the heart and soul in sports

Sept. 2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL/WESTERN IOWA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

2011 Pella Camp

CAMP: Pella Summer Camp • Ames Power Camp • Meredith Drive Power Camp / 2 & 3 CAMPUS: Leadership Training • Huddle Renewal • Athlete Interview - Ryan Brasser / 3 & 4 COACHES: Coach Interview - Kevin Brasser • Coaches Bible Studies / 5 COMMUNITY: Golf Events • Fields of Faith • DMUBL / 6 & 7

GAME CHANGER™

Make a play. Acts 2:36

2011 Pella Camp Pictures and Camper Comments

Taught me how to praise the Lord in everything I do especially in sports.

I want to be a bolder disciple.

I finally made my game changing commitment to Christ.

One thing I learned is how to be desperate for God. He is amazing!!!

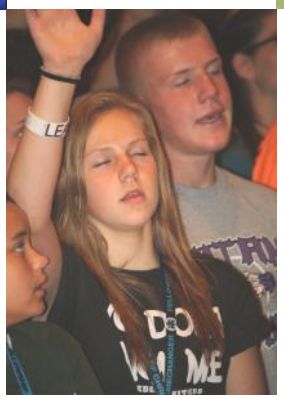
I learned to not worry about what others think and express my faith.

It has shown me that I can be a light in my school, on the court and in my home.

I have started with my devotions again—I had drifted away from God but this camp has helped to get me on track.

This camp has helped me realize that I have been talking the walk but haven't been walking the walk.

The Holy Spirit is extremely active at FCA camp. Seeing God work in people's hearts and being used by God has been very exhausting and very rewarding. (Huddle Leader)



Words cannot explain how much I have grown this week with my walk with Christ! I have recommitted and influenced others to commit as well. I am on fire right now with Christ. (Huddle Leader)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2011
PELLA CAMP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Central College
Pella, Iowa
July 11-15th

By the Numbers:

Campers: 312
Huddle Leaders: 40
Coaches/Staff: 66
Spouses & Children: 48

1st- Time Commitments to Christ: 11
Re-Commitments: 62

camp

2011 Ames Power Camp Pictures

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2011

AMES POWER CAMP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

June 20-21st, we hosted a Power Camp with the First Evangelical Free Church of Ames. Four coaches and 7 huddle leaders served 34 students in the sports of basketball, football and soccer.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2011

MEREDITH DRIVE POWER CAMP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

July 5-7th, Meredith Drive Reformed Church hosted a Power Camp in Johnston, Iowa. Two coaches and 4 huddle leaders served 25 students in the sports of basketball and cheerleading.

Power Camps are a great outreach tool for churches and communities to grade school and middle school students and their families. They also help us fulfill our vision to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. If you are interested in hosting a Power Camp during 2012, please contact our office (515-727-1868) for more information or to begin the planning process. We look forward to see how God will use Power Camps for his glory in 2012.

Leadership Training

Huddle Coaches, if you would like to have a staff member come and do leadership training with your students, call our office today (515-727-1868) to set up a training!

Huddle Renewal

Huddle Coaches, have you certified your huddle for this school year yet? If not, contact your Area Representative or call our office (515-727-1868) to take care of that as soon as possible.

Welcome Trisha Gray!

As many of you may know, Ashley is expecting her first child at the end of September. Once her maternity leave is over, she will only be working a few hours a week. Taking her place will be Trisha Gray!

Trisha grew up in Norwalk and attended Northwestern College in Orange City attaining a BA degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Management. She recently moved back to the Des Moines area from Estes Park, CO where she had been in an administrative position for over 16 years with the YMCA of the Rockies. We look forward to having her on staff with FCA!

Trisha Gray, new Administrative Assistant in the Central/Western Iowa office

campus

ATHLETE INTERVIEW

NAME: Ryan Brasser
AGE: 20
HOMETOWN: Paullina, IA
SCHOOL: Northwestern College
SPORT: Baseball

List your chosen attribute: Faith

What is your personal definition of this word?
Trusting that God's plan for my life is far better than anything I could try to write for myself.

What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?
If the plans you have aren't intimidating to you, chances are they're insulting to God. - Steven Furtick

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. - Saint Augustine

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?
"Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory." -1 John 5:4

Why did you choose that particular passage?
It is becoming harder and harder to live the way God wants us to, so this verse gives reassurance that we can "defeat the world," or live the way He wants us to.

Please give an example of this word in your life.
After high school, I had to have faith that God would lead me where He wanted me to attend college, and after having that faith, God led me to Northwestern College. I now cannot count all the blessings I have due to the fact I am in a place where God wants me to be.

How do you apply this word in your sport?
Every baseball player has the dream to be drafted and play in the major leagues. Some guys reach that dream and others don't, but faith comes in when guys don't reach their lifelong dreams. It takes faith to trust that God has other, bigger, plans for their lives than to play baseball.

How did you first become involved in FCA?
My dad, Kevin Brasser, was the leader of our high school's FCA group so I started going to events when I was eight or nine years old.

How has God impacted you through FCA?
He has given me the talents, abilities, and opportunities to honor Him by playing the game I love.

How active within FCA were/are you?
I went to all of the events that took place in high school, and this past summer I played baseball in Niagara Falls, NY for an FCA-sponsored team.

What is your athletic experience?
I had the opportunity to play baseball in New York this summer for the Niagara Power, an FCA-sponsored team, which competes in the New York Collegiate Baseball League (NYCBL).

Share one tip that helps you be a Christ-like competitor:
Be humble enough to praise God when you win, and confident enough to praise Him when you lose.

Sports Achievements:
GPAC All-Conference as a freshman and New York Collegiate Baseball League (NYCBL) All-Star 2011.

The biggest concerns facing youth today are:
Finding a core group of friends to spend their time with.

The biggest concerns facing Christian youth today are:
Defending their faith publically.

Who is your athletic role model?
Matt Negaard - He is the second baseman on my college team, the Northwestern Red Raiders. He is the perfect example of what a Christian athlete looks like. He works harder than everyone on the team, his leadership qualities are second-to-none, and he has a heart for God that is very rarely seen in today's society. He makes himself better every single day, and never takes a play off on the field. Off the field he leads team Bible studies, is an academic tutor, and a great friend. Even though he doesn't play in the major leagues, yet, he exemplifies the perfect, all around, man of God.

For the complete interview with Ryan go to www.iowafca.org/newsletters.

Ryan pitching for the Niagara Power

coaches

COACH INTERVIEW

NAME: Kevin Brasser
HOMETOWN: Paullina, IA
ALMA MATER: Northwestern College, Orange City, IA
DEGREE: BA Biology/Chemistry, National Certification, Coaching

List your chosen attribute: Faithfulness

What is your personal definition of this word?
Staying the course and staying committed, during the good times and times of trial.

What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?
I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful. -- Mother Teresa

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?
It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Why did you choose that particular passage?
When there is a promise that He will never leave nor fail us, it is very comforting. It is timeless.

Please give an application of this word in your life.
Although I make mistakes or, at times get too comfortable or complacent in life, I stay faithful to my Lord, my wife, and my family. My wife and family never have to doubt that I will be completely faithful to them and their well-being.

How do you apply this word in your sport?
Since 1987, I feel as though I have been faithful to my school and the teams that I coach by giving my best and teaching young people not only fundamentals of the game, but life lessons in moral character and Christian virtues as well.

How did you become involved in FCA?
I attended FCA at Northwestern College as a student. When I was hired by my school (then Paullina High School, now South O'Brien High School), I decided to begin a huddle in our high school in 1987.

How active within FCA were/are you?
I have led our huddle at South O'Brien High School since 1987, now in our 25th year.

What is your athletic experience?
Four sport high school athlete (Oostburg High School in Oostburg, Wisconsin, 1977-'81) Played football at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA from 1982-1984.

What is your coaching experience?
I have coached during every season at South O'Brien Schools except track since 1987. This includes assistant varsity football, assistant varsity softball, junior high football, junior high boys basketball, junior high girls basketball, junior high softball, and freshmen baseball. A total of 96 different seasons over the last 24 years.

To view additional interviews with coaches go to www.iowafca.org/newsletters.

Coach Brasser and former Viking, Chris Carter, on one of the many trips the South O'Brien FCA have taken over the years!

Coaches Bible Study Resources

Would you like to start a Coaches Bible Study at your school? Or encourage a local coach? We have multiple resources to assist and encourage coaches! Give us a call (515-727-1868) today to find out more! (Some resources are even free!)

community

2011 GOLF TOURNAMENTS

The following foursomes qualified at their local tournament to compete in the State FCA Golf Tournament on October 3rd at the Harvester in Rhodes, IA. The winners of the State Tournament will advance to the FCA National Golf Tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, November 18-20, 2011.

Northwest Iowa Golf Tournament

Gross Division

1st Place - Matt Trost, Doug Brinker, Matt Smith & Kory Jacobsma
2nd Place - Eric Walhof, Kevin Eekhoff, Jim Poppema & Mike Schmidt

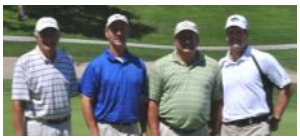
Net Division

1st Place - Rick Altena, Steve Kruger, Rick Sohn, & Scott Louscher
2nd Place - Gary, Neil, & Caleb Malenke & Harold Hoftyzer

Charity Golf Classic

Gross Division

1st Place - Terry Wurzer, Patrick Hall, Tyler Brady & Brett Iverson



2nd Place - Jerry Ibach, Bernie Gradoville, Mike Caligiuri & Rob Best

Net Division

1st Place - Paul, Dan, Tom & Mark Rupprecht

2nd Place - Mark Barrett, Ken Waller, George Tracy & Dean Summa

Border Battle

September 18-19th, 2011
The Jewel, Rochester, MN
Iowa FCA vs. Minnesota FCA
This year we travel to
Minnesota to defend our title!

Welcome Back Jeremy!

We are excited to welcome Jeremy Strasser back on staff in the Northwestern Iowa Area after his deployment to Afghanistan!

After more than two months of living in a hotel and working in Cedar Rapids, one month at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, one month at the National Training Center-Fort Irwin, California, and ten months in various locations in eastern Afghanistan, I am finally home. I returned to Iowa at the end of July and started back to work near the end of August. Autumn and Colin made it through a year without Dad largely because Kayla did such a wonderful job being a temporary single-mom, again. I will always tell people that no matter what goes on in the soldier's life overseas, the spouse who gets left behind with kids, pets, house, cars, bills, and day-to-day life has the tougher job. It's a good thing I wear the uniform, because I'm not sure I could make it a year without Kayla. She's got enough practice now; she makes it look easy.

We want to thank each and every one of you for your support while I was gone. I received packages from so many people this year, it was hard not to gain weight with all the goodies. Kayla had plenty of people checking with her to see if she needed anything. Your prayers for our safety and our families back here were answered on a daily basis. It is very common for people to thank me for what I do. The only appropriate response is to turn around and thank them in return. Same goes for the Central/Western Iowa FCA family. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. Kayla and I are truly blessed to be a part of God's team with you.

ONE DAY. ONE MESSAGE. ONE STAND.

October 12, 2011

To find a field near you, or to register your field, go to www.fieldsoffaith.com!

Fields of Faith

Fields of Faith is a peer-to-peer ministry event where students invite their own classmates and teammates to hear fellow students share their testimonies, be challenged to read the Word of God and follow Jesus Christ. An athletic field provides a neutral, interdenominational rally point where a community can come together.

In 2002, Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes Area Director, Jeff Martin, prayed about what to do with his heartfelt frustration regarding the temptations and spiritual battles facing our more "spectator generation" youth. God led him to 2 Chronicles 34 for the answer. King Josiah, an influential teenager, gathered his people and challenged them to read God's Word. As a result, they changed their culture.

Each year this event grows with more students committing their lives to Christ and changing their culture. Check out www.fieldsoffaith.com for more details.

2011 Des Moines Urban Baseball League

Despite less than ideal spring weather, particularly on Saturday mornings, the 2011 Des Moines Urban Baseball League (DMUBL) had its best year ever! Since its inception in 2005, the DMUBL provides urban boys and girls ranging from ages 3 to 14 years old an opportunity to learn the game of baseball while growing in their faith. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes in partnership with the Iowa Cubs, The Boys and Girls Club, John R. Grubb YMCA, and Elim Christian Fellowship served over 100 kids during the 8 week season. Promoting teamwork, respect, and integrity volunteer coaches encouraged players through the instruction of baseball fundamentals of throwing, fielding and hitting. During the year, Iowa Cubs Bobby Scales, Chris Robinson, and Brian LeHair spoke to the kids about the importance of listening to parents, getting a good education, and trying your best in all you do. Most importantly, prayer and Bible devotions were part of every game and practice session that involved not only the kids but all the family and spectators in attendance. What made 2011 special was the increased diversity of the volunteer leadership. Pastor Michael Hurst, head pastor of Elim Christian Fellowship, reminded everyone that heaven will be made up of all kinds of ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. So we shouldn't wait to get to heaven before we start getting along with others but instead start right now! Everyone involved got a "glimpse" of heaven on earth when they witnessed Black, White, and Hispanic coaches and players supporting each other around the game of baseball. The DMUBL proved beyond a doubt that worshiping the Lord is not constrained to Sundays within the walls of a church building!

Majors League Group Picture

Pre-K T-Ball was added this year!

Pastor Michael Hurst talking with the players after a game.

DMUBL pictures provided by barberphotostudio.com
Story submitted by Rob Best, DMUBL volunteer

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Fellowship of Christian Athletes Financial Gift

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Payment Method

☐ **Check (please make checks payable to : Iowa FCA)**

☐ **Credit Card**

_____-_____-_____-_____

Exp. Date: _____ **CID** _____

Please mail to:
Central/Western Iowa Area Office, 2600 Grand Ave., Ste. 114, Des Moines, IA 50312

Thank you for supporting the Central/Western Iowa Fellowship of Christian Athletes! Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can better serve you!