

Public Works Facility, 1100 North Chamberlain Boulevard, North Port, Florida

# Public Works Road-E-O

January 25, 2014  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Saddle up, ya !!*

This family friendly event will include interactive demonstrations, a "Big Trucks Display" with City trucks and tractors, food vendors, bounce house and other activities for children, vendor information tables, and much more. The highlight of the event, which will take place throughout the day, will be a "Road-E-O" competition in which Solid Waste and the Operations Divisions will compete in a skills test course. Join us for some cowboy and cowgirl fun with a chance to win prizes throughout the day. Grand Prize is a Family 4-Pack to the Arcadia All-Championship Rodeo.

**North Port**  
FLORIDA



Bull Riding Sponsor:

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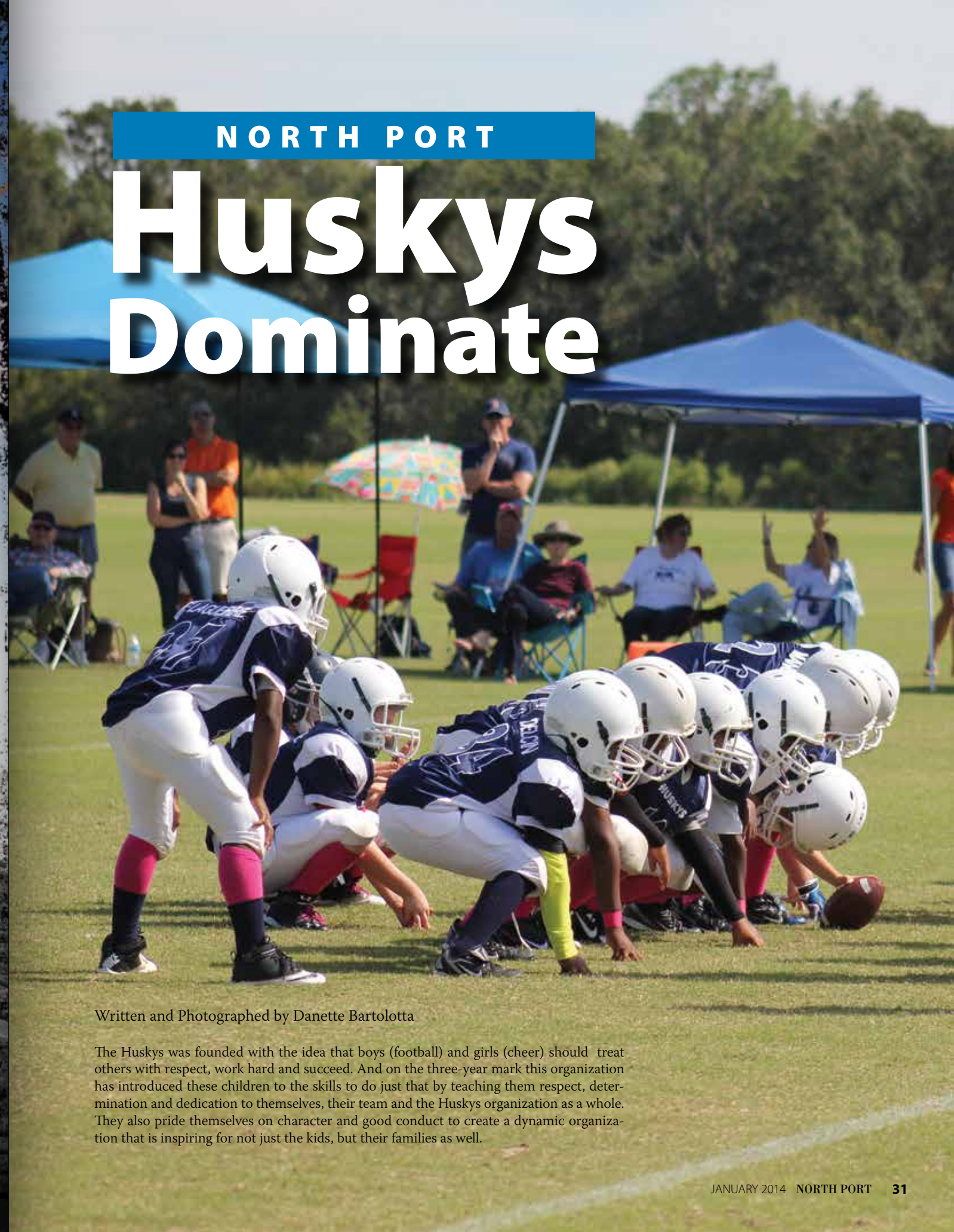
Vapin Station

Wicket Gate Photography

For more information, visit: [www.CityofNorthPort.com](http://www.CityofNorthPort.com) or call the City's Public Works Department at (941) 240-8050.

NORTH PORT

# Huskys Dominate



Written and Photographed by Danette Bartolotta

The Huskys was founded with the idea that boys (football) and girls (cheer) should treat others with respect, work hard and succeed. And on the three-year mark this organization has introduced these children to the skills to do just that by teaching them respect, determination and dedication to themselves, their team and the Huskys organization as a whole. They also pride themselves on character and good conduct to create a dynamic organization that is inspiring for not just the kids, but their families as well.





*The North Port Huskys family is all about teamwork. Understanding the importance of leading by example, these board members, parents and players are setting the mark high for creating a great reputation for themselves and representing North Port well.*

The board of the North Port Huskys Association saw the need for youth athletes to be able to join a football or cheer team not based on their skills at tryouts or weight restrictions. The only youth cheer and football options prior to the Huskys were based on try-outs and were weight regulated. This past year the board decided the YMCA Football League (YFL)/American Youth Football (AYF) had the mission and goals and opportunities that better suited the children. This gave kids the ability to learn skills with their teammates creating a greater sense of camaraderie. This was important for the several boys and girls that could not meet the requirements in order to belong to a team. They felt every child deserved to learn skills and have a sense of belonging. The YFL/AYF does have academic requirements.

The North Port Huskys family is all about teamwork. Understanding the importance of leading by example, these board members, parents and players are setting the mark high for creating a great reputation for themselves and representing North Port well. As they grow and participation increases they have had their share of growing pains. Through these learning experiences and successes they have found a strong core group of leaders that will keep taking this team further. New board members were selected mid-December to help with the organization's tasks.

One future goal will be to find a practice and home field. This has been a struggle for the association. With so many children in North Port and so few fields that are overused it has been a daunting task. They have gone from holding practices at Heron Creek Middle School's track to practicing on base-

ball fields at Butler Park. Scheduling home games has been extremely difficult. The North Port Huskys have been scheduling home games on the backfield behind the George Mullen Center. The North Port Mustangs have a contract for use and the Huskys must work around their schedule and Imagine School at North Port's home games are held on these fields also. Three football teams sharing two fields is just not reasonable.

Many parents took an active role in helping the organization and individual teams. From fundraising to tutoring support they pulled together to make things happen. This past season parents set up a tutor area to help with players that were struggling with homework or keeping a GPA of 2.5 or lower. They set up a homework area to make sure the students were able to make the grades and support their commitment to the team, thus solidifying the message that academics are just as important as athletics.

The coaches are committed to bringing out the best in the players and demonstrating the skills to work as a team. They have purchased cleats and equipment with their own money. Understanding the importance of safety, one coach even replaced helmets that were past certification dates with new top of the line Xenith helmets for players using his own money. The coaches also transport kids back and forth to practice and raise and contribute money for the playoff games. These coaches are very dedicated to looking out for the safety of the cheerleaders and football players. Knowing the commitment of time and money they invest could change these children's lives forever.



All four age groups of football teams with the North Port Huskys made conference playoffs at the YFL Manatee and Sarasota County district playoffs and qualified for the Southeast Regional Playoffs in Ocala held in November. The Mighty Mites, JV and Varsity teams participated in the AYF regional championship playoffs. The AYF Southeast Conference encompasses a five-state area: Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi. Over 75 teams participated in the playoff games and the Huskys varsity team placed fourth, the JV team placed eighth and the Mighty Mites placed fifth in the conference. "Quite an accomplishment and something to be proud about," stated Sean Hill, varsity coach and intern president of the organization. "The first time playing in the YFL/AYF and all of our teams qualify and three of the teams that played ranked in the top ten of the Southeastern Conference."

The spring season sign ups are February 2 at Butler Park from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or online. Grade levels determine teams for cheer and football, starting with the Tiny Mites (grades 1 – 2) Mighty Mites (grades 3 - 4) Junior Varsity (grades 5 - 6) and the Varsity (grades 7 – 8). All they need is a healthy physical, parental consent and \$100 to sign up.

*Congratulations, North Port Huskys!*

If you are interested in contributing to the successful future of the North Port Huskys by sponsoring this upcoming spring or fall season, contact Sean Hill at (941) 628-8882. For more information about the Huskys or signups please visit [www.leaguelineup.com/nphuskys](http://www.leaguelineup.com/nphuskys) or [www.facebook.com/nphuskys2011](http://www.facebook.com/nphuskys2011). For more information on the AYF conferences, visit [www.americanyouthfootball.com](http://www.americanyouthfootball.com). \*

