

FARRAGUT YOUTH FOOTBALL

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Farragut Youth Football firing on all cylinders

On any Thursday night or Saturday in the fall, shiny silver helmets can be seen across the Farragut area, each one with a familiar navy star on the side.

For seventh and eighth graders, those helmets are worn Thursdays under the lights at Eddie Courtney Stadium and other Knox County fields. Third- through sixth-grade players take the field on Saturdays.

Regardless of location, the lids reflect the unity of a Farragut youth football organization that runs on a culture of development, discipline and fun.

There are more than 200 players spread across the six teams, as the league has seen considerable growth in the past decade.

“There were a group of coaches that got together about 10 years ago, and this was when Knox Metro ran their league downtown with kids playing at John Tarleton Park,” said Robbie Jacobs, the commissioner for Farragut’s elder three teams that make up part of the Volunteer Valley Football League — a local middle school league that includes all 13 Knox County teams and Alcoa. “Quite honestly, we felt like there was opportunity for improvement. So coaches got together and decided to put together a league that would utilize high school fields and officials, creating a better environment.”

Today, that experience for Farragut Youth Football includes reversible jerseys with their names on them that they get to keep, updated equipment and even practice shorts and t-shirts for all levels within the Farragut youth program.

Jacobs has been involved for more than a decade. Devin Driscoll, the owner of the D1 Sports Training, serves as the third, fourth and fifth-grade commissioner and the overall commissioner for the Farragut organization.

Jacobs credited the Town of Farragut for allowing them to use Anchor Park as the youth practice field, while former FHS coach Eddie Courtney ensured the middle school teams could practice and play at the high school facility.

Even so, Jacobs noted they have to pay the Town of Farragut and Knox County to use the fields, thus having to increase admission process since middle school football reportedly has not been sanctioned.

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Third, fourth, seventh and eighth grade photos by Jake Nichols. Thanks to Wiyanna Bruck for fifth- and sixth-grade photos and to Robbie Jacobs, Dana Jacobs and Devin Driscoll for their assistance.

3RD GRADE

0	Dax Holmes	16	Lucas Lambert
1	Brady Martland	17	Wilder Galuppo
3	Knox Goodpaster	23	Nash Ford
4	Brady Church	27	Reeder Lawhorn
5	Hudson Koren	30	Cameron Phillips
6	Miller Marks	42	Beau Robinson
7	Vaylen Goode	64	Jacob Rekers
8	Scott Herbst	65	Julian Rekers
9	JJ Wrzesniewski	67	Jacob Moore
10	Henry Johnson	72	Denver McKee
11	Cooper Michelson	88	Deakin Seivers
12	Merik Cameron	90	Ace Cox
14	Hudson Behrens	99	Trevor Davidson
15	Hunter Lawson		

4TH GRADE

0	Sullivan Samples	22	Mack Bond
1	Colton Culbreth	24	Cole Hissam
2	Elliott Hixson	25	Kellan Blair
4	Andrew Smith	26	Grady Spar
5	Hudson King	27	Grayson Potter
6	Mac Yager	28	Carter Briggs
7	Brantlee Hill	30	Anderson Knisley
8	John Butturini	31	Luke Dyer
9	Landon Betler	32	Ayson Gossett
10	Paxton Bell	33	Christian Reed
11	Grant Garrett	40	Cole Tafazzoli
12	Jameson Nutting	41	Jace Isom
13	Wyatt Jones	44	Cruz Liner
14	Levi White	49	Cooper Cummins
15	Axel Deaver	52	Porter Larue
16	Nolan Wright	61	Jace Greene
17	Cameron Bilbrey	77	Elijah Jenkins
18	Benson Russt	84	Kaden Hawxhurst
20	Apolosio Peeler	88	Gavin Honaker
21	Hutch Brown	99	Luke Wolfe



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5TH GRADE

0 Jojo Jessee	18 Ben Bowling
00 Thatcher Fowler	21 Ezra Unger
1 Patrick Stewart	22 James Langlois
2 Victor Delchini	23 Sullivan Overton
3 Charlie Clement	24 Taylor Jackson
4 Sawyer Elegante	25 Declan Sparr
5 Drake Bruck	26 Liam Winter
6 Noah Bertini	33 Matthew Johnson
7 Wells Clinton	34 Landon Tucker
8 Lucas Klimkowski	37 Cruz Walters
9 Alex Kincer	43 Steven Emison
10 Ryder Driscoll	44 Braden Knapper
11 Cullen Mack	58 Reid Thomas
12 Sailor Sheldon	66 Nelson Rekers
13 Caden Pearson	68 Levi Haun
14 Casen Campbell	76 Zeke Oliphant
15 Beckham Lear	87 David Scanlin
16 Camden Morton	88 Thad Cowan
17 Dre Shell	89 Wyatt Robinson

6TH GRADE

0 Gale Daniel	21 Tegan Virili
1 Ezra Obomsawin	23 Carter Metcalf
2 Sawyer Fontenot	25 Abel Langford
3 Nolan Faugot	31 Will Butturini
4 Nash Bruck	32 Aiden Robinson
5 Rhett Skinner	37 Hunter Beier
7 Maddox Luman	42 Isaac Leuciuc
8 Bridges Ticknor	44 Alexander Harvey
9 Luke Brach	48 Flynn Walsh
10 Judah Bell	65 Connor Austin
11 Jackson Coy	72 Hank Buck
13 Quinn Loveday	74 Roman Zacheretti
14 Killian McKinney	75 Cooper Crawford
15 Matthew White	77 Nathan Waterston
18 Granville Long	98 Jake Gibson
19 Will Ritchie	99 Landon Dunford
21 Steven Hammel	



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7TH GRADE

0	Rowen Samples	22	Nolan Brinker
1	Aarush Patel	25	Clifford Walker
2	Josiah Gilmore	26	Maximus Lawrence
3	Bowen Miller	28	Makai Chronis
4	Hayden Burkhardt	31	Camden Cole
5	Ethan Bachand	32	Braxton Wilder
6	Anjelo Nevins	34	Isaiah Hernandez
7	John Wothe	35	Samuel Eddlemon
8	Cannon Huenefeld	48	Kayson Frost
9	Westin Wright	55	Sam Vineyard
10	Skylar Yager	64	Calvin Arsenault
11	Bo Gary	80	Milo Jett
13	Levi Smalley	88	Jonathan Garrison
14	Jack Lovely	95	Beckett Vander Dussen
15	Mason Hatmaker		
16	Grayson Sours	98	Trenton Goans
17	Tate Merrick	99	Marcus Eaglin
18	Evan Tune		

8TH GRADE

1	Liam Allen	33	Calen Cherry
2	Skylar Yager	48	Reed
4	Jaxson Dunn		Shallenberger
5	Grant McClellan	50	Benaiah Blue
7	Graham Galardi	51	Enzo Thompson
8	Owen Tucker	52	Tyler Schaefer
9	Levi Elrod	54	Tanner Clark
10	Grayson Clement	55	Rayland Anderson
11	Foster Hann	57	Seth Campbell
12	Samuel Fontenot	69	Soloman Hughes
13	Max Glover	77	Leland Smith
15	Andrew Floyd	80	Preston Belcher
16	Elijah Anderson	81	Charlie Pace
18	Kai Bruton	83	Eddie Tague
19	Elliott Greene	87	Brody McLemore
20	David White	90	Tyson Schaefer
21	Mason Alley		

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3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade

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All Cylinders

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“We pay for the field usage (including a light fee), officials, security, trainers, custodial — we have to do that to make the environment safe and special for the kids,” Jacobs said. “Everything is run the way a high school game is, and that’s something the youth players look forward to when they go into their 7th and 8th grade year.”

“I am very deliberate on the coaches I bring in,” he said. “I want the best coaches I can bring, because I feel like if you have the best coaches developing the players and building relationships, the kids will want to come. These are guys who have played the game, not just knowledgeable, but great coaches as well.”

Each team stands between 30 and 45 kids, and the players are constantly being evaluated to determine skill level and readiness for game situations.

“We split the teams into a skill group that has played and understands the physicality, then a group that is either new to football or hasn’t quite matured yet and come into their bodies,” Jacobs noted. “We keep those groups separate

when we go full contact to make sure we don’t discourage the kids that don’t have that experience.”

“This is a sport where you’ll have countless hours of practice before playing a game,” he added. “Not every kid will get playing time every game; we have too big of teams for that and the games move too quickly.

“Plus, if a middle school kid is not ready, that presents a safety concern for themselves and/or their teammates. In that situation, I would not want that player getting playing time. With that being said, it’s the coach’s job to try and get that player game ready. That’s where the development at practice comes in.”

That approach is applied across all levels of the Farragut program, just like the coupon books that brought more than \$10,000 in fundraiser money this season.

The money will go toward new equipment, freshening a look and approach that already stands out.

“Those,” Jacobs said, “are all special things we do to try to set ourselves apart.”

~ Jake Nichols



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