

Storm Front

Official Newsletter of the Phoenix Storm Football Club

SAFETY ◊ SKILLS ◊ FUNDAMENTALS ◊ DEVELOPMENT



The PHOENIX STORM is a tackle football club in the North Valley committed to the safety, skills and character development of our youth.

VISION

To support the advancement of academics, athletics and citizenship of our local, football-athletes with certified and experienced coaching personnel in order to perpetuate a gold standard for youth sports in the North Valley community.

MISSION

To provide our local community a highly competitive, youth football program that develops individual character, skills and leadership with emphasis on the team-first mentality in order to prepare our scholar-athletes for the high school football experience.

October 16, 2016

Storm Family and Friends:

As many of you know, we have a new member on a Storm roster, Will DeMauvise. We were introduced to Will by Stacia Hays following a tragic event that affected his life and that of his family, the sudden death of his father. Will has cerebral palsy, but that has never limited his spirit or his aspirations, including playing tackle football.

The family is very close with the Hays family, and the day following the accident had plans to attend a Storm game to watch Mason play. In this conversation with Stacia, we learned of Will's desire to play on a Storm team and be able to wear his Storm jersey to school like his friends. His father was always encouraging and never saw his disability as a barrier. This prompted us to action to see if there was anything we could do to provide a positive diversion for Will and his family.

We approached our Storm Pee Wee team Head Coach, Sam Andrus, and without hesitation, he agreed to add Will to his roster and do whatever it would take to make this wish to be part of the Storm a reality. He made plans to have Will star in his own play in the last regular season game of the year at our home field. With a little more than a week to prepare, Will attended every practice, learned about all of the players, and studied the plays with Coach Sam to the point where he now knows the offense better than even a few of his coaches.

As the day approached, we made sure he was ready with all of the Storm gear he needed for the game, including his jersey, #12. The Storm tradition is to take a few minutes pause as the first game day approaches to appreciate the hard work our players put in to earn their game day jersey. The experience was no different for Will except for one caveat. Will's jersey includes a Captains "C" that no other player on the Storm has. This "C" represents Will as the honorary captain of all of our Storm teams.

On game day, Will represented the team for the coin toss. He showed poise and not a bit of nerves as he lined up in formation with Sam's son Tate by his side. The Quarterback, Chris Cappellini called the play, "Will Power 12". The team broke from the huddle, lined up, Cappellini barked out "Omaha! Set, Go!". The center snapped the ball and Chris made perfect hand off to Will. He and his teammates powered through the Firebirds line, narrowly escaped the diving defenders and into the end zone for the touchdown! The crowd of supportive family, friends and teammates went wild congratulating their captain.

Since the play, Will has agreed to be a part of the team through their playoff run, and we could not feel more privileged to have him wear his Storm jersey, hopefully to class on Friday! We as the Storm organization are very fortunate to have the opportunity to make one of Will's ambitions a reality. The more we get to know this young man, (his favorite player is "Mean Joe" Greene and song Black and Yellow) we understand how driven he is, and that this experience wasn't about fulfilling a dream, but about accomplishing one of his many goals.

We would like to thank Will and his family for allowing us to bring this experience to him and to all the people who helped make this happen. If you would like more information about how you can help the Mauvis family, click on <https://www.gofundme.com/2svdq7p4>.

John PlesKovitch, President
Phoenix Storm Football Club