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BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS

As YALD prepares to open its historic 15th season, the growth we've witnessed is nothing short of extraordinary.

Training Camp has always been a mirror, reflecting where we are and hinting at where we're headed. This year, that reflection revealed something new: an influx of younger players. Some came with a casual experience from Madden, others with a few recreational games under their belt, and some with no idea where to begin. Yet YALD welcomed them all with open arms, not just to shape them into athletes, but to guide them into becoming respectful, engaged members of our community.

Training Camp means something different to everyone. For me, it's a return to the fundamentals, the same

methods I learned as a young athlete are the ones I now pass on. There players were introduced to dynamic stretches, football drills, conditioning, and nutrition. But what they discovered went far beyond the physical. They found grit. They found heart.

One player who truly stood out was David Perez. To be honest, I wasn't sure he'd return after the first session. But not only did he come back, he gave everything he had, every time he stepped onto that field. By the end of camp, David wasn't just a better athlete; he carried himself with a confidence that couldn't be taught.

And then came a moment that reminded me why we do this. When it was time to break down the final huddle, YALD veteran and fan favorite Joshua Ortiz was asked to lead. Instead, he respectfully declined and asked that David take the honor. That gesture spoke volumes. It showed me that Joshua had absorbed every lesson over the years, and it reminded me that humanity, humility, and heart are alive and well in this program.

By Kelvin Valentin, Program Director

BATTLE FOR TALENT BEGINS

Training camp is over, and the first round of tryouts is complete. Coaches scouted with sharp eyes, searching for qualities that go beyond athleticism: **leadership, teamwork, resilience, and hunger.**

The draft room was filled with strategy and competition, each coach determined to secure the players they believe can bring the most value to their team. But the story isn't over. On **September 6th, 2025**, Round 2 tryouts will continue, giving more players the chance to earn their place.

As Season 15 begins, YALD introduces:

- **New coach matchups**
- **New uniforms**
- **15th Season Patch**
- **New team names**



POWER OF FAMILY IN YALD

At YALD, **family isn't just a word—it's a promise.**

Years ago, our players, volunteers, and parents began chanting: “1, 2, 3 YALD... 4, 5, 6 FAMILY.” It stuck, because it was real. We didn't choose it...it chose us.

Family means supporting one another through wins and losses, lifting each other when the game gets tough, and celebrating victories together as one.

This year, **every uniform will carry the word “FAMILY” on the back**, a reminder that no matter the outcome of a play, a game, or even a season we walk off the field together.

As our President, David Calderon, says: *“When YALD started, I was starting my own family too. Family means everything, and this program is an extension of that. Putting ‘FAMILY’ on the jerseys is more than a word, it's our identity.”*

This season, FAMILY isn't just on our backs, it's in our DNA.

ORIENTATION

 **When:** September 13th, 2025
 **Where:** YALD Field (click here)
 **Time:** 9:30 AM

Orientation sets the tone for the season. Players, coaches, staff, and parents will gather as one team to learn about rules, expectations, and responsibilities.

Uniforms will be distributed at this event, ensuring that every participant is game-day ready. Attendance is **mandatory**, because in YALD, communication and accountability are part of our core values.

SPONSOR A PLAYER

Every season, YALD commits to ensuring no young athlete is left behind due to financial barriers. With a **\$175 sponsorship**, you can fully sponsor a player, covering uniforms, training, and gameday costs.

Every sponsor is also entered into our **JetBlue raffle** for a chance to win big while giving back.

 **Zelle:** info@yald.org

 **Donate:** www.yald.org

YOUTH CLINIC ENROLLMENT

Our Youth Clinic is the perfect opportunity for younger athletes (ages 7–11) to develop fundamentals, confidence, and leadership in a positive environment.

 **Ages:** 7–11

 **Focus:** Fundamentals, leadership, teamwork

 **Start Date:** Saturday, July 19

 **Location:** YALD Field

 **Register:** www.yald.org

 **Spots are limited – early signups unlock bonus sessions!**



CLOSING STATEMENT

Season 15 is here, and the energy is undeniable. From the grit of training camp to the excitement of tryouts, and the unity behind our FAMILY identity, this season promises to be unforgettable.

The **15th Season Patch** on our jerseys represents more than a milestone. It represents fifteen years of building leaders, inspiring growth, and proving that YALD is more than a league, it's a movement.

Here's to another powerful chapter in the YALD story.

— **The YALD Team**

SAVE THE DATE - KEY EVENTS

- **Round 2 Tryouts & Draft**
Saturday, September 6th, 2025
YALD Field – 9:30 AM
- **League Orientation & Uniform Distribution**
Saturday, September 13th, 2025
YALD Field – 9:30 AM
- **Opening Day – Season 15 Kickoff**
Saturday, September 20th, 2025
YALD Field – 9:30 AM

Mark your calendars, bring your energy, and get ready to make Season 15 unforgettable.

