

For Immediate Release

Youth Football in the western suburbs is “*More Than a Game*”

Since the 1960's a developmental league has steadily grown in the western suburbs of Chicago. The St. Raphael Football Program has withstood the test of time providing an excellent learning platform for young players and their families. Reaching over 25,000 children throughout its history, St. Raphael Football is one of the strongest youth football programs in the nation. The Program won the 2008 *Honoring the Game* award from the Positive Coaching Alliance. But as one of its founders and President of the St. Raphael Football League, Jim Brown will tell you the game of football is - more than a game.

Inspired by the players and their life stories Coach Brown compiled narratives for many of the voices he and his coaching staff developed. Finding in each situation, there were lessons to be gleaned for both coach and player, Coach Brown began to journal the experiences encountered both on and off the football field. As so often is the case in life, the teacher is taught by the student, and the student learns lessons for life: overcoming adversity, respect, confidence and finding that within a sport, a personal integrity that carries the young player into adulthood.

Coach Brown has captured these chronicles in his works how he used the game of football to teach life lessons and values. *More Than a Game* which is available in hardcover contains real life stories that have been fictionalized slightly in order to convey his intended message. Each story portrays a central character and situation that richly delivers a message to both player, coach and parent. All the central characters have been moved forward in time to comprise the 2008 St Raphael football team whose' quest is to win the Chicago Catholic League championship.

Coach Brown will host a “Listen and Learn” session October 17, 2009 from 1-4 pm. at Dean's Dugout located at 1815 South Wehrli, in Naperville. The book launch is scheduled for this event and copies will be available to purchase for \$24.95. A second book signing is scheduled for Play It Again Sports located at 24 W Gartner Rd Suite 104 on November 7 from 1-4 pm. Coach Brown will be autographing his book for parents, players and coaches who attend. Books will be on sale at Play It Again Sports after October 7th. For more information or to purchase *More Than a Game* on line, please visit www.more-than-a-game.com or St. Raphael Football at www.straphaelfootball.org .