



For Immediate Release
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Ferris Falcons Football Team to Take on Harlem Hellfighters

Team was featured in documentary airing on ESPN

WILMINGTON- The Ferris School for Boys football team will be going up against the Harlem Hellfighters, a team that was the subject of an award winning documentary which aired on ESPN, on Saturday, September 20 at 1 p.m. at Ferris School.

The Hellfighters are a football team comprised of young men from various Manhattan high schools who faced adversity and challenges during their third season of existence. From difficulties obtaining funding to gaining permission to play in the city league, the film also shows the player's personal struggles that ranged from striving to be a professional football player to hitting the field and the books to try to earn a college scholarship.

"Providing our kids with as many opportunities as possible to participate in activities that require teamwork and discipline is an essential aspect of the rehabilitation process," said Cabinet Secretary Henry Smith. "By connecting those activities with the lessons learned in the classroom, we are providing a more holistic experience for the youth in our care."

The Ferris Falcons currently has a roster of 40 young men. All students have the opportunity to try out for the team, with the condition that they are passing all classes and have positive ratings from Ferris staff. Last year, the team had a winning season with a record of 5-1.

"This game is one of those experiences that will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for these boys," said Craig Walker. "A lot of our players are facing similar adversity and challenges to what the Harlem's players faced during the development of their squad, so they will be playing boys to whom they can relate."

On any given day, the Delaware Children's Department provides services to approximately 9,000 children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, dependent, or have mental health or substance abuse problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Over 22,000 unduplicated children receive services each year through the Delaware Children's Department. Thousands more Delaware children received services from the Department through home-, community-, or school-based prevention and early intervention programs, and child care licensing.

Our Mission: The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families provides leadership and advocacy for all of Delaware's children, while endorsing a holistic approach to enable children to reach their fullest potential.

For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov or www.ThinkOfTheChildFirst.com.

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