb DL #56



Brock Friesen '10 - St. John's
University, So. - 5' 11" 200lb LB #52



Joe Donlan '11 - Miami University, Fr
- 6' 1" 215lb LB #59



Tony Stapleton '11 - Butler
University, Fr. - 5' 11" 195lb RB #19



Ben Carbery '11 - Yale University, Fr.
- 6' 5" 275lb OL #70



Isaac Chadri '11 - Grinnell College, Fr.
- 5' 11" 260lb OL/DL #57



Eddie Guen Murray '11 - Grinnell
College - 5' 11" 210lb DL #63



Krys Watkins '08 - Prairie View A&M,
Sr. - 5' 11" 250lb FB #35



Kyle French '10 - Illinois Wesleyan
University, So. - 5' 10" 200lb DL #98



Zach Draus '11 - Beloit College, Fr.
- 5' 8" 195lb WR



Tony Stapleton against GBW, 9/18/09. Picture
by Andrew A. Nelles for The Chicago Tribune.

HUSKIE PACKS ARE COMING SOON!!

- \$100 & \$50 options
- ALL money raised goes to the OPRF Football Community
- Schedules, t-shirts, stickers, cups & more!
- Checks should be made out to: OPRF Football Alumni. We can only accept cash or checks at this time. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

This newsletter is created for the purpose of keeping those interested in the OPRF Football Community informed of our news and activities. If you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, please feel free to forward it to them or to inform us of their e-mail addresses.

If you would like to have your e-mail address added or removed from our group list, please contact the OPRF Football Alumni Association at

oprffootballalumni@gmail.com

OPRF's Zach Draus takes the ball away from Maine South's Mike Divito. October 31, 2009. Sun-Times.



It's a great
day to be a
Huskie!