



Moon Area School District

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Moon Area Football Coach Prepares for 2011-2012 Season

Moon Area School District (MASD) football coach Mark Washington believes in his players. The 2011-2012 school year will serve as Washington's first as the varsity head coach of a football team that has already shown him strong potential in its pre-season activities.

In a scrimmage on August 21 against heavyweights Thomas Jefferson, who went 9-1 last season, the MASD Tigers won. The following week, the team completed football camp at California University of Pennsylvania and continues its preparations through practices, which have taken place throughout the summer. Even before the first kick-off of the regular season, Washington has gained a sense of the strength of his team. Washington is impressed with his squad's discipline and described them as "very eager to learn."

Washington's philosophy as a coach revolves largely around balance. He wants to show his players compassion and nurture them, but also teach them about respect and discipline. He takes his role of coach seriously, saying, "I am really like a mentor to these kids." Recognizing that high school athletics can shape the character of students both on and off the field, Washington says he is in the business of "building young men," and he hopes he can help his players become productive, determined people. He also believes in helping his players develop a strong sense of self-esteem. Proof he has already done this lies in the fact that parents have contacted him to say they noticed a positive change in their students' self-esteem levels since joining the team.

Washington will use his extensive playing and coaching past as the groundwork to help the Tigers deliver a winning season. He previously served as a line coach and defensive coordinator for Aliquippa High School, as well as head coach for their junior varsity team. He has also participated in the coaching clinic at the University of

Pittsburgh for the past 10 years. These experiences will help him reach his goals this season. His current focus is on helping his team to find more consistency on the field and to bring rhythm to the offensive play.

The Tigers will officially begin their season this Friday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m. when they face the Mars Fightin' Planets. As Washington takes his place on the sidelines he will remember his own time as a high school player. He still recalls the impact one coach had on him. During Washington's junior year of high school, he remembers looking into the eyes of his coach as the team was about to run a play that would help win the game and land a playoff spot:

"Looking into my coaches eyes, I saw that he believed in us. He made me believe I could do anything," Washington said. Washington will undoubtedly do all he can to prepare his team for the teams first game at Mars. He continues, "People say it's about luck. It's not about luck; it's about being prepared. With hard work, anything can happen." With a lot of hard work and Washington at the helm, the Tigers are poised to have an excellent 2011 season.

2011-2012 Varsity Football Schedule

September 2:	Away	Mars HS Mars	7:30 p.m.
September 9:	Away	Blackhawk HS	7:30 pm.
September 16	Home	Hopewell High School	7:30 p.m.
September 23	Home	McGuffey High School	7:30 p.m.
September 30	Away	Central Valley School District	7:00 p.m.
October 7	Away	West Allegheny High School	7:00 p.m.
October 14	Away	Ambridge Area High School	7:30 p.m.
October 21	Home	New Castle Senior High School	7:30 p.m.
October 28	Away	Montour High School	7:10 p.m.

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