

McAuley Football Players Find Home with The Spartans

As McAuley suspended its football program in 2016 due to low numbers, a couple of its players found not only a home team to play for but helped take that team to the Championship of its league.

Collin Lowry (Senior) and Jake Price (Freshman) both played for the Cornerstone Spartans 8-man team this year. The Spartans, a youth sports organization that was founded in 2009, is an independent, not-for-profit group whose focus is providing junior high and high school football players an opportunity to participate in a competitive 8-man league.

Playing alongside home schooled students and teammates from Joplin, Webb City, College Heights Christian and Thomas Jefferson Independent Day High Schools, the High School Spartans finished the season with a 9-2 record and #1 ranking in the MHSAA 8-man conference.

Lowry, quarterbacking the offense as both a run and passing threat, lead the team to the Missouri Home School Athletic Association Tri-State Championship by defeating Life Prep Academy of Wichita, Kansas at Ottawa University in Kansas. This win led to an invitation to participate in the 2016 National Home School Football Association tournament held in Panama City Beach, FL. Cornerstone placed 3rd in this tournament, with five players named to the tournament All-Star Team, including Lowry as quarterback. In addition, the team voted Lowry the MVP of the 2016 championship campaign.

As a freshman, Price contributed valuable playing time on special teams as well as wide receiver and defensive back.

The Spartans program has grown tremendously each year since its inception in 2009. Funded by player fees and annual events, including a charity golf tournament, a dodgeball tournament and a car show and car wash. As the program and team successes continue, JACS players interested in joining the Spartan junior high or high school programs can call Coach Jerry Collier at (417)-208-8129 or visit their site at www.facebook.com/CSSpartans.