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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: Players display skills at QB camp

Eddie Arza created his camp to provide South Florida quarterbacks with a venue to showcase their talent.

J.T. WILCOX, Miami Herald Writer

For years, college recruiters and scouts have combed through South Florida looking for the next great skill player with world-class speed and high-end athleticism.

But rarely have they swamped practice fields and sidelines in search of the next great quarterback.

Despite the successes of Brian Griese (Columbus) and Quinn Gray (Dillard), South Florida has not earned a significant amount of respect for its quarterback prospects.

It has been Eddie Arza's lifelong dream to change that.

'Always, people come down here and say, 'They have fast athletes,' " Arza said. "But we have produced a lot of great quarterbacks down here. I want people to sit up and take notice of that."

Arza's dream became a reality Sunday afternoon when he hosted the First Annual CRONS Southern Quarterback Accuracy Challenge and Camp at the Cobb Sports Complex in Coral Gables.

The competition will air during Father's Day weekend on CBS.

The competition, which fielded 61 prospects from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, included game-situation drills and instruction from Arza and his staff.

Arza, 42, a former Coral Park quarterback, has been coaching South Florida quarterbacks since 1985.

Arza was the quarterbacks coach at Miami High under his brother, Ralph, who was the head coach. Arza had a run of eight consecutive seasons with a quarterback named an All-Dade selection. He also served as a consultant to former Booker T. Washington coach Tim "Ice" Harris from 2003 to 2007.

Arza also helped mold former Coral Park quarterback Pete Gonzalez.

Gonzalez, who broke all of Arza's records at Coral Park and many of Dan Marino's passing records while at the University of Pittsburgh, went on to play in the NFL and CFL.

Gonzalez also said South Florida quarterbacks are overlooked.

"It's good to see these guys out here taking their trade serious," Gonzalez said. "There are some very talented kids out here."

In the first round of the competition, the players threw at targets placed at different distances and could score a maximum of 550 points.

The field dwindled from 61 to 16, with Miami Central quarterback Jeffery Godfrey leading with 500 points. He was followed by Braddock freshman Benji Phillips with 460 and Everglades' Raymond Berhnu with 450.

During the morning camp, the quarterbacks were allowed to toss the ball around and showcase their arm strength.

Northwestern junior Teddy Bridgewater wowed spectators, throwing 50-yard strikes downfield as well as making one-handed catches behind his back.

Arza said that seeing the camp come to fruition and helping the kids was the most rewarding part.

"I genuinely love helping and teaching kids," Arza said.

"I'm not a doctor, so I can't help you if you have chest pains, but I do know how to make players into better quarterbacks."

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FIRST TEAM ATHLETICS

CRONS

2010

TIME TO COMPETE!



MAY 30, 2010

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MIAMI, FL 33125

8:00 AM—4:00 PM

CURTIS PARK

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE

COACH EDDY ARZA

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WWW.FIRSTTEAMATHLETICS.COM

Join high school quarterbacks from Florida and around the country in a one day quarterback camp/challenge that was used by over 50 division one schools as a tool for evaluating quarterbacks in 2009.

WHY?

All the drills that are taught at the American quarterback accuracy challenge are game situation drills. We put quarterbacks in game scenarios during the drills and challenge.

Coach Eddy Arza has dedicated the last five years of his 24 year coaching career mastering the art of accuracy. Coach Arza has dedicated hundreds of hours evaluating films of quarterbacks committing the most hurtful errors a quarterback can commit, "INTERCEPTIONS." After his evaluation, as well as consulting with some of the nations best swat sharp shooters Coach Arza developed a greater awareness of the art of accuracy. The American quarterback accuracy challenge staff is committed to accuracy.

WE ARE? FTA

"At the end of a game it will not be important which quarterback was taller, faster, stronger. What is important is if your quarterback can place the football where only his receiver can catch it."

COACH EDDY ARZA

"As a quarterback at National Powerhouse Booker T. Washington, I had to develop the skill of being accurate with the ball while under pressure and throwing on the run. At the end of the day big plays win big games."

COACH TIM HARRIS JR.

Former high school, college & NFL quarterbacks will teach essential game situation drills & scenarios that are needed to excel in being an accurate quarterback. The day will consist of a progression of accuracy drills in the morning, leading up to the afternoon American quarterback accuracy challenge.

ITINARARY

8:00 am - 8:30 am CHECK IN

8:30 am - 11:00 am SKILLS & DRILLS

11:00 am - 11:30 am TARGET PRACTICE

11:30 am - 12:30 pm FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES LUNCH

12:30 pm - 12:45 pm WARM UP

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm FIRST ROUND

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm SECOND ROUND TOP 30

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm THIRD ROUND TOP 15

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm FOURTH ROUND TOP 5 (championship)

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm AWARD CERAMONY

"2009 WINNER JEFFERY GODFREY of MIAMI CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH"

"If there was a Heisman Trophy for High School coaches, coach Arza would be at the for front of the class. His dedication, enthusiasm, and attention to detail is what sets him apart from others."



Pete Gonzalez,
Coral Park QB
University of Pittsburgh QB
NFL Alumni



**EVENT WILL BE COVERED BY SEVERAL TELEVISION STATIONS
& NEWSPAPERS**

