

The Legend of Coach Gimby

Many of you may wonder how the Waukesha Warriors, the oldest 5th/6th grade team in Waukesha County had its start. Listen carefully Warriors, to the legend of Coach George Orville Gimby.

The Warriors were started more than a decade ago before any of you were born by Coach Dan English and the most innovative youth coach of all time, Coach Gimby. George Orville Gimby was affectionately known as “G.O.” Gimby by players and fans. He was by no means a small man. He was born to play the line and did. He was only 5’2” and exactly that wide at the shoulders, tipping the scale at just over 650 pounds. In his playing days his offense used only 10 men since “Go” took up two spots on the line. On defense he was the line! All plays had to be run to the outside. You can’t run through a wall of human flesh.

After his playing days he turned to youth coaching to share the skills that made him great. When the Warriors began, the QB cadence had to be changed to “Hut, hut!” If the QB yelled “Down, Set, Go!” Coach Gimby would always yell back, “What do you want?”

One of his best innovations helped players get through cold games. He would fire up a charcoal grill on the sidelines during a game and bake potatoes wrapped in foil. Players on the sidelines would stay warm around the fire. Those on the field would often hear Gimby yell, “Hot one comin’ in!” The players could easily see the silver foil flying through the air which made them better receivers when they caught one. He always told the players to keep it in your hands until you break the huddle and then put it in your pants so you’d have something warm to eat at halftime.

His best way of motivating players was candy -- lots and lots of candy of every shape and flavor. From the first day of practice he encouraged players to increase their candy intake. He believed a 10 pack of Snickers bars was a minimum daily requirement for a solid football player. Often he’d pop a piece of chocolate into a player’s mouth who was struggling with “Hit the Dirt” or push-ups and then offer encouraging words like, “Hang in there kid. Start eating more candy and you’ll get through this.”

During games it was not uncommon for him to grab a player taking in the play and say, “Tell the O there is candy at the first down” or “There’s candy in the end zone” or even that the other team’s QB has candy on him. It always worked.

At halftime he was known to eat 3 foot long meatball subs. His hands dripped with pasta sauce. If the Warriors were behind at halftime Gimby could grab most of the players since his arms were very long and give them an encouraging hug. Sauce would splash all over their uniforms and he would inspire them with his words. “Kids, I know we are behind and you’re hurtin’ and you ain’t got much left to give. But I’m askin’ ya just once, this one time, to go out there and win one for Old Gimby.” They always did.

One day someone informed Coach Gimby about the food pyramid. He was shocked and saddened to learn that candy was not the base of the pyramid. We all know that candy is a special treat. A balanced meal of fruit, vegetables, breads, meats and dairy products is what builds the best players.

So old Gimby was devastated and lost interest in the game of football. No one knows what happened to him that October day after his final game. The big oak tree you are under was planted in his memory. Some say he had the big one from all those meatball subs and was buried in a piano crate on the 50 yard line at Heinen Field and is now up there with the stars. Others say he retired and is living comfortably in Sarasota, Florida. No one really knows but in his honor we will hold the annual Coach Gimby Memorial Run and race today for Gimby’s favorite ---- Snickers! We will see who has true speed. Are you ready?