

Airdrie Storm hopes to challenge for title

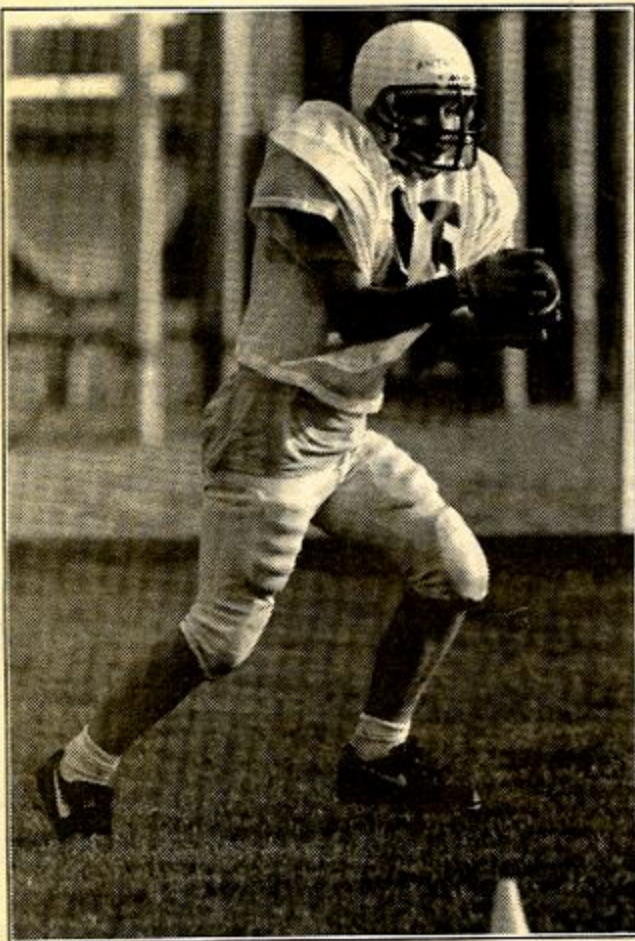
Corinne Brown

Staff Writer

It was an evening of meeting the players, parents, managers and the coaches of Airdrie's bantam Storm football team during an open house which was held last Friday.

As the coaches drilled orders at the players practicing on the field, parents watched onward to help get a better understanding of the game and to see their child suited up for play.

This is the second year for the bantam team and head-coach Jeff Younger said they have one main goal for this year's season.



"This year and every year we have one goal, and that's the championship," Younger said.

"Second to that we have to be competitive in every game we play," he added.

Younger said there's a need for bantam football in Airdrie and surrounding areas because there isn't anything lower than high school football in the area.

"There's quite a need to have a younger system running here so kids will know what the game is all about," Younger said about the 13- to 15-year-olds who help to make up the roster.

"It gives kids a chance to learn football skills."

Younger said these special skills involve a lot of individual skill and technique.

"They have a better understanding of the game even if they don't make the high school teams," he said about the youths' opportunities to play on the bantam team.

As well as learning about the game of football, Younger thinks being part of the team will help the football fanatics in another way.

"It teaches kids about team work, they are one of 12 on the field and every one has to do their job for the team to be successful," he said.

"It's a team goal.

"I like to have fun coaching and want the kids to have fun when they're playing," he said as part of the agenda for the upcoming season.

Offering some words of wisdom, the coach said he wants the kids to do their best and learn from their mistakes.

"A loss isn't a loss unless you don't learn anything from it."

Younger said there is great support from the parent group involved with the team and thinks that helps with the team's success.

"The first year is a learning experience for the kids and there is such a blend of players but it's fun watching them develop," he said.

With approximately 30 youths signed up for this year's team, Younger is looking forward to an exciting and challenging season.