

Charger coaches give free football clinic to public

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The coaches of the San Diego Chargers will present a one-day "Football Clinic for Everyone," free of charge, Saturday, July 2, at the University of California, San Diego Main Gymnasium.

The clinic sessions, which will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will cover the basic fundamentals of football from offensive and defensive strategy to the use of special teams. The coaches will discuss athletic injuries, conditioning and equipment as well as other topics of interest to the audience during an open rap session with the coaches.

Charger head coach Tommy Prothro will add his personal comments and color during the sessions and Judy Sweet, UC San Diego athletic director, will serve as moderator. The Chargers are returning to the UC San Diego campus for the second year to conduct their summer-long training camp.

Coaches scheduled to make presentations during the morning and their topics are: Max Coley and Rudy Feldman, offensive football, and Ric McDonald and Clyde Evans, athletic conditioning and injuries. In the afternoon, coach Bob McKittrick will speak about special teams, coach Jackie Simpson will cover defensive football and Sid Brooks, equipment manager, will outline the use and abuse of player equipment.

The football clinic is being co-sponsored by the Chargers and UC San Diego University Extension in conjunction with the Department of Physical Education. Dr. Jack Douglass, supervisor in physical education, believes the clinic should be of special interest to coaches in the Pop Warner leagues.

"Many coaches, who work with kids in Pop Warner or other leagues, have not had training in instructing or coaching football," Douglass said. "They agree to coach because their son is on the team. A lot of teams will start out with 35 players and end up with a lot fewer after injuries. If the coaches knew how to identify the most injury-prone situations, if they know what equipment to buy and how to use it, and if they know first-aid treatment, then injury rates could be reduced."

The course will also benefit football fans, Douglass noted, as they will understand and enjoy watching the Chargers in action much more after talking with the coaches in these informal sessions.

The "Football Clinic for Everyone" requires no enrollment or registration. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sack lunches. The UC San Diego Main Gymnasium is located off North Torrey Pines Road between the university's Revelle College and Muir College campuses.

The Chargers will arrive at the UC San Diego campus for training camp on July 15. The following eight weeks will be spent sweating through practice sessions and sharpening football strategies.

Last summer's camp coordinator Gary McCauley cited the excellent condition of the training fields and the moderate weather of the Torrey Pines Mesa area as being beneficial to practices.

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