



Get Involved Fall 2019

Warriors proud of their program

BY KARA KINNA

The Esterhazy Warriors high school football team is starting its fall season, and head coach and GM Tyler Metz says the team is looking forward to another great year, and welcomes new players, and any volunteers who would like to be a part of their organization.

The Warriors are under the umbrella of Football Saskatchewan as well as the Good Spirit School Division, and the teams consist of players from Esterhazy, Langenburg, Churchbridge, Stockholm, and surrounding areas.

There is both a spring and fall program each year.

"We run a high school program in the fall for Grades 7-9 in our Junior program and Grades 9-12 in our Senior program," says Coach Metz.

"In spring we participate in minor football, which is under Football Saskatchewan. We participate in the Pee wee program which is Grades 5-6.

"The Senior high school program in the fall is part of a league, and we play Foam Lake, Yorkton Sacred Heart, Broadview and Melville.

"We are a nine-man program, which is a very exciting type of football. As coaches we really, really enjoy it.

"In our Junior program we play Fort Qu'Appelle, Melville, and Moosomin. It's a four-team league.

"We encourage everybody to come out to participate—male, female, anyone. We are all inclusive, and the players and coaches and everybody involved basically has a good attitude and just wants to work hard, and it's about the kids on the field."

There are lots of kids interested in Warriors football, but Metz says they welcome new players with open arms, regardless of experience.

"Our numbers are good for both junior and senior. We will probably be up a few more in junior, however we always are looking for more players," he says.

"As a volunteer group, as a coaching staff, we put a lot of time and effort into this program. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes in the off-season and during the season. It's almost a full-time job for some of the volunteers, and it's a labour of love, and we do it because—and I can't stress this enough—our ultimate goal is the kids on the field.

"We want them to be good football players, good teammates, and good people. They will learn life skills. It's not just football skills, which we love—it's our passion—but it's also a vehicle to help these young people in life.

"We want people if they are interested, and if there is something stopping them from coming to play, we'd really like to get the opportunity to talk to them, because we've heard it all, we've seen it all and we'll



Above: The Warriors playing a game at night on their field. Above right: The Warriors' equipment shed. Right: The field lit up at night.

teach them how to play.

"Something else to stress is we are a multi-town sponsored team. We take players from Langenburg, Churchbridge, Stockholm and Esterhazy and the surrounding area. That's a fairly recent thing. It gives opportunities to players in other towns that don't necessarily have a program. We've welcomed those players and parents with open arms and they in turn have been phenomenal. They have become part of the program. I refer to our program as the Warrior program because it isn't just Esterhazy, it's those surrounding communities too, and we've become one big family and one big unit, and it's really nice to see.

Volunteers are welcome

"We want people who want to come and contribute and help the kids," he says.

"We are open to volunteers coming and helping, whether they are alumni, or just have an interest in football, or just have an interest in helping out. We could use help coaching, refing—we are really trying to find more refs—but also we welcome people to help with the management and administration.

"Our catch phrase is 'many hands make small work,' so we are really trying to get people specialized in certain areas, in administration, in the coaching, first responder, and our training. We have an announcer at every game, our refs are helping out. We want to get it to a point where it's a well-oiled machine and we are very organized, and we are working at that all the time to be better and better.

Football builds life skills

Metz says he sees a tremendous benefit to kids who play football.

"We see a lot of young people that maybe don't have a lot of confidence, and we've seen them blossom and learn and take on skills they never thought they could do," he says.

"And they often realize they can be a specialist. They don't necessarily have to be a star football player, but when they come out and they can be a specialist in their position, we see a lot of them succeed in that. And not only succeed, but excel in areas they never thought they could before.

"Teamwork is a big thing they learn. They learn to work with others, they learn to work with people that they don't necessarily get along with, and then all of a sudden they start getting along with them. They learn how to take direction from their coaching staff, they learn respect for each other, they learn respect for their coaches, and it also translates into school and at home.

"One speech we give right at the beginning of the year, and probably every second practice, is in order to be on this team you have to be a good person first."

Constant work on facilities

Metz says another thing the Warriors program is proud of is their facilities.

"We've spent a lot of time and effort on our infrastructure over the last decade," he says.

"We've got a very large trailer that holds all of our equipment. We put in a tower. We have a live announcer at the games. We've got lights, we've got new football uprights, and we've also got a new score-clock.

"And our latest and greatest achievement now is the football field, which is being redone. We are raising money for that and we are over halfway there. Local contractor Norenda Construction is doing the work and it looks phenomenal and we should be able to play on it our first home game on September 5.

"So we'd love to have the support from the local community to come out and see that home game."

Safety first

Metz stresses that safety is also a huge priority for the Warriors.

"There is a bit of a cloud



minimize that risk as much as possible.

"Ever since I've been involved—and this is my 15th season—every year we are working harder and harder to get the best equipment on the kids on the field all the time.

"We always go back to that, that this is about the kids on the field. So let's make sure they have the right training, let's make sure that they are physically and mentally prepared for the game, let's make sure that they are the safest they can be and have the best equipment on, and that they are ready and have the right attitude. We try to take care of them.

"And then we see the results. They are happy. We do everything we can to try to set them up for success."

How to get involved

Metz says anyone wanting more information on their program, or wanting to join the team, or to volunteer, can get in touch with him.

"I'm available 24/7," he says. "They can call me on my cell at 306-745-7743."

The Warriors also have a website and are on Facebook.

The full fall game schedule for the Junior and Senior teams can be found at www.esterhazywarriors.ca.



Esterhazy Warriors
Fall Football
JUNIOR & SENIOR PROGRAMS

If you want to play high school football this fall and you are between Grades 7-12, come on out and give it a try!

No experience necessary, all players welcome, both male and female!

CONTACT:

Tyler - GM/Head Coach
306-745-7743

Aaron - Assistant Manager
306-745-3501

Corine - Administration
306-740-8234

Including players from the communities of:

- Esterhazy
- Langenburg
- Churchbridge
- Stockholm
- And surrounding areas!

Want to Get Involved?
COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We could use Coaches, Refs, and other team volunteers!

Check us out online at: www.esterhazywarriors.ca
JUNIOR AND SENIOR SCHEDULES AVAILABLE ONLINE