

# Huskys moving along toward jamboree, regular season

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**NORTH PORT** — The North Port Huskys youth football teams are moving right along in their early practices.

The Huskys are practicing at Butler Park, doing mostly conditioning before moving into pads. Butler Park is where the Huskys, which don't have weight restrictions, will play their home games this season instead of the George Mullen Activity Center.

"We'll be playing on the field where the soccer teams play (in their season)," Huskys president Brad Raines said. "We have a concession stand there, restrooms and some stands. We're still working on that."

"Everything is going pretty good," Huskys 14-and-under head coach Dana Haynes said. "We have 35 players out and our practices have been good."

Haynes has a solid nucleus back from last season's varsity team (now called the 14U team) that won the Manatee YMCA Youth Football League Conference championship. There's plenty of size and good speed at the skill positions. There are several players in the 200-and-over area, and the team has good experience in most positions.

Besides the 14U team, there is the 12U, 10U and 8U teams. All of them have good numbers out. The 10U team (last season's Mighty Mites) won the conference championship.

The organization is still taking players. Youths can come to practices and pick up forms for physicals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Some of the kids are still on vacation," Raines said. "We're practicing Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we'll get more players out."

The Huskys will compete in a jamboree Aug. 23 at Lakewood Ranch against other area organizations. The regular season schedule hasn't been completely worked out yet, but probably will start in early September, a week or two after the jamboree. There are some new organizations in the league, including the DeSoto Bulldogs from DeSoto County.