NEWS RELEASE

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

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Jasmine Haynie, with the support of her DICK'S team, decided to give coaching a try and helped a girl's flag football team reach the state championship.

When the opportunity to follow her passion and join the coaching staff of a girls high school flag football team was presented to Jasmine Haynie, she was eager to join the sideline staff. For a lifelong fan of the game and flag football player like Jasmine, who is a Human resources Generalist for DICK'S, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

Besides the Xs and Os, there were plenty more excitement changes (more on that later) along the way. One thing she knew that she didn't have to worry about was the support from her team at DICK'S Sporting Goods.

Jasmine was eager to pass along her knowledge of the game to the players at Marietta High School in Marietta, Georgia. She manages her location's **Sports Matter** campaign and was already connected to the local schools, organizations and youth sports leagues. She knows firsthand how important sports are in the lives of those young athletes, especially girls.

Juggling the demands of coaching with her role in the Human Resources department of the Atlanta distribution center was not going to be an easy task, but Jasmine felt up to the challenge. When President and CEO Lauren Hobart and Chief People Officer Julie Lodge-Jarrett visited Jasmine's location, Jasmine was inspired by their shared dedication to girls and women in sport.

“From my conversations with Lauren and Julie, I know they are big proponents of women in sports,” said Jasmine. “DICK’S is a company that really walks the walk. That only happens at a company that understands the impact girls and women have in sports and a company that really cares about its people. I felt empowered by that.”

After arranging her schedule to allow for practices and games, Jasmine got to work.

The fall 2021 season was just the second year for the Marietta Blue Devils, who finished with a record of 7-2-1 in 2020. For an encore, they put together a 17-3 record this season and made a run to the state title game.

Some of the girls played the previous season. Others joined this year, and it was their first time ever playing football. No matter the players’ experience level, head coach Nick Houstoulakis and his staff, including Jasmine, inspired the players to compete and be great.

The offense was led by quarterback Claire Hennessey, who compiled 2,133 yards passing with 39 touchdowns. Her top receivers were Cate Gruehn (702 yards receiving with 12 touchdowns) and Mckaela Walker (586 yards and 10 scores). Akhaila Makenna had 10 interceptions for a stingy defensive unit that had 10 shutouts. The team rolled all the way to the Georgia High School Association 7A title game that was played at Georgia State University and televised across the state. The Blue Devils took home the silver medal.

"We were blessed with a dynamic group of student-athletes," said Jasmine. "They stuck with it the whole way to the championship game."

Jasmine also was blown away by the support from her teammates at DICK’S. When she needed to adjust her schedule to make a practice or game, it was no problem. In fact, her teammates were so into it they would follow the team and even offer up plays when they passed by at work.

Now, back to that other exciting change for Jasmine. She did it all, from coaching to managing her career, while pregnant with her daughter. As Jasmine and the Blue Devils inspired one another and chased their dreams, they were also clearing the way for the next generation of female athletes to do the same.

"These girls blazed a trail so one day my daughter can play flag football if she chooses to," said Jasmine, whose daughter was born shortly after the season ended. "I told my girls we need to have a mind-over-matter mentality. If there's something you want to do, then go do it. Always have the mindset that you can do anything."

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