

LAKOTA COUNTRY

Adventures

By Bamm Brewer

NFL Football talent comes to Pine Ridge

PINE RIDGE, SD - As most high school football teams kicked off season openers, the presence of two high caliber National Football League (NFL) super stars made an appearance at the Thorpes Stadium. Randall McDaniel and Jim Warne, both former NFL football players, came to Lakota country.

Both men led a late summer football camp sponsored by the Sue Anne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club, Warrior Society Development, LLC and the Native Wellness Institute. All schools were invited and the main school in attendance was the Pine Ridge Thorpes. The event began on the Saturday after the season openers for local teams, which was most likely the reason the other schools couldn't make.

Jesse Trueblood was an organizer. "My goal is to have all area High Schools united at next year's camp," he said. The Thorpes with a bye-week were in high performance mode. A football camp can be a great thing right before a regular season. The football camp brought that well motivated atmosphere.

The two NFL greats were also here at the Sue Anne Big Crow Boys and Girls club last year. Jim Warne was drafted into the Cincinnati Bengals in 1987 and after a great football career was later a movie stuntman in the film "The Substitute" with Tom Berenger. He is also a member of the Screen Actors Guide, NFL Alumni and American Indian Hall of Fame.

Randall McDaniel Played for the Minnesota Vikings and also inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame.

"Both were great motivational coaches and they were some of the most powerful speaker I have ever heard," stated Jess Trueblood.

The two NFL super stars teach the players to set their goals high and also use football as a tool to help get through life. It's a similar way that coach Trueblood also teaches his players so the camp blended together well at the Thorpes home field. As Pine Ridge prepares for their season opener with the Little Wound Mustangs this Friday it was a way to prep Trueblood's team.

Jesse complimented Chick Big Crow saying "she opened the door for a great football camp." After all was done Ran-



dall and Jim gave out great gifts and mementos to all participants. The heart, compassion and love for football was a gift that was really passed along; it was tough when it was time to say goodbye.

Football season is here and there was no better way to start a season for any player than to stand on the field with two NFL former heroes, who can still fire up a team to give 100% effort. A great sense of pride came over that football field where heroes stood talking to the young. It was those two men who created an impact and laid down real football, real life. With the blessing of the Minnesota Vikings and Cincinnati Bengals the Thorpes are ready for battle.

Special thanks to Randall McDaniel, Jim Warne and the Sue Anne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club.

