



Bellport Youth Football players pose for a picture with former Bellport varsity football players (back row, from left) Will Strano, Stephen Schwicke, Jeremy Martinez, an unidentified player and Ed Gowins.



Bellport varsity coaches Kyle Moodt (left) and Chris Baumann instruct youth football players during the practice.

# Players return as mentors

*Bellport football program kept vibrant by graduates*

By MARK NOLAN

The storied Bellport High School varsity football program remains a vibrant force, as former players continue to return to their roots to help assist in coaching younger players.

In early August, the varsity team sponsored a summer clinic for players in the Bellport Youth Football program. Several former varsity players assisted with the clinic, and a few of those players assisted with varsity practices as well.

Notable recent graduates Stephen Schwicke, Will Strano, Ed Gowins and Jeremy Martinez assisted with the summer camp, while Schwicke and Strano have been regulars at the varsity team's summer practices. Schwicke, a 2006 Bellport High School graduate, won the Collota Award as the county's best linebacker in

2005. Strano, who also graduated from Bellport in 2006, won the Zellner Award as the county's best lineman.

Bellport varsity football head coach Joe Cipp Jr. said having former players come back to assist helps emphasize the family values of the program. "Our program is built around family values," Cipp said. "We're a close-knit group. When kids who have graduated come back and help the players, it validates what we're preaching, that it's a family."

Assistant football coach Jeff Cipp, who runs the summer clinic, said having former varsity players help youth football players keeps the Bellport football program strong. "It's like having 50 coaches for the summer clinic," Jeff Cipp said. "The guys coming back are from the 2005-06 teams. They were the first ones in the Bellport Youth Program, so they get a chance to talk to the kids and say how cool it is to be a part of the youth program.

It's a hands-on thing. Not only do the kids get to see the varsity players, but they're doing drills, running with them and having fun."

Joe Cipp Jr. said varsity and youth players benefit from having college players on the field in many ways. "The big thing they emphasize is that they're on the field right now," Cipp said. "They have that on-field experience, which hopefully we as coaches have as well. Maybe they see a little tiny thing they can help someone with. They're talking to the kids. It's not so much what they're saying but that they're actually taking time to recognize someone. We have 47 kids out this year and some of them may never play a lick of football, but some kid on a full athletic scholarship in college is taking time to come over and put his arm around him. It accentuates the brotherhood and family we have here." ■



## Local baseball team wins tournament

The Long Island Warriors 12U team recently won the Sports at the Beach Horsehide Tournament at Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. The Warriors, a team comprised of local youths, finished with a 6-1 record in the tournament. The team is coached by John Lazaz, Sal Como, Louis Garcia, Ronnie Linsalato and Kevin Deutsch.

Pictured (top row, from left) are Coach John, Coach Lou, Nick Morena, Eric Deutsch, Conor Haverly, Coach Kevin, Nick Dunning, Alex Tadesco, Coach Sal, and Coach Ronnie. (Bottom row) from left are Anthony Lazar, Andy Garcia, Sal Como, John Shwonik, Ronnie Linsalato, Matt Katsaros and Dean Werker.

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Aug. 13-19	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Sandy Hook	1:03 AM	1:29 PM	2:02 AM	2:28 PM	3:07 AM	3:34 PM	4:17 AM	4:44 PM	5:27 AM	5:51 PM	6:31 AM	6:51 PM	7:26 AM	7:44 PM
Patchogue	4:28 AM	4:54 PM	5:27 AM	5:53 PM	6:32 AM	6:59 PM	7:42 AM	8:09 PM	8:52 AM	9:16 PM	9:56 AM	10:16 PM	10:51 AM	11:09 PM
Bellport	4:48 AM	5:14 PM	5:47 AM	6:13 PM	6:52 AM	7:19 PM	8:02 AM	8:29 PM	9:12 AM	9:36 PM	10:16 AM	10:36 PM	11:11 AM	11:29 PM
Mastic Beach	4:30 AM	4:57 PM	5:22 AM	5:56 PM	6:35 AM	7:02 PM	7:47 AM	8:12 PM	8:57 AM	9:20 PM	10:01 AM	10:20 PM	10:56 AM	11:13 PM
Moriches Bay	4:37 AM	5:04 PM	5:36 AM	6:03 PM	6:42 AM	7:09 PM	7:54 AM	8:19 PM	9:04 AM	9:27 PM	10:08 AM	10:27 PM	11:03 AM	11:20 PM
Moriches Inlet	12:03 AM	12:29 PM	1:02 AM	1:28 PM	2:07 AM	2:34 PM	3:17 AM	3:44 PM	4:27 AM	4:51 PM	5:31 AM	5:51 PM	6:26 AM	6:44 PM
Shinnecock Canal	12:12 AM	12:39 PM	1:11 AM	1:38 PM	2:17 AM	2:44 PM	3:29 AM	3:54 PM	4:39 AM	5:02 PM	5:43 AM	6:02 PM	6:38 AM	6:55 PM
Sayville	4:44 AM	5:10 PM	5:43 AM	6:09 PM	6:48 AM	7:15 PM	7:58 AM	8:25 PM	9:08 AM	9:32 PM	10:12 AM	10:32 PM	11:07 AM	11:25 PM
Bay Shore	3:50 AM	4:33 PM	4:48 AM	5:35 PM	5:51 AM	6:39 PM	6:54 AM	7:40 PM	7:55 AM	8:37 PM	8:51 AM	9:30 PM	9:42 AM	10:20 PM
Fire Island Inlet	12:23 AM	12:49 PM	1:22 AM	1:48 PM	2:27 AM	2:54 PM	3:37 AM	4:04 PM	4:47 AM	5:11 PM	5:51 AM	6:11 PM	6:46 AM	7:04 PM

