



Mason Comets Touchdown Club Minutes

August 20, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by President Ted Kenniston in the Harvard Room at the High school. Minutes of the August 6th meeting were read and approved by Doug Besecker and Lanette Szymkowicz. Due to an audit being conducted a Treasurer's report was not available this evening. We hope to have the audit completed and a report available very soon.

Coach Castner – This is week one of the season and we have been waiting a long time for this. The players are excited and the coaches are excited on all the teams. School will be starting this week and we have been drilling the kids on the importance of school and doing the right thing, please reinforce this at home. Our weekly scouting report went out today for Springboro, we expect the Varsity and JV players to review this playbook for 30 minutes a night along with viewing reports on HUDL. This week we are stressing “Forget about me – I love you and Mason Football.” We want our players to care about one another and to lookout for one another. The Captain's Council met for the first time this week with sophomore members Hutchison and Edwards and junior members Stewart and Lucke. Monday is our longest day – we take care of a lot of things on Monday's. On Wednesday we will have our Senior Dad and Player Jersey Night – this is a great ceremony. We'd like the boys to have dinner at a Mason restaurant on Thursday after practice – supporting our community. Coach went over the weekly schedule and hopes to have this available on the website every week. There will be practice for the Varsity and JV on Labor Day morning. Coach Gideon Dudgeon of the 8th grade introduced himself and announced the 7th and 8th grade games for Wednesday.

Coach Castner addressed the equipment of the entire football program by establishing his confidence in his equipment coaches – Coach John Adleta and Coach Dudgeon for the Middle School. Coach said it was his understanding that some boosters wanted new 7th grade jerseys and he wanted to make it clear that after checking with his equipment coaches he was not going to buy jerseys for any of the grades. He was confident that the information he had been given by these men regarding Mason's equipment was accurate and buying jerseys was the responsibility of the athletic department. He asked Ron Saresky if he had addressed his request for new jerseys and Mr. Saresky said it wasn't just the jerseys it was that some of the 7th and 8th grade parents felt that with the fund raising these grades were made to participate in through the football program they don't receive the same monetary benefits as the high school players. Rick Carskadden made reference to last year when the parents purchased 5 or 6 pairs of football pants because the pants that were issued would not hold pads. Coach Dudgeon said one of the biggest problems they have is communication and that the boys are told to let the coaches know if there is a problem with any of their equipment. The boys rarely do that and go home with the equipment which may be inferior. Coach Dudgeon also voiced his thanks for having such a great Middle School and made it very clear that he believes there is no other Middle School with the programs and the advantages of Mason. Anthony Pilone spoke of the work that has gone on years before players take advantage of the money left behind and how it takes everyone working to make the program successful. He feels the “right of passage” and the fact that you work your way up is an important aspect of the football program and that he and many of the others in the room had worked long and hard since 7th grade to ensure that there was money from year to year to take care of all the grades in the program. Coach Castner asked the membership to have enough faith and trust in him to believe that he wants what is best for the players. He asked anyone who would like to discuss the issue further to call him or email him with your name and phone number and he will return a call within 48 hours. Lanette Szymkowicz made a suggestion that maybe we should form a committee to hear the complaints of the Middle School parents and see what we can do to make them feel better about the program.

Coach Castner brought up the need for knee braces for the offensive line. They were measured and fitted on Friday and should be delivered on Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Last year we purchased 3 or 4 pair and allowed college players to buy theirs if they wished, now we have 2.5 pair and we needed more. Ted Kenniston asked Lana Fender to explain the board's involvement in the purchase. Mrs. Fender explained the “emergency” clause in the By-Laws which allows the board to make a purchasing decision when the membership is not available. Due to the time constraints of ordering the braces the board made the decision to approve the purchase and move forward. A PO was issued for \$2,900+ by Cathy Crotty. A motion was made by Amy Mason to approve the board's decision and seconded by Angie Besecker. Motion carried.

Old/New Business:

Food Committee fed over 700 people Monday night in 38 minutes – thank you to all the volunteers and to Lanette and her people. The first game meal was fed Friday before the Milford scrimmage – it went well. We ask all our members to support our sponsors whenever possible; they make our lives so much easier with their donations. The program insert was shown – which was set up by Terri Borden – it looks great! We’re planning for Alumni Night and looking forward to the Spaghetti Dinner which is September 20th and will feature food from Maggianos!

Nancy Findley reported we have approximately 40 riders for the bus to Lancaster. Please pay your money to the TD Club as soon as possible. We will leave at 4:00 from Lucky Dog Grille and return immediately following the game. Please feel free to bring refreshments and finger foods to share!

We are doing great on Comet Cards. We are trying to wind them down this week. It looks as if we are in the neighborhood of \$35,000 profit right now and there are still cards outstanding. We’ve done really well and are very proud of all the players.

Lisa Mullen is still looking at venues for the Winter Social. Scott O’Leary is looking into the Marriott and Stephanie Hogsten at Four Bridges Country Club. If anyone has any suggestions please get them to Lisa ASAP.

Scott O’Leary reported on Tailgate Night. We were not able to do the Smash Boro Car for this event so we will be doing the Football Toss. We have prizes and volunteers. We’ll try and do the car next year, with a better head start in planning.

Split-the-Pot is good on volunteers except for the Homecoming Game. Please let Donna O’Leary know if you can help on that night.

Terri Borden is all set for Program Sales on Friday night. Ted will assist her in the set-up of the area and making sure she has cash to make change.

Doug Besecker needs a spotter for the games on Friday nights. He will be doing stats and needs a spotter to help. Please contact him if you are interested. He also needs help getting highlights and scores for the Middle School games. Please email Lana Fender with your contact information if you are interested in helping in either way.

We have a Rubbermaid Shed that is available for sale – please contact Ted Kenniston if you are interested.

Kenny Frank is exploring the possibility of putting seats with backs on the 50 yard line and selling “Season Tickets” for this area. He is working through the AD Office to see what this would entail and report back to the membership.

Don’t forget about Swink TV – it is a great service and we need to sign up more people in order to be able to provide this for all teams. We are able to join for \$20 for the entire year but we need to do so by next week. Please let Lana Fender know if you are interested in joining.

The next meeting will be on August 27th in the Harvard Room. Motion to adjourn was made by Stephanie Hogsten and seconded by Patti Kelley.