

# Building winners on and off the field

[Craig Shoup](#), Reporter Published 2:03 p.m. ET Sept. 7, 2017 | Updated 4:29 p.m. ET Sept. 7, 2017

*St. Joe's, Ross football coaches discuss their programs in talk to Kiwanis*



(Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)  
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FREMONT - Two high school football coaches, both in their second year leading programs in Fremont, talked about family, service and teaching high school boys to become the city's next great generation.

Chad Long, Fremont Ross football coach, and Brian Spicer, coach of St. Joseph Central Catholic, preached similar messages in how they run their football programs to members of the Fremont Kiwanis Club Thursday at the Fremont Elks Lodge.

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The coaches' annual meeting has been a Kiwanis tradition for nearly 50 years.

Spicer is leading the Crimson Streaks program into a new era, having broken a 13-game losing streak that led to a 4-6 record last year, and he is continuing to build this year with a group of 14 seniors and 34 players overall in the program.

"There have been bigger St. Joe teams in the past, but we have a great group," Spicer said.



**St. Joseph Central Catholic football coach Brian Spicer said he teaches his players to follow a biblical message and become the salt of the Earth in a talk to the Fremont Kiwanis Club on Thursday. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)**

Spicer said his job is to teach and prepare the students for a successful life as adults, saying he uses the biblical passage from Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 12-16 to inspire his team.

In the verse, Spicer said, Jesus tells his followers to be the salt of the Earth and the light of the world.

"We have a one-word motto for this season," Spicer said. "That is, 'Become.'"

Spicer said he hopes his seniors and future SJCC graduates become the salt of the Earth, giving back to their community and living good lives.

Long, who is preparing to lead his 2-0 Little Giants into action at Don Paul Stadium Friday against rival Sandusky, said his goal is to meet higher expectations in his second season, and thanks to a team-first attitude, he believes a successful season is attainable.

"We're a very close-knit team," Long said to the room of Kiwanis members. "Last year we gave each player a bracelet that said four things: 'family, love, respect and pride.'"



Kiwanis Club members host the annual Fremont football coaches meeting, a tradition for nearly 50 years. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

Long said many of the players are thinking team first, and are excited about the future of the program, which boasts 84 players.

"All we do is tell our kids to give effort every four to six seconds," Long said. "That is how long a play usually lasts and that is what we ask of them."

Effort has been aplenty on the defensive side of the ball, Long said, as the Little Giants defense has forced 12 turnovers in its wins against Springfield Holland and Sylvania Southview.

The Little Giants welcome the Sandusky Blue Streaks to Fremont Friday night in a rivalry game that dates back to 1895.

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