



[TOP](#)

DMS Bearcat Thursday

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

Tonight the Dexter Middle School Football program will host the Kennett Indians at Charles "Seed" Bland Stadium. This is a doubleheader match-up with the football action starting at 5:00 o'clock this evening. The 7th Grade team will play the first game and the 8th Grade will immediately follow.

Expectations are that this will be quite a contest for both teams tonight. Both 7th and 8th grade teams have fought hard this season but the Bearcats continue to look for their first win on both grade levels.

The 8th grade team has only been able to play one game this season due to the cancellation of their contest against the Jackson Indians. Both teams were ready to take the field when lightning cancelled the game for both grades.

In the season opener against the Portageville Bulldogs, the eighth graders found the running game difficult to handle as they lost that contest 54 - 28.

"We moved the ball pretty well during the Portageville game," commented head coach Mike Vipperman. "But the big plays just killed us."

Vipperman continued, "we have been working hard to contain the sweeps with our cornerbacks and linebackers. We've made good progress and hope that will show tonight against Kennett."

The 8th grade will be missing fullback and middle linebacker, Jake Adams. Adams has been a force for the Bearcats but will be unavailable for play tonight.

Simmons is expected to be able to step in to replace Adams at his fullback position. Simmons is normally a tightend for the 'Cats but is big, strong and shifty coming out of the backfield.

Quarterback Jason Jarrell and running back Gavin Northcutt are both strong threats for the 8th grade team. Northcutt is questionable for tonight due to a mid-week injury.

Scouting reports indicate that both teams for the Indians are really good. They are big, fast and difficult to contain around the ends. Their running backs have decent size and quick out of the backfield. The Bearcats will certainly be tested on their containment skills tonight.

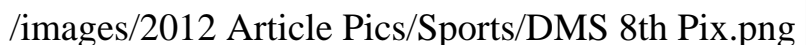
Coaches Mike Vipperman and Drew Pixley have their teams ready for tonights contest.

The seventh grade team has struggled to get their scoring machine going yet this season. They have played two games this season, falling to Portageville by a score of 31 to 6 and losing to East Prairie 35 to 0.

"We actually see a lot of potential in this group," says Coach Vipperman. "They are just young and just learning our offensive system."

As the 7th Grade continues to gain valuable experience, they have some top athletes to get the job done. The quarterback position is rotated between Nick Trout and Ben Sindel, each bringing strong talents to the position.

"Trout does a great job of reading the defense with a powerful arm to throw the football," brags Vipperman. "Sindel brings the running dynamic to the game. It's a great combination for us."



Running back Marcus Woodson is out for tonights contest with a pulled muscle in his forearm. Matt Stone will be stepping in his slot and expected to handle that job well for the 'Cats.

The offensive lines of both teams are good highlights. The 8th grade team is of more average size but extremely physical in their play. Coaches noted that they are very quick and fire off the ball really well.

The 7th grade offensive line is big and strong. The next questions is typically "how do they move". The coaches pointed out that this group of linemen have excellent footwork and should be a group to watch in the future.

The head coach for the Middle School team this year has a great quality. Coach Mike Vipperman heads up the trio of coaches as the head man on the sidelines, organizing and keeping everything running well. Coach Chris Bolin leads the defensive team and Coach Drew Pixley runs the offense for the 'Cats.

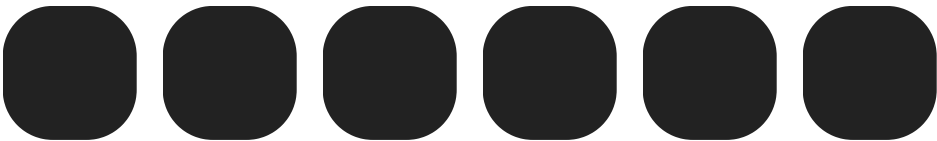
"Having a good middle school program is vital to what we do at the high school level," commented Bearcat Head Coach Aaron Pixley. "Learning the fundamentals and basics is key to being a quality football program and our coaches do a great job of instilling these qualities into the young athletes."

Be sure to make plans to come out to the game tonight and support these young men. It's a very exciting time for them as they improve their skills of the game.

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Dexter Volleyball Defeats Woodland

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Dexter Volleyball Defeats Woodland

The Dexter Lady Bearcat Volleyball Team came off a great week of volleyball as they took a big victory over the Bernie Mules last Thursday.

The Dexter team kept their momentum as they traveled to Woodland last night.

With Jessica Lindsey's extraordinary talent still missing due to injury, the young team continues to fight hard and take victories.

It was a quick match-up between the two teams as Dexter took the victory in just two sets. The Dexter team produced some great volleyball last night with serves, blocks, and more than a few great kills.

The first set was taken by the Bearcats with a 25-13 final score, and the second set being even more in Dexter's favor with a 25-10 victory to end the night.

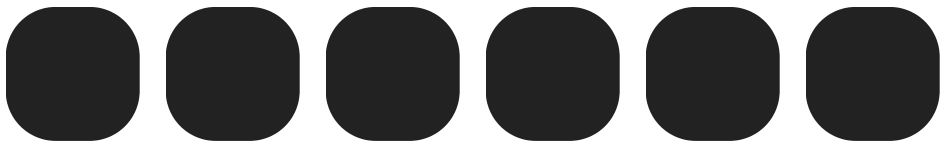
The Dexter Bearcats will hit the court again as they travel to Bell City High School in hopes to continue their impressive winning streak.

Pictured in the photo above is freshman Julia Hahn preparing for a serve.

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[Go to post](#)



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Bearcat Style Tackling; Pixley Style

SEPTEMBER 16TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

Bearcat Style Tackling; Pixley Style

One of the instructional times at Day with Bearcat Football included a very detailed instruction from Coach Aaron Pixley on the importance of the proper technique of tackling. "If the other team doesn't score, they can't win" is a philosophy often driven into the minds of players on all levels. The importance of defense begins with the proper techniques of tackling.

There have been several changes that have been instituted into the game of football to protect athletes from neck and head injuries. Direct contact of a helmet to helmet hit always draw extreme scrutiny.

"We always want to keep our kids safe," noted Pixley to the group. "So we really preach the proper technique in tackling. It's one of the most important skills a young player can learn."

Coach Pixley demonstrated to the athletes of the Dexter Park and Rec Little League Football program the exact way he would like them to perform a tackle.

"I want you (little league players) to know how to tackle through the ball carrier," finished Pixley. "Not to simply hit them and stop your forward progress. To do that, you have to learn to ignite your feet and drive through the runner."

Using his senior wide receiver, Chase Young, Coach Pixley demonstrated each step to the proper tackle in detail to the little league athletes on hand at the Day with Bearcat Football.

The steps were as follows:

- **The First Step is to always get yourself in a good athletic position with your arms drawn back ready to fire forward.**
- **Second Step, with your head up, you put your head across the body of the ball carrier and put your face mask on the football.**
- **Third, you violently rip your arms upward, through and around the ball carrier.**
- **You continue your momentum through the runner by drawing in your arms, rolling your hips over and through them, while taking small powerful driving steps with your feet.**

The step by step pictures are an excellent way to learn and envision the property technique and steps to the "**Bearcat Tackle; Pixley Style.**"

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Day With Bearcat Football A Success

SEPTEMBER 16TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

Day With Bearcat Football A Success

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter Park & Recreation Little League Football program was given a beautiful day for the rescheduled "Day With Bearcat Football" event that was held this afternoon on the hallowed grounds of the Dexter High School. Why "hallowed"? Because the essence of this event is the exposure of the Bearcat football athletes to some of their greatest fans - the DPR Little League teams.

This is a large commitment by many involved in the community. Jamie Rowe, who heads up the DPR program, organizes the majority of the event and pulls everything together. Just getting 120+ third through sixth graders collected for an extra practice is a big undertaking for DPR, the team coaches, and the parents.

With poor weather causing the postponement of Friday night's high school game against the Sikeston Bulldogs to Saturday, the event was forced to be rescheduled this year.

Coach
Aaron

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Pixley, Coach Brian Becker, and other members of the Bearcat staff have been committed to this program, seeing it as a building blocks for their own program. The DPR league has always attempted to teach the basic fundamentals of football while trying to share the teachings of Pixley and his staff.

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Day with
Bearcat

Football offers the young athletes a direct and personal workout with the high school players. The Bearcats run the drills and offer individual instructions throughout the afternoon.

During breaks, Coach Pixley took opportunities to share with the overall group and even took time to specifically teach the art and technique of tackling. Many of the league

coaches were on hand to sharpen their own knowledge and to affirm the teaching they perform each week with their teams.

The event was capped off by a generous donation of subway sandwiches from the local Subway Restaurant. The students built up quite an appetite and were anxious to get in line for the food. Each participant also received a Day With Bearcat Football t-shirt.

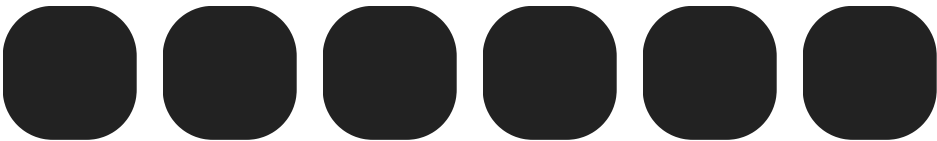
The idea originated in the late '90s when Coach Paul Hale sponsored a similar event known as "Day with Bearcat Basketball". A proven success, the event was picked up by the Dexter Bearcat Booster Club then taken over by the Dexter Parks & Rec just a few years later. The event has been expanded and continues to be the highlight of all ages.

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[Go to post](#)



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C-ville Tigers Too Much To Handle

C-ville Tigers Too Much To Handle

*Article Provide By
The SMT Sport Department*

Last night's game could be coined "the contest between the walking wounded". Both the Dexter Bearcats and the Caruthersville Tigers have lost key players to injury early in the season, and several others from both squads would succumb to injury before the end of the contest.

The Dexter Bearcats wasted no time jumping out to the early lead Friday night at Hopke Field, but 35 unanswered points from the Tigers ruined Dexter's hopes of knocking off the Class 2 State-Ranked Caruthersville Tigers. Even without the services of Darrell Monroe, the leading rusher in Southeast Missouri, the Tigers were able to amass an impressive 331 yards rushing and compiled 390 yards of total offense in route to a resounding 35-7 victory over the visiting Dexter Bearcats.

With the loss, the Bearcats fall to 0-4 on the season. However, there is still great hope that the Bearcats will find success in the remaining portion of this year's campaign.

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"I have been 0-4 before," stated Head Coach Aaron Pixley. "and we have come out and found success later in the season," continued Pixley.

For Pixley, the winningest coach in Bearcat history, this is only the 3rd time in 13 seasons that one of his teams has entered the fifth week of play without a win. In 2008, his Bearcat team bounced back to win 4 of their 5 final games. The following year, after four straight losses, the 2009 Bearcats won 5 of the final 6 games and advanced to a first round playoff game against Potosi. With the this year's toughest opponents in the rear-view mirror, coupled with the new changes in the playoff point system, the 2012 Bearcats remain solidly in the hunt for a coveted post-season playoff berth.

Facing a state ranked team for the third time this season, the Bearcats began the contest with a bang. Senior Chase Young took the opening kickoff for a 64 yard return deep into Tigers territory, showcasing his agility and phenomenal open field speed. Three plays later, and less than two minutes into the game, Ryan Joyner found the end zone from four yards out. After the successful PAT from Brad Wick, the Bearcats took the lead by the score of 7-0.

Feeding off the success of the offense, the Bearcat defense took the field with enthusiasm and an aggressive style of play. The Dexter defense came up huge on the first two Caruthersville possessions making back to back stops on 4th and short, forcing the Tigers to turn the ball over on downs.

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However, despite the excellent field position, the Dexter offense was unable to extend their early lead. Coach Pixley explained that, "After that first drive, we just couldn't find any rhythm on offense." He continued to say that, "This was a very physical game. Caruthersville is big up front and with their aggressive style of play, they really got after us." The Tiger defense forced an interception and a fumble in the opening quarter.

In the final minutes of the opening quarter, Caruthersville used a variety of running personnel to march down the field. A 24 yard run by Myron Woods place the Tigers in the Red Zone. On the following play, the Tigers QB, Tyler Grissom, found the endzone on a 4 yard TD run. The Tigers PAT went wide left, and the Bearcats closed out the first quarter with a lead of 7-6.

Midway through the 2nd quarter, a holding penalty and a sack of DJ Dowdy forced the Bearcats to punt from deep within their own territory. But things went from bad to worse when Hunter Dicky burst through the Dexter line and blocked the Hunter Hayes punt. This resulted in the Tigers tacking the ball over at the Dexter 29 yard line. Capitalizing on this excellent field position, Grissom found Wyron Woods in the corner of the end zone resulting in a 27 yard touchdown pass. Following a failed two point conversion, the halftime score found the home team with a 12-7 lead.

Pixley explained that "We gave up some big plays late in the first half, and they were able to get back in the game. We went into halftime down 5, but still very much in the game."

The Tigers were slated to receive the kickoff to start the second half. The Bearcat defense came out strong on the opening Tigers drive, forcing the Tigers to punt. The Hunter Dicky punt however, was a dandy, pinning the Bearcat offense back to their own 4 yard line.

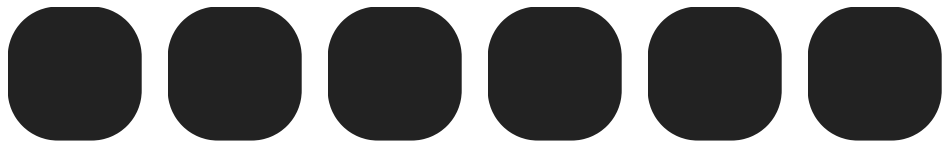
The Bearcat game plan of keeping the ball on the ground was disrupted by injury in the second half of play. Injuries to Dowdy, Joyner and Wick forced the Bearcat coaching staff to rotate in some lesser experienced personnel. The Bearcat drive ended with a fumble recovery by the Tigers, and placed them once again in excellent scoring position to start the drive. On the third play from scrimmage, Jeremy Grant skirted around the left side and found the end zone from 6 yards out. The successful two point conversion by Grissom extended the Tigers lead to 20-7.

"In the second half we go down to one running back," stated Pixley. "It changes your whole outlook on what you would like to do, and it limited what we actually could do." Pixley did however go on to say that "we are getting some benefit from the younger players getting this experience. We have had a freshman and several sophmores that have had to fill in postions, and they have do an nice job."

Caruthersville went on to find the end zone two more times in the third quarter, bringing the score to 35-7. This would ultimately become the final score of the game.

Next week, the Bearcats return home to Charles Bland Stadium to face-off against the struggling Kennett Indians (0-4). Coach Pixley had this to say about next week's game, "We have to stay together, never give up, and move on to our next opponent. It is another conference game, and we are definitely going to go out there to win." Injuries remain a concern for the coaching staff as they look towards the next several games. "We really need to get healthy," said Pixley. "We need to get everybody back practicing, everyday."

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