



# Huddle Up!

The Official Newsletter of the  
Cortland Area Flag Football League

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 11th, 2011

## For Players and Fans of the Cortland Area Flag Football League

- Up to date information on scores, matchups, and injuries from C.A.F.F.L. action
- Notifications of special events, fundraisers, and registration drives
- Information on league awards, recognitions, and other honors
- News regarding the past, present, and future of the League

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## Inaugural Season Deemed a Success

The results are in, folks.

When it was first announced that there would be a new flag football league in Cortland, New York, critics far and wide were quick to pass judgment on how they felt the league would do in its inaugural season.

At the season’s conclusion, some of the league’s harshest critics appear to be eating their words, as the Cortland Area Flag Football League (C.A.F.F.L.) announced that it was profitable in its first season.

In numbers released this week, the League showed that it maintained excellent ticket sales throughout the season, as well

as solid merchandise and concessions sales.

This, along with an overwhelming turnout to the first ever C.A.F.F.L. Championship Game has fans, players, and critics

superb profit margin in only the first season of existence for the C.A.F.F.L., it seems that the only direction is up for the amateur flag football league.

Over 15 teams participated this past year, and League officials hope to increase registration numbers for 2012, possibly reaching a total league enrollment of 30 teams.

Regardless of how close they come to reaching this goal, it remains clear that the Cortland Area Flag Football League should be a local mainstay for many years to come, as players, fans and critics could not get enough C.A.F.F.L. in 2011.



A Cortland Area Flag Football League team strikes a pose for the League’s latest registration drive advertisement.

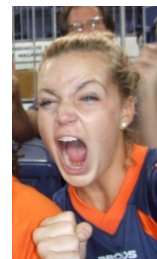
alike excited about the League’s future. With such a

## Local Fans Impressed With C.A.F.F.L.

One word sums up Cortland Area Flag Football games: Loud.

As anyone who has attended any one of this season’s C.A.F.F.L. games could attest, fan support of all teams participating was incredible.

From horns, to drums, to just about any type of noise maker



Super-fan Kristin Neal celebrates after her favorite C.A.F.F.L. team scores.

one could imagine, offenses took the field each week with the immense task of overcoming deafening noise from large crowds on-hand.

Said Kristin Neal, a die-hard fan: “We’re really excited to have such competitive football here in Cortland. I feel all fans will agree, we’ve been treated to excellent football this season.”



“Forte Yard Dash” huddles up during the fourth quarter of their 39-14 victory Sunday.

“We gave it all we had today, and have no regrets. (“Forte Yard Dash”) was one heck of a football team, and our hats are off to those guys. They beat us fair and square.”  
- Kevin Andersen



“Forte Yard Dash” co-captain Nathan “Nate” Fish suffered a devastating neck injury Sunday.

### Forte Yard Dash” Wins First Ever C.A.F.F.L. Championship

“Somebody has to win the first one, why not us?” team co-captain Nate Fish said before Sunday’s first ever Cortland Area Flag Football League Championship. Well Nate, the trophy is yours.

After one of the most improbable post season runs in recent history, the eighth seed team in this years playoffs, “Forte Yard Dash” did what nobody thought possible: they won it all.

Behind an improved passing attack that kept opponent “It’s On Like Ndamukong” on it’s heels all day, and a stifling defense that only allowed 4 first downs throughout the game, “Forte” proved that it was more than deserving of it’s championship bid.

Named after the popular NFL running back Matt Forte, the squad came into the weekend with many questions surrounding it, the most significant of which regarding starting wide receiver and cornerback Nate Fish.

Fish, despite league officials’ concern, dressed for the game, and made his presence felt early, with a 19 yard touchdown catch from quarterback Ben Bowers in the first quarter, and an interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter, as opposing quarterback Kevin Andersen attempted to lead his team down the field and back into contention.

Unfortunately, the win was bittersweet for Fish, who reinjured his neck.

### Tough Break for “It’s On Like Ndamukong”

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi once said: “Winning isn’t everything, it’s the only thing.” After a tough loss Sunday, it appears that title favorite “It’s On Like Ndamukong” felt the same way.

After cruising to an impressive regular season, and flattening foes in the playoffs like they were standing still, “Ndamukong” arrived at the C.A.F.F.L.’s title game as a heavy favorite. They were favored by odds makers to win by 12 points, a large margin by today’s football standards.

Unfortunately, things did not go as

planned on the field, as “Ndamukong” was thoroughly outplayed in almost every facet of the game.

A disappointed Kevin Andersen, who quarterbacked for the team during the game, expressed how he felt after the defeat: “We gave it all we had today, and have no regrets. (“Forte Yard Dash”) was one heck of a football team, and our hats are off to those guys. They beat us fair and square.”

With the majority of their roster returning for next season, this defeated team still has hope for a bounce-back in 2012.

### Nate Fish “Speechless” After Latest Injury

Sacrifice and football go hand in hand. “Forte Yard Dash” cornerback/wide receiver Nathan “Nate” Fish understands this more than most.

After another devastating injury in Sunday’s C.A.F.F.L. Championship game, many are wondering if they will ever see the star take to the field again. Fish was injured on a crossing route, when quarterback Ben Bowers stared down the speedy receiver before throwing a lofted pass in his direction, allowing the opposing safety to get a running start at Fish.

When the two collided mid-air, it was immediately obvious that the “Forte” playmaker was in serious pain.

This is hardly new for number twenty-four, as he has been oft-injured in his short career, most recently with back spasms two weeks ago during the divisional round of the C.A.F.F.L. playoffs.

However, Fish managed to play again after a torn ACL during high school, so nobody is counting him out for another comeback. An unfazed, confident Fish said after the injury: “I’ll take it.”

## Players Excited After Initial Season

When critics and analysts want go to decide to evaluate the success and viability of a football league, often the first place they look is the league's players.

All evidence points to an extremely motivated and excited group of players in the C.A.F.F.L., a post season report conducted by an independent survey group concludes.

This is far from surprising, as all season players have commented on their positive football experiences in the league, as well as their desire for the upstart league to continue.

Commented a player: "We as players just

want a place to play, and the Cortland Area Flag Football League gives us just that. Many of us would have nowhere to display our talents if not for the work of (League Commissioner) Eric Greenwood and his staff. I think I can speak for all players when saying that we are greatly appreciative of his work with the League, and hope that it can continue into the future."

In the recently released survey results, 98% of players in the C.A.F.F.L. reviewed the league positively, and said they plan on returning next season. Many also said they plan on recommending the league to their friends, family, and co-workers, found the survey.



C.A.F.F.L. Players thoroughly enjoyed the League's first season of existence.

## Next Season's Outlook: Promising

With all the excitement and positive returns on the 2011 season for the Cortland Area Flag Football League, one can only imagine: what's next?

After "Forte Yard Dash" defeated "It's On Like Ndamukong" in Sunday's Championship game, the consensus feeling around the league was immense anticipation for next year's season.

Although quite far off, C.A.F.F.L. Commissioner Eric Greenwood did offer some insight into his hopes for 2012: "We hope that next season will continue upon the success we witnessed this

year. Everyone involved with the C.A.F.F.L. can not wait for next season to get here."

Many fans are already getting amped up for the 2012 season. At Sunday's season finale, fans from upwards of 12 teams attended the game, simply craving flag football, as well as to show their support for their teams' futures.

Said Greenwood: "Having fans of so many teams here gives us great confidence that this league will continue to be successful for years to come."

"We hope that next season will continue upon the success we witnessed this year. Everyone involved with the C.A.F.F.L. can not wait for next season to get here."

- Eric Greenwood

## A Bit of History

With the 2011 season of the Cortland Area Flag Football League drawing to a close, there comes a chance to look back at the League's short history.

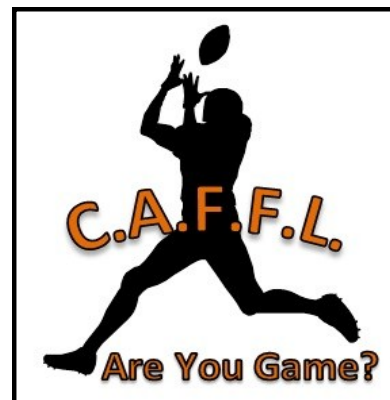
It was only about a year ago that news broke of a new amateur league in the Cortland area; a League that is now synonymous with the turnaround that the area is having.

Simply walking around the community, or frequenting it's establishments gives insight into the far reaching influence the C.A.F.F.L. is already having.

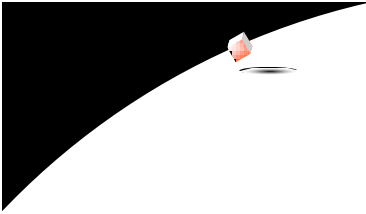
The league's official logo is prominently displayed throughout the town, and it seems like everywhere you go, folks are commenting on the prior week's games.

With little more than some saved up cash, a love for football, and a dream, it is evident that the creators of the C.A.F.F.L. have found themselves a recipe for success already.

One can hope that with the history associated with the league after only one season, many more great seasons, games, and players are yet to come.



The C.A.F.F.L. logo has become a fixture in the local community.



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### About Us:

The Cortland Area Flag Football League is a continuously operating league that is *always* looking for new teams to join.

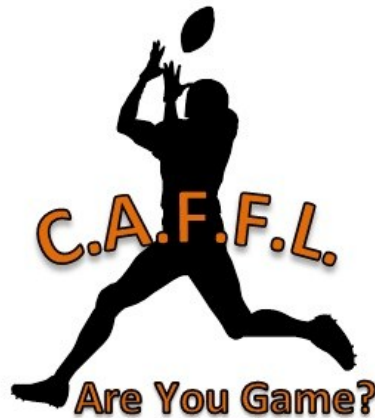
This newsletter is intended to inform anyone involved with the C.A.F.F.L. of what is going on with the League, as well as to inform those not yet involved who wish to be.

This is a monthly publication that can be picked up on a per-issue basis at local Cortland establishments, as well as can be subscribed to per-year.

To subscribe to this newsletter, or to access all other information and regulations regarding the C.A.F.F.L. please visit our website: <http://studentweb.cortland.edu/eric.greenwood/portfolio.htm>

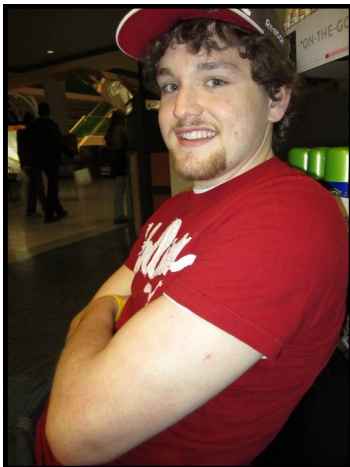
We greatly appreciate the incredible support shown to us throughout the Cortland area since the creation of the C.A.F.F.L., and would like to thank our fans for their continued support!

**Be sure to  
check out  
our website!**



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### League Commissioner Honored at Banquet



**C.A.F.F.L. Commissioner Eric Greenwood was honored Tuesday.**

With such success in it's first season, it seemed obvious that someone had to be recognized for the Cortland Area Flag Football Leagues success in 2011.

At a banquet held Tuesday, League Commissioner Eric Greenwood was honored for his contributions to flag football. The event, held in New York City, was a gathering of notable amateur football figureheads, and Greenwood highlighted the list of attendees.

With such immense, immediate success in the inaugural season of the C.A.F.F.L., all eyes and ears were on Greenwood as he talked about the League and all associated with it.

During the awards ceremony, he spoke shortly on his feelings about receiving

such a recognition: "This award is not about me, and it's not just about our amazing staff of individuals that help the C.A.F.F.L. operate smoothly on a day to day basis. This award is for *all* involved, especially our players and fans, for without them we would not have been able to play one game."

The Commissioner also highlighted to the audience the success of the League's inaugural champion, "Forte Yard Dash", of whom some of the players were in attendance.

Said one player: "It's great to be a part of such a successful organization, and it's even more special to be recognized at such and event as this."