INTRODUCTION
Believe it or not, LiFE Sports Summer Camp 2012 is five months away! We’re busy here at OSU planning our upcoming clinics, hiring staff for the summer, and preparing for camp registration. If we haven’t seen you since camp, we hope this newsletter gives you more information about how you can stay involved with LiFE Sports year round and also gets you thinking about coming back to camp again this summer!

OUTREACH
Each year after camp ends, LiFE Sports offers six community-based sports clinics for our campers. These clinics are intended to provide additional time for our staff to build positive relationships with the campers, as well as refresh all of the kids on the social and sports skills emphasized during camp. During the Fall and Winter of 2011, we offered two sports clinics (soccer and basketball), and an OSU Men’s Basketball Game. So far all of our clinics have had great attendance by campers (average of 58 campers per clinic)! We have three more clinics planned for this winter and spring.

- February 11 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
  LiFE Sports Dance Clinic at Milo-Grogan Boys and Girls Club
- March 31 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
  LiFE Sports Track Clinic at OSU French Field House
- April 21 - Time TBD
  LiFE Sports Football Clinic and Spring Game at Ohio Stadium

To register for any of the clinics, please contact LiFE Sports at (614) 688-3875 or lifesports@buckeyes.ath.ohio-state.edu.

As always, please remember that: All clinics are free to LiFE Sports campers and their families and if your child attended 16 days of the 2011 camp and attends 3 out of 6 clinics, he/she will be eligible for early registration for camp!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LiFE Sports Dance Clinic</td>
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<td>April 21st</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>First Day of LiFE Sports Summer Camp 2012</td>
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TEACHING & LEARNING
As part of one of the largest universities in the United States, the LiFE Sports annually works to provide both teaching and learning opportunities for OSU students and other youth development professionals. During the “off-season” (the time between camps), LiFE Sports faculty and staff are busy teaching youth development and social work courses at OSU as well as hosting professional development workshops for other youth development agencies. Below is a little spotlight of two LiFE Sports staff members!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SCOTT SIKA
Major: Sport Management
Team: Ohio State Football Team (2006-2010)
Hometown: Strongsville, Ohio
Years at OSU: 5 ½ years (4 years in Undergrad and 1 ½ years of Graduate School)
Years at LiFE: 1 year
Camp Position: Soccer Recreation Leader
Fun Fact: My brother is the Broadcaster for the Columbus Crew.
Best Memory from Camp: Seeing kids improve on a daily basis and the amount of fun they had playing soccer games.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KAREN CLARK
Education: Clark Atlanta University
Hometown: Columbus, Ohio
Number of Years at LiFE Sports: 4 years
Camp Position: Parent Liaison
Sports Played: Basketball, Volleyball, and Track
Favorite Athlete: Any athlete who is a student first then an athlete.
Fun Fact: My dream is for my son, Redwan Kamel, to attend The Ohio State University.

Best Memory from Camp: When the Black National Anthem [Lift Every Voice and Sing] was sung by a camper at the start of our Olympic Games.
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
A recent study by Gould, Flett, & Lauer (2010), published in Psychology of Sport and Exercise, examines the influence of the coach-created sports climate on developmental outcomes for youth. Specifically, the study suggests that youth perceive greater changes in important social and personal outcomes such as identity work, initiative, basic skills, teamwork and social skills, interpersonal relations, and adult networks when they are in caring and mastery-focused sport climates with coaches that focus on positive life skill development. So what does that mean for coaches, parents, and youth?

- Coaches and adults in sports settings should create sport environments that are interpersonally inviting, safe, supportive, and foster feelings of being valued and respected among youth.
- Coaches and adult leaders should focus on individual mastery and development rather than social comparisons between players.
- Youth should be encouraged to set goals that reflect personal growth and improvement instead of winning and losing.
- Adult leaders should focus on life and sport skills by asking youth how sport lessons relate to life and modeling positive sportsmanship.

In other words, coaches, parents, and league administrators should always remember that winning is not the goal; the goal is to make sure all youth grow up to be happy, healthy, and productive members of our society.


BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD
Each year, thousands of community organizations across our state and nation struggle to find funding for youth programs that are dedicated to improving the lives and future of youth. Recently, LeBron James ensured that youth attending Akron City Schools and their families would not to worry about the ongoing funding of a new summer youth program.

LeBron James is giving back to his hometown by creating Wheels for Education. Wheels for Education is a community program between LeBron James, State Farm, the Akron After School Program, and Akron Public Schools that will provide local youth with the opportunity to succeed academically. Specifically, this program will provide youth with a two-week education camp focused on reading and technology skills. Once youth complete the camp, they will receive an HP laptop, a bike, and a Nike backpack filled with essential school supplies. This program targets youth in the third grade, who are Akron Public School students, and come from single-parent homes.

To learn more about this program, please visit: http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/spotlight-on-akron-with-lebron-james-a-partnership-for-progress/68f8ya5?from

Like most youth development organizations, LiFE Sports is also always working to ensure that we have enough funding available to offer all of our programs. If you have any questions, please contact LiFE Sports at 614-688-3875 or by email at LiFEsports@buckeyes.ath.ohio-state.edu

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