

Creech teaming with Coaches to host camp fundraiser for The Center for Courageous Kids

Special To The Enterprise

When Harlan County High School math teacher and quarterback/wide receiver Coach Eddie Creech approached Black Bear Head Coach Tom Larkey about organizing a summer camp to raise money for The Center for Courageous Kids (CCK), it came as no surprise to Larkey.

“Coach Creech is pro-kids, he is all about kids,” said Larkey. “He has a big heart, so caring and will go the extra mile. He is a great role model and sets examples and follows them to a tee. He is dedicated, full of zeal and bursting with energy.”

On Saturday, June 2, Coach Creech will team up with Larkey, former Coach and Superintendent of Harlan County Schools Tim Saylor and former University of Kentucky Quarterback Freddie Maggard as hosts for the 2012 “Passing with a Purpose” Quarterback and Wide Receiver Camp. Other county high school assistant coaches and the district’s middle school coaches will be assisting as well.

The camp will be held at the Jim “Big Man” Davis Stadium located next to James A. Cawood Elementary School. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for grades 3-12. The cost is \$10 per camper, with proceeds benefiting CCK located near Bowling Green in Scottsville, KY. The fee will include a T-shirt, drinks, lunch, basic quarterback and wide receiver drills and techniques, video session with strategies and skills discussed, and instruction from very knowledgeable individuals. Campers should arrive by 8:45 a.m.

Creech said he had wanted to host such a camp for a long time. After talking with Maggard, he did a search for information on The Center for Courageous Kids and knew that is the organization he wanted to help.

“I was talking with Freddie Maggard about putting together a camp and asked him what would be a good place to donate the money made from it. He mentioned the Center for Courageous Kids and that he had actually visited it before. Once he told me the details of what it is, it was a lock where we would donate the proceeds,” said Creech.

The CCK is a world class medical camp serving children and families from across the country who are living with a variety of medical challenges. The camp is open year round and can host 120 kids at a time. The purpose of the CCK is to “Prescribe Fun” for these kids by utilizing a host of counselors, volunteers, trained Programs and Medical staff, and the camp mascot, Dr. Cubby the Courageous Lion.

It is a \$20 million facility located on 168 acre campus that includes onsite medical center with helipad, indoor aquatic complex, equestrian riding arena, bowling alley, gymnasium, climbing wall, boating and fishing, dining hall, theater, four camper lodges, and much more.

“Anytime you can do anything whatsoever to help an organization such as the CCK it’s a blessing and privilege,” said Creech. “Also, it gives the youth of Harlan County something to look forward to and something they can learn from.”

Creech said he wants to get the word out early about the camp so that parents and participants can get it on their summer calendar.

“We’d like for everybody that can to come out and be a part of the camp. We’ve tried to get a head start on getting the word out about the date of the camp because we know June is a busy month for everyone and we wanted June 2nd marked down early,” said Creech. “We’re excited to have the help from the local middle school coaches and high school coaches who have agreed to donate their time and effort to work this camp.”

Creech said there are opportunities for local businesses and organizations to get involved as well through sponsorships. “Sponsorships are greatly appreciated as the more we get sponsored, that’s just that much more we’ll be able to donate.”

While he is spreading the word on the camp now, he is also busy teaching Algebra I and Integrated Math at HCHS, being father with his wife Ashley to their 11-month old son Trey, and serving as a deacon at the Poor Fork Old Regular Baptist Church. In addition to football, he enjoys fishing.

Larkey notes that he admires Coach Creech for his dependability, reliability and respectfulness. Larkey believes the camp will be a great success.

Creech, working with his players and others to get flyers and public service announcements out about the camp, admits he can’t wait for June 2 to roll around.

“Football has always been a part of my life, but here in Harlan County it’s been a part of almost everyone’s life,” he said. “Football is the one sport that can teach you the most about the game of life. Football is about setting goals and working to meet those goals. It’s about people accepting their roles and doing the most they can in that role. It’s a team sport which teaches young people they must learn to work with others and that you can do so much more alongside others than you could alone.”

He continued by noting that the sport demands hard work, “the hard work that people outside your football family aren’t there to witness. The times in the weight room when its spitting snow outside, the days at football camp in 100 degree weather, the bus rides together, the Monday to Thursday beating on each other, the weekend film sessions, years sharing a locker room together, it goes on and on.”

“Football is cruel and at times unfair just like real life is. You learn lessons, tough lessons that stick with you your entire life. Around here, sports play a huge role in our young kids’ lives. Sports such as football give them opportunities to do something... My papaw always told me that idle time wasn’t good for anyone, especially teenagers. Sports keep kids busy and into something productive.”

Anyone interested in helping sponsor the camp or to register a camper now may email Creech at eddie.creech@harlan.kyschools.us. A registration form will be posted on the school district’s website soon. It can be mailed to Coach Creech, Harlan County High School, 4000 North US 119, Baxter KY 40806.