

Huskys prepare for upcoming season

By GARY BROWN
SUN CORRESPONDENT

NORTH PORT — The North Port Huskys youth football teams have been going through conditioning drills this past week before beginning contact drills next week.

The Huskys don't have any weight restrictions. There are four divisions — varsity (grades seven and eight, ages 12-14); junior varsity (grades five and six, ages 10-12); mighty mite (grades three and four, ages 8-10); and tiny mite (grades one and two, ages 5-6). They're playing in the Youth Football League organization this season. Last season, only the varsity team competed in that league, while the rest of the Huskys teams played in the Mid-Florida Football Conference. The YFL is part of the nationwide American Youth Football League.

The varsity team is



The North Port Huskys run some drills in Tuesday's varsity practice. North Port will participate in a jamboree Aug. 24 at Lakewood Ranch.

coached by Sean Hill. They finished at 6-3 last season, losing the conference championship by just one point. The team also was invited to the region playoffs before it was eliminated.

"We have about 30 players on our team so far," Hill said. "About 15 of this team's players were on last season's team. Last season, we had 13 players on our

team who had never played before, yet we still made the region playoffs. I'm very optimistic about this team."

The junior varsity team finished at 3-5, and coach Ben Chisom thinks they can do better this season.

The Huskys have at least 80 players out for their four teams, and hope to have more when the season begins.

"This (new league) is a



SUN PHOTOS BY GARY BROWN

North Port Huskys varsity team players go through a conditioning drill during Tuesday's practice. The varsity Huskys have 30 players out for their team.

better situation for us," Huskys president Debbie Ismail said. "This should be a great season."

The Huskys will hold

a jamboree Aug. 24 at Lakewood Ranch in Sarasota. The season begins Sept. 7. All Huskys home games will be

played at the George Mullen Activity Center fields, near North Port City Hall, off Sumter Boulevard.