



# Lauren's First and Goal Foundation

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## Newsletter

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Founded in 2004, LFG is a 501c3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. EIN 20-1556643

## LFG 'Hits the Line Hard' With Camp Successes

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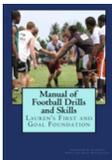
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*Coach Mike Viti of Army West Point works with the running backs at the LFG PA camp. (above)*

Lauren's First and Goal Foundation welcomed 1,800 athletes from 500 high schools in 16 states and Canada to the 13th annual camp at Lafayette College in PA on June 3. The massive turnout enabled the Foundation to raise more than \$103,000 at this one day event. In addition, this years camp had more college coaches in attendance than the inaugural camp, in 2004, had campers.

Twenty year old Lauren Loose, namesake of the foundation and cancer survivor, addressed the crowd of thousands with "Lauren's life lessons"

after recently learning about the growth in her brain tumors. She said, "This change in one of my brain tumors is not something that I have control over. It is important to understand that, although you are not always able to control the circumstances you are faced with, there are definitely things that you can do to cope with difficult situations in life."

Lauren's First and Goal Foundation hosted its second camp of the season just one week later on June 10 at Otterbein University. LFG OH, now in it's 8th year, had more than 200 student athletes participate and raised over \$9,800 for the Foundation. Just over 70 coaches from Ohio and neighboring states volunteered at the event, including 36 from the Ohio Athletic Conference.

Ohio residents, Jennifer Sawchuck and her son, Nickolas, a brain tumor survivor, spoke to those in attendance about their journey and the need for funding for more effective and less toxic treatments for children. They, along with oncology patients from Nationwide Children's Hospital, were visited by featured guest speaker Dominic Jones and members of the Otterbein staff.

### Special thanks

to the coaches, players and staff  
of Lafayette College and Otterbein University  
for their hard work and support.



# Be the Match for Coach Donnelly



*Muhlenberg head coach Duke Donnelly is in need of a bone marrow transplant in his battle against AML.*

Mike “Duke” Donnelly, a profiled member of Lauren’s Circle of Strength, 40 year coaching veteran and one of the most successful coaches in Muhlenberg College history with 20 years at the helm, was diagnosed with acute monocytic leukemia in the spring of 2017 and began treatment at the Roswell Park

Cancer Institute in Buffalo. Following a series of tests, doctors determined that he needed a bone marrow transplant as soon as possible. Shortly, he is expected to undergo this transplant. The donor is the oldest of his two children, 34-year-old Lauren, even though she isn’t a perfect match. After the procedure, his progress will be monitored as long as 100 days. That includes spending the first month in a hospital.

Muhlenberg College has partnered with Be The Match to encourage individuals ages 18 to 44 to join the national marrow registry and to support this coaching great. The Muhlenberg community is focused on increasing awareness of the disease and the need for bone marrow donors. Joining the national marrow registry is a simple process: a swab is taken in the mouth of donors, who must be between 18 and 42 years old.

There is a website, <http://join.bethematch.org/DigInForDuke>, where potential donors can be screened. The Mules will be having a drive on campus in early September, and all 10 Centennial Conference football schools are getting involved in the project.

Duke and his wife Beth have been pivotal volunteers at LFG PA since its inception in 2004. The team and coaches at Muhlenberg have turned their spring lifting program into a very successful fundraiser for the Foundation, raising more than \$7500 in the past three years. The Donnellys have been longtime friends of the Loose family. Mike was John’s coach at Ithaca College in the 1980’s, and continues to be a mentor and example of coaching excellence. Let’s #DigInForDuke!

## Johns Hopkins Medicine and LFG



*Thomas Domozych, Dr. Charles Eberhart and Grace Loose (above) and the interns inside the dome (left).*

LFG Foundation had the fabulous opportunity to send Thomas Domozych and Grace Loose as representatives for LFG to Johns Hopkins Medicine this summer. The pair served under the supervision of Dr. Charles Eberhart, Professor of Pathology and Oncology, and an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Eberhart’s research, primarily focuses on molecular genetics and treatment of medulloblastoma, glioblastoma, uveal melanoma and other tumors of the brain and eye. LFG extends its gratitude to all at Johns Hopkins and especially to Amy M. Helsel, Senior Director of Development at Johns Hopkins for arranging the internship and providing such a wonderful learning experience.

You can learn more about the incredible work and progress of the research of Dr. Eberhart and his colleagues at [www.lfgf.org](http://www.lfgf.org).



*Thomas and Grace with Johns Hopkins portrait. (above).*

## Rutgers Chris Ash Speaks to Resilience at PA Camp

Lauren's First and Goal was honored to host Chris Ash, Head Football Coach at Rutgers University, as the featured guest speaker at the 13th annual LFG Football camp on Sunday, June 3 at Lafayette College's Metzgar Athletic Complex.

"To think that someone like Chris Ash would want to be here... I think that tells you there's a lot of talent here. And it's not just about talent... they're here because they see the greater good in what's going on," explained Marianne Loose, director of LFG and mother of Lauren.

Ash encouraged campers to use Lauren as an inspiration and example in their lives. He told the campers, "You guys need an inspiration, think about Lauren. The journey she's been on, the things that she's gone through. She's the toughest one out here. We all think we can handle adversity. None of us can do what she's done. I'm honored to be here and get a chance to be around her." He also spoke sincerely to campers about how they can improve on the football field and in life.

Ash began his coaching career as a defensive graduate assistant at his alma mater, Drake University, in 1997. He held a position as



*Coach Ash and Lauren at LFG PA. (above).*

Defensive Coordinator for the next two seasons before moving on to Iowa State University in 2000. Ash spent eight seasons over two different stints at Iowa.

Ash spent the 2007 and 2008 seasons at San Diego State and 2010-2012 seasons at Wisconsin. Ash was first promoted to the Defensive Coordinator role in the Big Ten while at the University of Wisconsin. In 2011 the UW defense led the Big Ten (conference games only) in total defense and in 2012, it ranked 15th nationally in total defense.

In 2012, Ash accepted the position of Defensive Coordinator with the Arkansas Razorbacks. He helped improve Arkansas' pass defense in his one season in Fayetteville, with the Razorbacks' defense finishing 72nd nationally in passing yards allowed after ranking 113th in 2012.

In January 2014, Ash was hired as the Co-Defensive Coordinator and Secondary Coach for the Ohio State Buckeyes. In his first season, OSU's defense ranked 19th nationally in total defense and 29th in pass defense. In 2015, the Ohio State defense continued its strides under Ash, ranking second in scoring defense nationally and ninth-best in total defense. The Buckeyes earned a berth in the Fiesta Bowl, finishing the season with a 12-1 record after defeating Notre Dame in the bowl game.

Ash in his second season with the Scarlett Knights, brought with him a national reputation for his coaching and recruiting abilities as well as his character and leadership.

## Dominic Jones Addresses Campers in OH



*Coach Dominic Jones of the Cleveland Gladiators. (above).*

Lauren's First and Goal Foundation was pleased to present AFL Gladiators Assistant Head Football coach and Head of Football Operations Domonic Jones as featured speaker at the 8th annual LFG Football Camp at Otterbein University. Jones' speech to the crowd focused on creating a purpose in life, cherishing the opportunity to make an impact and using football as a platform to be a good person.

Jones is entering his 3rd season on the Gladiators

coaching staff after a four year career in the AFL. He spent three of those in Cleveland where he totaled 335 tackles, nine interceptions, five forced fumbles, and seven total touchdowns over the course of his career. Jones also owns two franchise records with most missed field goal return yards in both career and in a single season with 52.

In his only season with the Orlando Predators, Jones earned Second-Team All-Arena as a kick returner in 2013 setting the franchise record with 1,795 kick return yards and posting 91.5 tackles and two interceptions.

Jones played two seasons at the University of Minnesota totaling 137 tackles, two and a half tackles for loss, two interceptions, and five pass break-ups before finishing his collegiate career at Otterbein University in 2010 where he made 66 tackles, 13 tackles-for-loss, four sacks and two interceptions while being named All-OAC, All-Region, and All-America.



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