

## **Sports Outreach**

## **Summer Update 2023**

Hi, everyone! I hope you are having a great summer. Even though we are just over a third of the way through, with school just a few weeks away, the summer is basically over for a lot of us. The summers seem to get shorter and shorter each year, but it was nice while it lasted. I always enjoy giving you an update from Sports Outreach. As I stated last year we changed to a new computer and database, so we are no longer sending out a newsletter by mail. Please let us know if there is a better email address for you, or if there are additional emails that would like to get an update. Thanks!

First of all, we appreciate all the support we receive. Words cannot express what your prayer and financial support do to keep us going. The Lord continues to bless us through your faithful support! Since Easter, we had a great Spring of team devotions and group meetings. We had Thursday mornings with Asheville High School students for "Donuts and a Devotion". They are a very faithful bunch and a pleasure to spend time with. We finished up the winter with the UNC Asheville women's basketball team. They had a more challenging season while adding some new faces in the lineup. I was very proud of them - a very attentive group of athletes and coaches. We had a full year with the UNCA baseball team, doing an entire season of team devotions with them and building on the breakfast bible studies we had in the fall. The surprise of the fall was the time spent with the UNCA Soccer teams. I had been trying to speak to the Men's team for 34 years and it finally worked out. What a great bunch of young men and coaches! I look forward to getting more involvement with the Women's Soccer team this year. We had great participation prior to Covid restrictions. We also had a couple of first time opportunities to spend time with the UNCA track team. Hopefully more with the new track completed!

On the high school scene, it was busy and challenging. The A.C. Reynolds track was undergoing complete renovation, and is still awaiting the new surface as we speak! The Spring activities included team devotions with Boys Tennis, Girls & Boys Track, Baseball, Softball, and Girls Soccer. Whew! Scheduling is the biggest challenge, as school policy requires us to speak after practice is over, with the occasional exception. There is sometimes significant pushback from the occasional parent about sharing Christ with students. The students love the messages! That's why we need your constant prayer support! Once again, the students are very attentive and eager to hear the Gospel message. We are primarily a "presenting ministry", but God promises that His Word will not return void and accomplish the purpose for which it is sent! Unfortunately, there were 2 suicides there in the spring where I helped with some counseling. Please pray!

A couple of weeks ago we had our annual 7-on-7 football minicamp at Asheville High School with 110 coaches and athletes from Cherokee, Polk County and Robbinsville High Schools. They joined Asheville for 2 ½ hours of competition, a devotion, Sonic burgers and some Gatorade. I had the privilege to share with them from Philippians 3:10-14 on the "3 D's" – Desire, Discipline and Do it. The scriptures encourage us to have a desire for God, to take hold of His opportunities, and exercise spiritual disciplines. They can apply the "3 D's" to their athletic endeavors as well.

Finally, our only support raiser was on May 17th at Etowah Valley Golf Course. That event helps provide support for summer camp aid, mission trip support, and resources. We had 104 faithful golfers enjoy the day with some cool but dry weather! We have such a great group of supporters and sponsors every year and we appreciate them so much. Kenneth Frenke & Co. was our Lead Sponsor once again. Thanks Ken!

So, the Fall season is upon us. It the busiest and best time of the year. Please mark your calendars for our **Fall Banquet on Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30pm**, at Arden Presbyterian Church. Diana and I hope to see you there. Have a great rest of the summer. Thanks again for your support! We love and appreciate you.

Serving Through Sports,

*Jack*

Jack & Diana Brinkley