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New DSHS coach invites kids to camp

By Sam Muffoletto

DENHAM SPRINGS - Inheriting a program that has suffered through eight straight losing seasons, DSHS' new head coach Dru Nettles isn't exactly digging around the root of the problem, but has begun cultivating the root.

Last week, Nettles, much of his coaching staff and various current players did a little show-and-tell with some 40 youngsters at the first annual Yellow Jacket Football Camp.

"We went through some basic fundamentals, but one of our main objectives was to get them to be with us, our coaches and our players," said Nettles, who grew up in Denham and played both football and baseball at DSHS. "Just get them involved with us, so that in the future, they will be a part of Denham Springs High School."

The three-day morning camp lasted three hours each day, with the majority of the 7-to-15-year-olds already participating in organized football.

But along with the offensive and defensive technique teachings on the field, the staff painted a much broader stroke of every aspect of being a part of a football



Dru Nettles demonstrates the correct way to take a snap from center to campers Zack Millet (center, holding football) and Kyle Blackburn (right) as Hunter Naquin (left, in yellow) looks on. Nettles, the new Denham Springs High School head football coach, has taken over a program coming off its eighth straight losing season. He said one of the three-day camp's goals is to get kids involved and acclimate them to the workings of the high school football program, part of an effort to build a strong base from which the team can grow in the future. (News photo by David Normand)

program.

DSHS' new trainer David Bourque gave a talk on nutrition, while strength and conditioning coach Daniel Dessell centered his message around weight-lifting and calisthenics.

While the youngsters were put through an array of agility work, as well as breaking into various position drills, Nettles' main objective was to get the them acclimated to the facilities, the coaching staff and the pride that comes with wearing the purple and gold.

Unlike in the recent past, Nettles will reopen Jacket Stadium once again on Saturday mornings to provide two area youth football teams, the Southside Patriots and the Denham Spring Youth Jackets, a quality field for their home league games.

Nettles is also hoping to see those same faces on Friday nights in Jackets Stadium and has even made the possibility a little easier by offering free admission to any youth or junior high player attending the high school game in his team football jersey.

DSHS will open the 2005 season Friday, Sept. 2, at home against Broadmoor.