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HONORING COACH FERNANDO

🎓 Coach Fernando Portilla

YALD Coach since 2013

🏈 From loyal volunteer to Head Coach and Coach of the Year

🎓 Earning his Master's in Administrative Leadership from Notre Dame

Coach Fernando's journey with YALD began in 2013, from assistant to head coach, his leadership helped bring his team to the championship and left a lasting impact on countless youth. This year, he's taking a well-deserved step back to focus on his education.

We salute his academic pursuit and unwavering dedication. Your YALD family is incredibly proud of you, Coach Fernando!

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

We are proud to highlight the academic and personal achievements of some of our standout participants. These young leaders exemplify what it means to pursue greatness on and off the field. Whether they've just graduated or are entering new chapters of their lives, their accomplishments reflect the very heart of YALD's mission.

"The true measure of a champion isn't just how they play the game, but how they prepare for life beyond it."

— Carlos A. Castellanos


Y F F L


EDUCATION IN ACTION

A showcase of past and present YALD participants making major academic strides:

Joel Ramirez

 YALD: 2017–2020


 3× Championship Appearances | 2× Champion


 Baruch College – B.A. in Digital Communication, Minor in Black & Latino Studies

Joel continues to lead with creativity and pride both on and off the field.

Jariel Fernandez


 YALD: Since 2019 (Youth Clinic)


 First 11-year-old to enter YFFL

 Graduated from The Mott Hall School → Attending Art and Design High School

A unique talent blending athleticism and artistry.


Jordan Vear-Ogar

 YALD: 2021–2023

 Graduated from United Charter High School → Attending Saint Thomas Aquinas College (Marketing)


Known for discipline, positivity, and a powerful team-first mindset.

Emil Rivera

 YALD: 2016–2024

 2× Champion (2020, 2024)


 Attending Davidson College (Mathematics Major)


 2024 Leadership of the Year Award Nominee

From Youth Clinic to All-Star — Emil's journey reflects the power of long-term dedication.

Michael R. Abinader

 YALD: 2021–2024

 3× Championship Appearances | 2× Champion


 Graduated from KIPP College Prep → Attending Penn State University (Finance)

Michael's leadership is as sharp in the classroom as it is on the field.

Lincoln Perez


 YALD: 2022–2024

 3-Year Participant

 Graduated from KIPP College Prep → Attending SUNY Plattsburgh (Criminal Justice Major)

Ready to make a real impact in his community through justice and service.

Alan Benros

 July 17 YALD: 2017–2020

 Youth Clinic & YFFL Graduate

 Graduated from Riverdale


Kingsbridge Academy

 Honors Student + National Honor Society → Attending Pace University

Alan's drive has shined in both academic and athletic arenas.

David Benros

 July 17 YALD: Since 2016

 Currently attending Mount Saint Michael Academy (94 GPA)

 2024: Winter Offseason League Champion + Fall YFFL Champion

David's journey from sideline observer to two-time champ in one year is legendary.

These remarkable journeys prove that YALD isn't just building athletes — we're building scholars, leaders, and the future.

SUMMER TRAINING IS UNDERWAY

We officially kicked off **Summer Training** on **Saturday, July 19**, and we're already two sessions in, and what a start it's been!

Week 1 brought energy, focus, and a great mix of returning players and fresh new faces.

Week 2 built on that momentum, with even higher attendance and an incredible display of effort, teamwork, and growth. It's clear that this season means business, and our players are rising to the occasion.

 July 17 Every Saturday |  9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

 YALD Field |  Bring cleats, water, and a mindset to grow

Let's keep this fire going, **training camp sets the tone** for an unforgettable season ahead. See you next Saturday!



REGISTER FOR YOUTH CLINIC

Enrollment for the **YALD Youth Clinic** is open! Perfect for young athletes looking to learn, grow, and compete in a positive environment.



Ages: 7–11



Focus: Fundamentals, leadership, teamwork



Start Date: Saturday, July 19



Location: YALD Field



Register: www.yald.org



Spaces are limited – early signups unlock bonus sessions!



SPONSOR A PLAYER TODAY!

Help cover the cost of gear, training, and game-day needs. Every \$175 sponsorship gives a youth the full YALD experience and enters you into our **JetBlue raffle!**



Zelle: info@yald.org



Donate: www.yald.org

NEW PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SOLID INSTRUCTION

We're proud to announce a new partnership with Solid Instruction, a company committed to investing in the growth of young leaders. Together, we're launching a *Graduation to Greatness* workshop series designed for YALD alumni who have recently graduated or are preparing to graduate from college.

Solid Instruction's mission is to help young adults walk into the next phase of life with clarity, confidence, and a plan. Through real-world training, mentorship, and career preparation, they empower our alumni to thrive in career, finance, and life.

We're currently building this series to include practical tools, powerful strategies, and tailored resources to help our youth transition successfully into adulthood.



Stay tuned, the best is yet to come.



Solid Instructions

Teach Tech Simply

CLOSING STATEMENT

As we reflect on the journeys of our players, graduates, and coaches, one truth stands out:

Leadership is built over time, with purpose and heart.

Thank you for continuing to support YALD's mission. Whether you're a player, coach, parent, or supporter, you are helping shape the future of our youth. Let's carry this momentum into a summer of growth, unity, and excellence.

See you on the field,
— **The YALD Team**



Save These Details

- **Summer Training: Saturdays, July 19 - August 23rd**
- **Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**
- **Location: YALD Field**
- **Bring: Water, cleats, athletic wear**
- **Questions? Email: info@yald.org | Visit: www.yald.org**
- **Updates: Will be posted online**

