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## Pine Forest football camp going strong

**It was 1967 when a Temple University assistant football coach made a call to see if a Greeley summer camp would be available for a few days of football camp. Three days later, Jerry Preschutti had his answer, and 40 years later, Pine Forest Football Camp is still going strong, now with Preschutti's son, Craig, running the show.**

The 40th anniversary for the camp will be June 14-17 with, as usual 200 campers in attendance.

"It never felt like a job," Craig said of his time with the camp, including the last 10 years as its director. "It was part of what we did every summer as kids growing up. It was a no-brainer for me to take over."

Like when his dad ran things, time has flown by at Pine Forest.

"I'm lucky because I have great coaches working with me who've worked there for a lot of years so I don't have to do a lot of staff meeting things," Craig said. "It pretty much runs itself. I just make sure it's safe and the kids are having good time."

With coaches like Jack Henzes, Stan Kucharski, Keith Olsommer, John Marichak and Greg Justave on board, it's the perfect mix of veterans and fresh faces that focus on one thing.

"We still have a business model that stands for quality teaching and fundamentals at an affordable price," Craig said. "That still works. You're not going to get an autograph at our camp, but you're going to learn the fundamentals from great coaches of our area."

"Every coach knows each camper on first-name basis. What's amazing is with all the Nike camps and college camps that recruit kids, and we're still going. We're not a recruiting camp, but if a kid can play Division I football, people are going to call Coach Henzes and ask if he can play or not."

Dad still has his hand in things, running 15 sessions of cheerleading camp. His other son, Jerry, and his wife and kids are involved in the operation, too. Just like Jerry Sr. and his wife, Kaki, did for the first 16 years.

"It's always been family-run," the elder Preschutti said. "That's been heart of it. Kaki worked the first 16 years with me and when she quit, I needed five people to replace her. But it's the same philosophy it was when we started. It's a technique and fundamentals camp."

On the tube

Maybe Valley View's Alex Blewitt will have a chance to show her swing on ESPN or ESPN2 next weekend. Blewitt, who missed two months with a shoulder injury, and her second-ranked Alabama team travel to No. 1 Tennessee for a softball showdown next Saturday and Sunday.

Blewitt, who has been seeing more time lately, pinch-hit for the cleanup hitter in a recent game against Troy. Leading 2-0, Blewitt broke the game open with a three-run double in the sixth. Maybe she'll get the same chance next weekend.

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