



*The Giants celebrate the end of a great ride.
photo by Chris Fritchie*

8-0 season by winning the Division Championship November 15th. That day the boys' families cheered from the sidelines as Head Coach Darrell Reese, Sr. celebrated with his team – before, as tradition dictates, they dumped water on his head.

As the Giants pour into the banquet hall on this night, some pause to admire a trophy table that displays a poster board with team and individual photos. In front of the poster were six t-shirts from each of the previous seasons, folded neatly, showing the names of the players on the back. Four of the boys have been "Giants" from the beginning: Jack "Hot Shot" King, Sammy "The Hammer" Michelich, Darrell "Bam Bam" Reese, Jr. and Zachary "Zack Attack" English.

In the center of the table sits a trophy from 1973 when Coach Reese was named Most Valuable Player during his own youth football days with the Garland Giants. It's missing the "G", but not lacking in sentiment.

A few boys took pictures of the display with their camera phones as a little girl, noticing the photographs, proudly proclaims to her mom, "Mommy, there's Jack!"

A large projection screen was set up for the occasion, and as the boys and their families enjoyed an Italian buffet, they watched highlights from their winning season. Each boy appeared on the screen stating his name, position and the reason he liked football.

Zachary English says he will miss "scoring touchdowns," while Sammy Michelich and many of his fellow teammates appreciate the fact that "you get to hit people."

The event exuded a sense of family involvement and personal commitment which exemplified the years they've all spent together. It was an emotional time of reflection. When Mrs. Michelich took the podium at the front of the room, she began with, "I already feel a twinge in my eye." Her husband, Assistant Coach Bruce Michelich told their son Sammy, "I know I chew on you in practice, but your mom and I are very proud of you."

A Night of All-Stars

By Angela Smith

A LITTLE AFTER 6 P.M. on the cool evening of November 22nd, a white stretch Hummer limousine pulled into the Frisco Senior Center parking lot. Twenty sixth graders piled out, jubilant enough to forget earlier grumbings about wearing a shirt and tie. The boys followed a red carpet to the balloon-filled banquet hall where they were greeted by their sharply-dressed parents who smiled as the boys filed in.

The proud and somewhat tearful

parents of these young men got together to create what they called "An Evening with the Stars," a special night commemorating the last season for the Giants of the Frisco Football League. It's been six years of bonding over practices, games and sleepovers, and Andrea Reese and Lynne Michelich helped transform the banquet hall into a celebration worthy of these little champs.

It's been a good final year for the Giants, who ended the undefeated

The boys then lined up to present their mothers with roses, knowing how important this night was for them as well.

"We spent hours wrapping them," Sammy explained.

Mrs. Reese embraced her son Darrell, Jr. as he handed her the rose. Darrell, Sr. told his son early on that he didn't have to play football just because he did, but Darrell, Jr. was inspired to play when he saw "all the trophies and skills he had."

The boys have learned more than just the rules of the game. Mrs. Jeffere King, whose twin boys Jack and Sam are on the team, feels "they learn more off the field." Each of the coaches served as models for acceptable behavior. "They never raise their voices. They don't make them feel small. That has a lot to do with it – a lot of wisdom." She says they've been fortunate to have been on a winning team, but most importantly, "they're learning (the importance of having) heart."

Coach Reese explains, "We try to be an example for the kids, about how to treat each other, and not to brag and be boastful." They stress the importance of doing well in school and being a good team player. "We try to give them these things to think about."

Many of the parents were honored for their contributions to the team's success. The Giants' families recognize how every action counts, from holding the banner to running the booth during games. Mrs. Michelich was touched by the special platter made for her with an imprint of each boy's finger on it.

Mrs. Toni Oliver made a quilt for each of the five coaches. The quilts were much like the Giants themselves; different fabrics, colors and patterns put together, creating something beautiful. The audience cheered as Coaches Reese, Davidson, Michelich, Oliver and Walls accepted their personalized gifts which were signed by all the boys at the end of the ceremony.

While the moms have spent the past six years driving the boys to practices and games, they have also served as the team's cheerleaders.

"We all wear matching shirts and shake maracas," says Mrs. Reese, who was presented a cheer stick during the ceremony for her unyielding spirit. But

the parents' bond extends beyond the bleachers. They've fostered even greater community by having kid-free Christmas parties and Ladies Nights Out.

A few years ago, Mrs. English never would have believed that she would understand football. But when the women get together on Ladies Night Out, that's one of the main topics. She says she cries every time she thinks about the end of the season.

"It's all the camaraderie. We're such a family and have all grown up together. It's such an exceptional group of kids."

Lynne Webb's son Clay started this season with no football experience. She wasn't sure what to expect, but "they took us in as if we'd been here all five years. They were wonderful and they – all the kids and coaches – treated Clay the same."

Coach Reese has appreciated the chance to bond with the boys, having coached many of them since they were five. He has enjoyed seeing their skills and maturity level grow, especially his son Darrell, Jr. But coaching his own son has had a few extra challenges.

"That coach-son relationship is a little different. He feels the pressure not to make mistakes. I told him, 'that's not going to happen. You're going to make mistakes and I'm going to make mistakes. But this is all for fun.'"

While the trophies and photographs may get dusty, the memories never will. When the boys gather around for picture time – some taller than others, some more rambunctious – they all wear the same proud smiles as they make the "number one" sign. They are all winners, celebrated by the people who have been there the whole time, and who will follow them into the future – whether it is athletics or some other endeavor.

"Overall it's been a good experience for us. I wouldn't trade it for anything," Coach Reese says.

A few years from now, the Giants might struggle to remember the quadratic formula, or the difference between a gerund and participial phrase, but they'll never forget the special evening they stepped out of a limo and were celebrated as stars.

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Dr. James Douglas has one goal for all of his patients, and that is for them to become parents. This goal has been achieved with such frequency that he has received multiple awards and recognition both locally and nationally. He has repeatedly been named a Best Doctor in Dallas in D Magazine, a Texas Super Doctor in Texas Monthly, a Leading Healthcare Provider in Texas in U.S. News & World Report and Child Magazine's Top 10 Fertility Centers in the Nation (Presbyterian A.R.T.S.). Recently, Dr. Douglas has been interviewed on both Fox 4 and Channel 8 News concerning infertility topics.

Dr. Douglas attributes his patients' high pregnancy rates to his attention to detail. 16 years of experience, individualized treatment plans, state-of-the-art technology and the compassionate care of his office staff. Dr. Douglas has achieved pregnancy rates that few physicians in the country can duplicate.

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