

# AHS football season already taking shape, players to be safer this year

By VERN CAHAK

It may be a bit premature to be discussing football in heat of July when the spotlight is on baseball but because Antigo High School is having its earliest first practice and season opener in school history the Antigo Gridiron Club is getting a jump start for the 2011 campaign.

Red Robin summer camp is in progress

and the official first practice will begin next Tuesday, about a week earlier than usual, in preparation for the first game Aug. 19 at home against Wausau West.

Antigo's previous earliest game occurred on Aug. 24, 2007 when the Robins lost a 34-30 scoring duel to Marshfield. In that game, Antigo staged a phenomenal comeback by

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comeback by scoring 16 points in the last minute of the contest but fell four points short of a win.

The 2007 season marked what is believed to be the only year that Antigo played two games in the month of August.

In another of one of Antigo's earliest games, on Aug. 25, 1978, the Robins edged Stevens Point, 14-13, en-route to an undefeated season and the Division I state championship.

While the season seems like a long way off, the Gridiron Club, headed by president Ron Maly, is as active as ever in support of the AHS football program.

With much attention focused on concussions suffered by football players at all levels, the Gridiron Club is supplying all Antigo players from freshmen through varsity with concussion protective helmets, as well as mouth guards and chin straps.

The Community Health Foundation at Langlade Hospital and Ed Vavruska have made generous donations to the club to help cover the cost of the equipment.

New goal posts at Schofield Stadium are another big ticket item being financed by the club.

The annual "Meet the Robins" program, at which players and coaches will be introduced, is scheduled for Aug. 11, starting at 5 p.m. Don and Dawn Lewis will chair the event. Food and beverages will be available.

Brickners Motors of Antigo will conduct a vehicle test drive and \$20 for each drive will be donated to the club.

Parents of the players are urged to become members of the Gridiron Club and participate in its activities. During the last few years, the organization has performed several upgrades to Schofield Stadium, the largest of which was construction of a new team building.

We are looking forward to another successful year.



In the front row, Mike Shinnars and Jake Erickson and in the back, P.J. Monk, Alex Payant and Rob Kretz with their helmets. Coach John Lund is on the right.