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7/28/09

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TINLEY PARK BULLDOGS YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM EMPLOYS USA FOOTBALL CERTIFIED COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Helping foster great football experiences for its youngsters, the Tinley Park Bulldog youth football program's 70 coaches have enrolled into USA Football's Certified Coaching Education Program (CCEP). The club, which is part of the Southwest Midget Football League, serves the Tinley Park, Frankfort, and Orland Park, Ill. areas and encompasses more than 300 youngsters. USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, has trained nearly 20,000 youth football coaches nationwide in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., since 2007.

All Tinley Park Bulldog coaches will complete the first level of USA Football's online coaching course (CCEP) or attend a full-day USA Football Coaching School. To advance through the course at usafootball.com, which takes roughly two hours to complete, a coach must receive a cumulative score of at least 80 percent on the course's 11 quizzes.

USA Football's CCEP encompasses coaching philosophy, practice planning, communicating with young players and parents through computer animation and audio narration. Upon course completion, coaches receive a USA Football coaching certificate and have their name added to usafootball.com's national coaches' registry.

"It is very informative with the options that you get to help you with your play book, practice schedule and all of the different drills they offer," said Tinley Park Bulldog football athletic director **MIKE WITTMAN** of Frankfort, Ill. "It is a great tool to help a new coach get started.

"We, as a program, want our coaches to be able to teach our kids the game of football and by keeping up on their education, they can do that. They can get ideas on new drills, plays and coaching tips from the experts. It not only benefits them, but the kids, and that is why we do it – for the kids," added Wittman.

"The best way to shape America's favorite sport at the youth level is to provide coaches with resources to become quality instructors and mentors," said USA Football Executive Director **SCOTT HALLENBECK**. "The Tinley Park Bulldog youth football program, under Mike's leadership, is doing that in an exciting way through our online coaching education course. Prepared and dedicated coaches result in youngsters having more fun playing a game they love – that is precisely what is happening for youth football in Tinley Park."

About USA Football

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, conducts more than 100 football training events annually to further strengthen the game. USA Football members – coaches, game officials and league commissioners – reside in all 50 states. The independent non-profit based near Washington, D.C. is the official youth football development partner of the NFL and NFLPA and manages U.S. national teams within the sport for international competitions. USA Football is chaired by former NFL team executive Carl Peterson.