

## Are you ready for Pikes football?

Contributed by Interview with Bräuning  
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As the 2009 German American League (GFL) kicks off, the Kaiserslautern Pikes Football Organization President Stefan Bräuning gives Das Wochenblatt journalist Andreas Erb his thoughts on the 2008 season end and the organizations outlook for 2009.

### Reflections and Predictions

Our season is shaping up to be even bigger and better! With a spectacular run in 2008, the Kaiserslautern Pikes became GFL level 2 Southern conference members for the 2009 season making them eligible to move up to the GFL -1; one step closer to a German Bowl berth. With the new standing the Pikes will be competing against a new set of teams and facing a new group of fans. The team should be praised for all they have accomplished. Just by looking at their upcoming schedule you can see these guys mean business. You will see a team with speed both on offense and defense, a coach with passion, and a whole group of guys who play for the love of the game.

2008 was a fun, wild ride. It finished right on track of initial expectations, and brought the organization success from both its Senior and Junior teams. Wow, 2009 has not come fast enough. The season not only ended right on track of its organizational goals, the 2008 year was an incredible journey to be a part of, as both Pikes teams bagged conference level promotions. Good work Pikes.

President Bräuning continues his reflection with the thought that coaches, players, fans, etc., are all too often motivated to describe a season by the way it ends, and to do so in this case would be blissful. It was an amazing season, and an amazing story, we are all really glad to have been a part of it. This is especially true with a season highlight by the Junior Pikes in their game against the Saarbrücken Hurricanes, in which the Pikes won, therefore guaranteeing their entry into the Junior GFL level 1. Their victory solidifies the organization's dedication to its junior program, showcasing the organization's foundation of being amongst the top 20 junior sports programs in Germany.

As for the Sr. Pikes 2008 year; their teamwork, followership and leadership has grown stronger as a result of their winning season. All of the coaches, players and support personnel have proven their dedication and loyalty to the making 2009 just as successfully as 2008. The team is hungry, they are ready and they have accepted the challenge, that to improve means you must take on and prevail against the heavyweights of football. "It is going to be a great season," Bräuning said. "We are going to sneak up on a few teams and make a good run of the season."

When it comes to the Spirit of the teams, the Pikes Cheerleaders are second to none. Throughout the 2008 year this Cheering Squad showed its mettle and laid down the gauntlet for anyone worthy of taking them on. The team attended the German Cheerleading Association (CCVD) Southwest Germany Championships and not only came away victorious, but also landed a slot as prime contenders for the CCVD overall German Cheerleading Championships

In retrospect the overall vibe for 2008 is one of gratitude for the support and recognition given to the Pikes organization by the people and the public officials from the city of Kaiserslautern. On behalf of our football teams and cheerleading squads, we greatly appreciate your continuing support and belief in our organization. We are constantly working to make ourselves better as individuals and as a team, and would not have the opportunities we have without your help. We all thank you.

## Perspectives for 2009

The goals are simple for the new season, "Do it right, do it light. Do it wrong, do it long." That is also the philosophy for the season, too. If the team does things right it can breeze through the season. If the players and coaches get it wrong it could feel like a very, very long \_\_\_\_\_ weeks; making last year seem like a cake walk.

Under the heading of sports the team has three objectives; (1) continue to strengthen the teams partnership with the Hockey Club in which they share common practice space; (2) maintain a solid coaching team, and (3) strengthen the partnership with the Coliseum (teams training gym). When it comes to finances the organization has set itself two targets; (1) active solicitation of new partnerships and sponsorship while building upon those currently in place, and (2) preparing a solid budget forecast to meet the new monetary requirements of moving into the GFL -2. From the head offices to the field the teams' goals are uniquely designed to meet the needs and requirements of its players/members and to bring about optimum success with minimal distress.

Sr. Pikes are all about; (1) maintenance, working to keep their ranking and hopefully succeed in what they have so rightly earned, (2) take stock of their mental outlook, accept that there will be wins as well as losses, remember by staying strong and unified they are bound to be successful, and finally (3) with the advancement to the GFL-2, the season will be longer, the practices greater and personal sacrifices unavoidable. The goal is to check the negative attitude on the sideline, value the work ethic of the coaches and the players and to plan ahead to diminish the possible hardships at home and work. The Jr. Pikes 2009 game plan is also simplistic in its application; (1) remain solid, stable and ready. The teams strength will prove beneficial as they take on their new Jr. GFL-1 contenders, (2) expansion with a future oriented outlook through the institution of a new level to the organization. The junior level will incorporate Flag football to its repertoire, allowing the younger player the opportunity to fall in love with the sport, minimum age will be 10 as well as providing the Jr. Pikes with a potential pull of players as the seasons come and go. Finally, from the field to the sidelines, the Pikes Cheerleading Squad is also coming onto the season with a win and the aspiration for more. For 2009 their ambitions are clear and achievable, (1) amplify and cultivate a team roster they will ensure their success, (2) fortify and build-up the Jr. Cheerleader squad as well as reinforce its support of the Peewee cheerleading team.

## 2009 Game Day Outlook

Saturday's will no longer be focused solely on our teams, the day will yield exceptional opportunities for our major sponsors to use imaginative ways to profile their support. Games days will equal theme days, each unique and each providing the fans, the supporters and the players a day of fun, entertainment and live action. In closing, the 2009 season will see the stadiums full with fans as majority of the GFL-2 teams are co-located within 1-2 hours of each other, allowing fans the opportunity to travel with ease and root their team to victory. See you at the game. Go Pikes!

