

## Colin Rodriguez's speech for the 2019 Season Award Ceremony

Hello, I'm Colin Rodriguez.

When I first went to play flag football with YALD I was 13 years young, with no experience playing organized sports and no idea what to expect. My first year I met the coaches and teammates, followed instructions, learned to play the game and started to build confidence in my abilities to play football. My second year I started to appreciate the early weekend workouts and the hard work that came along with the structure and organization. I had the opportunity to witness how a group of caring football fanatics led and modeled the essentials required to be successful. I felt like I was getting better but not good enough to be satisfied with my contribution. This year I knew what was expected from me and I approached the season with more focus and commitment.

I was able to learn how to be a quarterback during the offseason with Coach Jason Cedeno. He taught me the basics for the position and how to compete with the others in the league and more importantly how to contribute and be part of a team of positive community members. More importantly, I learned how to integrate the requirements needed to be successful in the field into my personal life. If it wasn't for YALD, I'm not sure how I would have gotten to the point where I'm confident about my abilities to play, how to play my role as a teammate and how to strive to be the best I can be.

I am thankful for the team of coaches at YALD for showing me what being part of a fine community of men is all about and helping me grow into the young man I am today.