

## **AU players to visit Camp Good Days ahead of Courage Bowl IX**

8/20/13

MENDON, NY -- The Alfred University and St. John Fisher College football teams will be visiting the Camp Good Days and Special Times& Recreational Facility this week, in preparation for the Camp Good Days Courage Bowl.

Courage Bowl IX, between Alfred University and St. John Fisher, will be played on Saturday, November 16, at Growney Stadium on the campus of St. John Fisher, with kick-off slated for 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the children and families at Camp Good Days.

Founded in 1979 by Gary Mervis following the diagnosis of his daughter, Teddi, with a malignant brain tumor, Camp Good Days today provides residential camping programs and year-round recreational and support activities and events. Since its founding, Camp Good Days has served more than 44,000 campers from 22 states and 28 foreign countries. The Camp Good Days Courage Bowl was established in 2005 as the annual football game between St. John Fisher and the University of Rochester, to benefit the children and families served by Camp Good Days.

Last year's game was the final contest in the series between the Cardinals and the Yellowjackets. The Cardinals will face Empire 8 Conference rival Alfred University in this year's game, and will then play SUNY Brockport in future Courage Bowl games. Brockport joins the Empire 8 Conference as a football affiliate member in 2014.

Each summer, as pre-season camp gets under way, Courage Bowl opponents visit the Camp Good Days& Recreational Facility, located on the shores of Keuka Lake in Branchport, NY, to spend some time touring the facility, learning more about the many programs and services provided by Camp Good Days, and most importantly, learning more about the children who will benefit from the Courage Bowl game. Members of the St. John Fisher team will visit Camp Good Days on Tuesday, August 20, arriving around 5:30 p.m. Members of the Alfred University team will visit on Wednesday, August 21, arriving around 2:30 p.m.

As has been done with all previous Courage Bowl games, Camp Good Days will select six boys, all of whom are campers in Camp Good Days& programs and are dealing with cancer, to serve as honorary coaches, three with each team. The honorary coaches meet their team; will be in the locker room with their team; lead their team on to the field; be at midfield for the coin toss; and coach from the sidelines during the game.

Camp Good Days will also select four girls, also campers who are dealing with cancer, to serve as honorary cheerleaders. The honorary cheerleaders will meet the squad for pre-game preparation on game-day, and cheer with the squad during the game.

The honorary coaches and cheerleaders will be announced and introduced at the Courage Bowl Community Luncheon, to be held the week of the game, on, Nov. 13, on the campus of St. John Fisher.

Courage Bowl IX will be broadcast live on Time Warner Cable SportsChannel, and will be carried live on SportsRadio 950 ESPN and WLEA-AM 1480 in Hornell.

At the conclusion of the Courage Bowl, the Teddi Trophy, named in memory of Teddi Mervis, will be presented. The trophy will later be inscribed with the date of the game, final score of the game, names of the six Honorary Coaches and the names of one player from each team who displays exceptional leadership and sportsmanship.

As part of Courage Bowl IX, Camp Good Days will present the Fourth Annual Courage Award during the pre-game festivities. The Camp Good Days & Courage Award is presented to someone who displays courage, strength and determination in a time of great struggle. To nominate someone for the Fourth Annual Courage Award, please contact Laura Osborn to obtain the Courage Award Nomination Form, at Camp Good Days, 585-624-5555 or 800-785-2135 or [losborn@campgooddays.org](mailto:losborn@campgooddays.org). For more information about the many programs and services provided by Camp Good Days, please call 585-624-5555 or check out [www.campgooddays.org](http://www.campgooddays.org).

The Courage Bowl will wrap up a 10-game regular season for AU. Three of the team's first four games are at home. The Saxons open the season Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. at home against RPI, then entertain Montclair State at 1 p.m. on Sept. 21. After a non-league game at Brockport at 6 p.m. Sept. 28, the Saxons play seven Empire 8 Conference games to close the season.

AU opens its Empire 8 slate with a 1 p.m. Homecoming game against visiting Buffalo State on Oct. 5. The Saxons travel to Ithaca for a 1 p.m. game Oct. 12, then host Hartwick the following Saturday (Oct. 19) at 1 p.m. AU plays at Frostburg State at 1 p.m. Oct. 26, then play two home games against Salisbury Nov. 2 and Utica Nov. 9, both at 1 p.m. before closing with the Courage Bowl at Fisher.

Alfred went 6-4 last season, placing second in the Empire 8 standings with a 5-2 record.