



Season 15, Issue #06

Presented by YALD, Inc. - November 24, 2025

Family. Purpose. Leadership.

2025 Edition

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH THROUGH ACTION

A Message from the Founder

This season proved once again that real growth only comes through challenge. Reaching our 15th season is not just a milestone; it is the result of consistency, resilience, and a community that refuses to settle for anything less than excellence.



I want to acknowledge the coaches, referees, statisticians, commissioners, staff, parents, and most importantly, the players, for bringing life, energy, and purpose to the field every single weekend. I will admit, at the start of the year I feared some of the fire from past seasons might have dimmed. I am grateful and proud to say I was wrong.

These young men competed fiercely, adapted, learned, and rose to every obstacle placed in front of them. I witnessed more personal development this year than in any season in recent memory. For those who may not know, in the urban dictionary "YALD" means giving maximum effort, giving it your all. This season, our players did not just represent that definition; they elevated it.

Thank you all for shaping this program into what it has become and for continuing to build something bigger than the game itself.

"True growth is forged in moments when quitting feels easier but you choose to rise instead."
Carlos A. Castellanos

Fundraiser Night at Locksmith Bar - A Celebration of Community

Date: October 29, 2025

Our 15-Year Anniversary Fundraiser was a joyful evening filled with music, laughter, great food, and connection. Locksmith Bar generously closed its doors to host us exclusively, creating an intimate and celebratory environment for alumni, families, supporters, and friends.

Stories were shared, old teammates reunited, and new memories were made. Nights like this remind us that YALD is more than sports—it is a family built through years of shared purpose.

Congratulations to our raffle winners! Prizes included:

- Meta Glasses
- Two one-way JetBlue Tickets
- Gift Cards from Locksmith Bar and Cabrini Wellness
- YALD Columbia Jacket
- YALD Sweater
- Picnic Basket



Gift Card Locations:

Locksmith Bar – 4463 Broadway, New York, NY 10040

Cabrini Wellness – 851 W 181st Street, New York, NY 10033

Every donation and ticket purchase helps fund programming, equipment, and future events. Contributions can still be made via our website. Every contribution makes a difference.

YALD Fall Showcase - Skills, Recognition, and Community

Last week's Fall Showcase reminded us why YALD continues to grow and thrive. Under the guidance of Program Director Kelvin Valentin, participants competed in the QB Challenge, Speed Challenge, and a high-energy relay race. Every athlete showcased not just physical talent, but mental toughness and leadership skills.

The event culminated in the **2024 Award Ceremony**, recognizing standout players and coaches whose performance and character elevated the league this year.

2024 Season Award Winners

Rookie of the Year: Luke Bante, House of Pain

Most Improved Players:

David Benros, Will Titans / Elijah Corrales, House of Pain / David Rivera, Will Titans
Anthony Abinader, House of Pain / Justin Matthews, Vikings / Lincoln Perez, Packers

Stat Leaders & Performance Highlights:

Flag Leader: Justin Matthews

Sack Leader: Jeremiah Cardona

Quarterback of the Year: Elijah Corrales

Offensive Player of the Year: Luke Bante

Defensive Player of the Year: Lincoln Perez

League MVP: David Benros

Co-Championship MVPs: David Rivera and Max Benson-Parker, Will Titans (2024 Champions)



Coach of the Year – Jason Cedeno

Since 2011, Coach Cedeno has been a cornerstone of YALD. Beyond coaching, he has mentored countless players, teaching discipline, leadership, and purpose. He has guided teams to championship appearances in 2011, 2017, 2020, and 2024, earning multiple titles along the way. In 2023, he received the **CHINO Award** for service and leadership. This year, we proudly recognize him as the 2024 Coach of the Year.



The Playoff Push – Road to the 2025 Championship

With nine competitive weeks behind us, the playoff picture is officially set, and excitement is building as the season approaches its final chapter.

Playoff Game

December 6, 2025, 10:30 AM

Uptown vs Dyckman

The winner will face **Heights**, who earned their championship berth with a 7-2 record. This year is particularly special for **Coach Robert Valley, aka Rob**, who joined YALD in 2017 during the league's expansion to seven teams. Rob's commitment has been unwavering, showing up year after year for the youth even when championships were out of reach. Now, for the first time, he has the opportunity to see his name engraved on the Miguel Guzman Championship Trophy. Best of luck to Rob and the Heights.

Uptown has already proven they can challenge the top-seeded Heights, while Dyckman, last year's champions, are determined to defend their crown. Records alone do not win championships—preparation, teamwork, and heart do.

Championship Game

December 13, 2025, 10:30 AM

Heights vs Playoff Winner

Expect a showdown filled with energy, skill, and passion, where champions will be made and the YALD spirit shines brightest.



Turkey Bowl 2025: Where Legends Return to the Field

Every year since 2018, YALD has proudly hosted our annual Turkey Bowl, bringing together past players and alumni from every era, along with current participants from the 2025 season. The energy is always unmatched: competitive, intense, and full of passion, yet the family atmosphere remains at the heart of it all. Whether alumni are meeting for the first time or reconnecting after years, the Turkey Bowl creates a space to network, build friendships, and come together as one YALD family on the sidelines.

Turkey Bowl 2025

November 27, 2025, 9:00 AM

YALD Field



From the entire YALD family, we wish everyone a warm and joyful Thanksgiving. May you reflect on your blessings, share meaningful moments with loved ones, and enjoy the spirit of the season. We hope to see you on the field!



Capturing the Moments – Photos from the Season

This year, we were blessed to have professional photography on the field capturing all the action and memorable moments. From highlight plays to candid interactions, these photos tell the story of our 2025 season.

Parents interested in viewing or requesting photos can visit LPTZ Co. here: [Check out these images](#)

We are grateful to LPTZ Co. for preserving these memories for our players, families, and the YALD community.



Closing Message

Season 15 has been filled with breakthroughs, milestones, and unforgettable moments. Whether through competition, community events, or leadership development, the strength of YALD comes from the people who show up, contribute, and believe in our mission.

To every coach, volunteer, family member, supporter, and young athlete: thank you for being part of our story. Thank you for helping us build something meaningful. Thank you for carrying the YALD spirit into every part of your life.

The season is not over yet, and we look forward to finishing strong and stepping into the next year with even greater purpose, unity, and commitment.