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SEASON FINALE

On November 23rd, 2024, we concluded our 14th regular season—a milestone filled with meaning for us all. Each season brings unique challenges, triumphs, and moments that remind us why we come together. As individuals, we strive to grow, and as a team, we become a family, united by a shared passion.

Thank you to every participant for showing up, giving your best, and embodying respect, honor, and sportsmanship. Your dedication inspires growth both on and off the field.

This season held special significance as we honored the memory of our beloved Coach Mickey. Though he wasn't physically present, his spirit was felt in every play and every moment we shared. We know he found the best seat to watch over us, marking his spot as he always did.

His presence was deeply missed, but his legacy was carried in our hearts each week. Coach Mickey reminded us that this league is about more than just football—it's about the connections we build and the values we carry forward.

Here's to another season of growth, gratitude, and unforgettable memories.

INTRODUCTION

As we close out another unforgettable season, we reflect on the journey that brought us here. The 2024 season marked our 14th regular season, filled with challenges, triumphs, and moments of unity. This year, we came together not only to compete, but to honor the spirit of sportsmanship and community that defines us. It's more than just football; it's about the connections we build, the lessons we learn, and the values we carry forward. As we honor the legacy of Coach Mickey, who may no longer be with us physically but whose spirit continues to guide us, we celebrate the memories and growth we've shared. Here's to the power of teamwork, the strength of family, and the lessons that will stay with us long after the final whistle blows.

Quote of the week

"It's not the victories we remember most, but the moments we share with those who walk beside us. Whether we win or lose, we are always better for the journey." — Carlos A. Castellanos, Founder of YALD.



TURKEY BOWL

In 2018, we launched our annual Thanksgiving Bowl tournament—a cherished tradition that unites past and current players through the shared love of football. More than just a game, this event provides a space for young men to connect, share experiences, and build lasting relationships. It's a celebration of the YALD legacy and the power of community, where networking becomes a stepping stone to growth and success in adulthood.

For five consecutive years, the coaches dominated the tournament, showcasing their unrivaled teamwork and passion. However, in 2023, the alumni broke their streak and claimed victory, setting a new standard. Now, in 2024, the alumni from 2011 to 2018 have done it again, capturing back-to-back championships and proving that experience, unity, and determination are a winning formula.

Congratulations to our 2024 champions—your triumph is well-deserved! But don't get too comfortable. The coaches are regrouping and ready to reclaim their crown. The battle for the Thanksgiving Bowl is far from over!



HOUSE OF PAIN VS VIKINGS

The stage was set for a thrilling playoff showdown between House of Pain and the Vikings—two of the season's top teams, both fighting for a final spot in the championship.

The Vikings showcased strong offensive drives but couldn't capitalize, while House of Pain struggled early, missing a key player due to SAT exams—a reflection of our commitment to academics.

In the second half, Vikings' hiker Din Duarte delivered a clutch safety, giving his team a 2-0 lead. But House of Pain responded when Elijah connected with Anthony Abinader, who broke free for a touchdown, followed by an extra-point pass to Killian Real, taking the lead 7-2.

Despite a late push, the Vikings couldn't find the end zone, and House of Pain secured their place in the championship against the Will Titans. This game was a true testament to the resilience and determination of both teams.

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

Johanssel Carvajal

1-Deflection, 2-Interception, 4-Flags
5 Receptions

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The moment we've all been waiting for is finally here! The Will Titans are set to face off against the House of Pain in the most anticipated championship game of the year! Huge congratulations to the Will Titans for securing the #1 spot and earning their ticket to the big stage! It's been a season full of ups and downs for them, and at one point, it looked like they might fall short of making it this far. But true to their grit and teamwork, they fought their way to the final showdown, even needing a win in the very last game of the regular season to make it happen. And who did they need to beat to claim that spot? The House of Pain, of course! And they did it—defeating their rivals and earning the championship ticket!

But the excitement doesn't end there. The House of Pain, determined and relentless, made their comeback, securing their place in the rematch of a lifetime. This isn't just any rematch—it's the showdown for the title of 2024 Championship Team!

Join us this Saturday, December 14th, 2024, at 10:00 AM for the battle of the year! This game is going to be packed with intensity, passion, and unforgettable moments. We wish both teams the best of luck—may the best team claim the victory. But above all, remember to have fun out there! This is your moment to create memories that will last a lifetime. Win or lose, walk off that field with your heads held high. Cherish this experience and take away the lessons it brings. This is more than just a game; it's a memory in the making!

Written by: Kelvin Valentin



VOLUNTEER TAILGATE

Each year, our dedicated volunteers gather for a tailgate reunion to reflect on the season, share laughs, and exchange playful trash talk about the games. It's a time of camaraderie, filled with fun stories, games, and visions for YALD's future.

A big thanks to our President, David Calderon, for hosting and treating us to his signature grill seasoning, making the day even more special. Together, this team embodies the vision of our Founder, Carlos Castellanos—empowering our youth through action in our communities.

Special thanks to those who made this season possible: David Calderon, Kelvin Valentin, Jeremiah McGarvey, Raymond Cruz, Leandro Castellanos, Eugene Amankwah, Adalberto Fernandez, Jason Cedeno, Robert Valley, Leo Vargas, Austin Guzman, Rafael Quezada, Adrian Vargas, Omar Verges, Aldo B. Martin, Chino Castellanos, Justin Fernandez, Rene Pena, and Judy Ramirez.

Your dedication keeps the YALD mission alive—thank you!

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