

CLIPPER SPORTS

Football camp gets good reception

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

By Tony Zerucha

Matt Monkman couldn't be happier with the turnout at the first Brokenhead Community Youth Football Camp on April 20.

Headlined by Winnipeg Blue Bomber Kenny Lawler, the camp also featured teammates including Brady Oliveira, Willie Jefferson, Adam Bighill and Pat Neufeld, four University of Manitoba Bisons and staff from Recruit Ready, a foot-

ball training company.

Monkman estimates as many as 125 kids showed up. They were evenly spaced between nine and 17 years of age. The lineup began 30 minutes before start time.

"They came from all over," Monkman said. "We had kids from Whitemouth, Lac du Bonnet, Tyndall-Garson, Oakbank and even Winnipeg."

The day began with loosening up and stretching,

followed by a few warmup drills. Kids were then separated into eight groups and took turns receiving instruction from the pros on the offensive and defensive lines, running back, receiver and defensive positions.

Monkman credited the camp coaches for a smooth experience.

"It was all because of the Bombers," he admitted. "They do these things all the time."

"It was a life-changing experience for some of these kids."

After a lunch, the players held a round-table session moderated by radio personality Dave Turnbull. The kids peppered them with questions about their mentors, favourite players and where they played football growing up. Many asked for tips on how to improve their play.

One of Monkman's goals is to start a football program in the Beausejour-Brokenhead area. During the camp, he was approached by some parents with the same goal.

"One parent saw the story in *The Clipper* and said they've been trying to get a program going for five or six years," Monkman said. "This might spark more attention, and we might get something going in the future."

For now, however, Monkman is enjoying the many positives from his first camp while vowing there will be more.

"Next year, everybody's



Photo by Mark T. Buss

Two-time Grey Cup champion Kenny Lawler directs traffic at the Brokenhead Community Youth Football Camp Saturday in Beausejour.



Photo by Mark T. Buss

CFL Most Outstanding Canadian Brady Oliveira puts players through their paces at the Brokenhead Community Youth Football Camp.

on board," he said.

Monkman will always remember the impact the pros had on the kids.

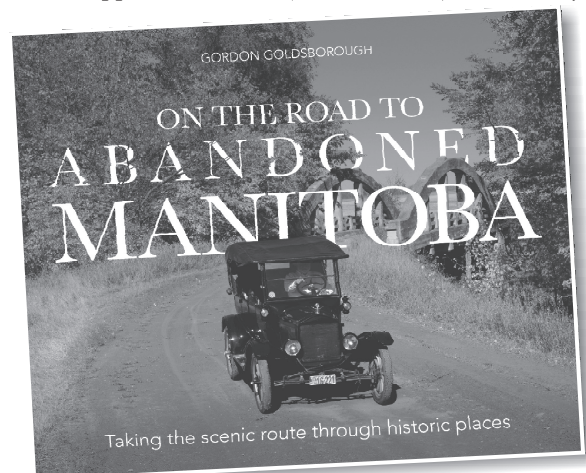
"There were so many kids who, once they saw them, their eyes lit up. Big smiles," Monkman said.

"You could see they were overwhelmed with emotion. They just wanted to sit there and learn."

ON THE ROAD TO ABANDONED MANITOBA

AVAILABLE AT
OUR BEAUSEJOUR &
LAC DU BONNET OFFICES

While supplies last. \$35 (includes GST). Cash only.



THE CLIPPER

27 - 3rd St. S.,
Beausejour
204-268-4700

74 - 2nd St.,
Lac du Bonnet
204-345-8459

The latest edition is available
online every Wednesday
www.clipper.mb.ca



Available on your
Desktop,
Laptop
Tablet &
Smart Phone