

CLIPPER SPORTS

Football camp in Beausejour April 20

Kenny Lawler leads list of Winnipeg Blue Bombers with on-field instruction

By Tony Zerucha

Beausejour-area youths curious about playing football can hit the field with some of the best at École Edward Schreyer School (ESS) next month.

Winnipeg Blue Bomber star Kenny Lawler headlines the Brokenhead Community Youth Football Camp on April 20. Organizer Matt Monkman moved to the area three years ago with his wife and two young kids. Monkman played football for 14 years until he was 25. He hopes to see a program established close to home so his kids and many others can play a great game in their backyard.

"The idea is to start a team at the high school," Monkman said. "Hopefully, the high school will see that kids are interested."

The seeds for the camp were planted earlier this winter when Monkman's employer, Cobra Construction, invited the two-time Grey Cup champion and some teammates out to the Co-op Community Complex to watch the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships races. Monkman and Lawler got to talking, kept in touch and began to organize a camp.

Lawler isn't coming alone.

Other Bombers scheduled to appear include Brady Oliveira, Tanner Cadwallader, Wille Jefferson, Adam Bighill and Brandon Alexander. Monkman said other Blue Bombers, coaches and top amateurs could also make the trip.

The camp begins with two hours of on-field instruction. Coaches will show attendees proper techniques for each position, discuss safety and run through some drills.

Following lunch, attendees can ask questions about football or anything else.

"There will be a Q&A session where the kids get to pick their brains," Monkman said. "The guys will hopefully share their life stories a bit."

Monkman said he's heard from coworkers and neighbours that their kids would love to try football if there was a team close by. The nearest programs are in Oakbank.

"We just want to get them out and see if they are interested and want to play," Monkman explained.

A professional speaker and high-performance trainer who works with youth, college and pro athletes, Lawler made an



Photo by Jaymi Witzke

Kenny Lawler was at ESS last Friday to introduce himself to students, answer questions, take photos and sign autographs.

early appearance at ESS March 22 where he spoke to Grade 6-12 students at a pair of morning assemblies. Introducing himself, he discussed his football program and had about a half hour for questions from both middle years

and high school students. Once the assemblies were complete, he stayed for both pictures and autographs for another hour and a half.

The Brokenhead Community Youth Football Camp takes place

between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. April 20. Registration is \$25 and can be completed by emailing support@kennylawlerhq.com or phoning 909-706-5865. For more information on the camps, visit kennylawlerhq.com

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