

UPHS Football Participates in International Coastal Cleanup by Cody Caciolo

On August 29, 2011 I received an email from Pamela Dwyer, the chairperson of Hereford Township's Recreational Committee. She told me about a program, International Coastal Cleanup, which runs from September 17, 2011 through the end of October. The program challenges residents to clean up the trash that is littering their local waterways. I was interested in helping the Recreational Committee, taking part in the coastal clean up.

As a football player for Upper Perkiomen High School, I know that teamwork is always more powerful than the strength of one person, so I decided to ask the members of my team for their help. Many of my teammates asked me if there was an important reason motivating me to participate in this program. I replied, "The community gives us so much for football. People donate money during the booster drive, buy our Tribe Cards and merchandise, and come out on Friday nights to support our team. Why not give back to the community by making it a nicer more beautiful place?" As soon as I said that, many of my teammates jumped on board and were excited about getting to work.

On September 17, 2011, twenty members of the Upper Perkiomen High School football team participated in the International Coastal Cleanup. Everyone met at the high school at 10:30 a.m.; once we were all together, we drove up to the park on Tollgate Road. We split into two teams, Team (Dalton) Fleming and Team (Cody) Caciolo. Team Fleming went on one side of the creek and picked up all the trash they could find and put it into trash bags while Team Caciolo tackled the other side of the creek. Both teams worked hard, cleaning up not only along the creek, but also along Tollgate Road. After both teams were finished, we met up and competed to see who had the "best" trash. Notable finds included: a street sign, a tire, a homemade raft, a broken trashcan, multiple buckets, and a pool pump. At the end of the task, there was not one player without a smile on his face.

It feels good to give back to a community that does so much for our team. So, to the community, on behalf of the football team and our coaches, we want to say thank you. Thank you for everything that you do, from the donations to the support you give us every Friday night. We could not do it without you. As a football team we truly appreciate the community in which we live, and we are willing to do whatever we can to support and sustain it.