

Shirts, officers duke it out on field

Story and photo by
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56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With all the trash talk flying back and forth between the Luke Air Force Base shirts and 56th Maintenance Group officers, they decided to settle it on the gridiron Sept. 28 by playing ultimate football at the Luke AFB Fitness Center football field.

Ultimate football is a combination of American football and frisbee. There is one point per score.

Both sides began talking trash a month ago and the shirts predicted a blow-out score of 17- 5, with the shirts giving the officers half a point so they couldn't use the mercy rule.

According to Lt. Col. Dominic Clementz, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron commander, the shirts need to learn how to count, because .5 isn't a legit score in a real game.

"It's important for everyone across the base to see that senior leaders are having fun exercising," Clementz said. "Having fun is a big part of fitness, and fitness is a big part of the Air Force."

The game kicked off with the officers on the receiving end. Unfortunately for them, they turned the ball over shortly into their drive.

The turnover kept the ball at the shirts' side of the field allowing them to score within minutes of the game starting.

"I think that set the tone for the rest of the game," said Master Sgt. Mark Shipp, 56th Medical Group first sergeant. "We could see the concern in their eyes when we scored first."

The officers quickly answered back by scoring their own touchdown tying the game at 1.

Unfortunately for the officers, the shirts went on a three-scoring rampage after the game was tied putting them up 4-1.

"Once we took that lead, some of the officers had that deer-in-the-headlights look," Shipp said. "The lead could have been bigger, but I think there may have been some funny business going on with the scoreboard."

With the game slipping away from the officers, they decided to take a different approach by throwing short quick passes instead of the long ball.

After changing their game plan, the officers went on a run and tied the game at 6.

Shortly after the game was tied, 2nd Lt. Quinn Evans, 56th EMS Fabrication Flight commander, dropped a pass thrown to him in the end zone, which was arguably the most crucial part of the game because that was the last time his team had an opportunity to score.

According to Evans, he dropped the pass due to a lack of coordination and unconsciously allowing the shirts to get inside his head.

"Evans dropping the pass certainly didn't help their comeback chances," Shipp said. "But in the end it wouldn't have made a huge difference in the outcome."

After picking up the ball, the shirts drove down the field to score the first of the three final touchdowns of the game to give them a 9-6 victory.

While the MXG shirts performed 10 diamond push-ups after winning the game, some of the officers tried to change the score to give them the win.

"The diamond push-ups are one of the first sergeant's traditions to show that we're diamond strong," Shipp said. "It also let the officers know that even though we beat them, the shirts could have kept going all day."



Second Lt. Kevin McGuiness, 56th Component Maintenance Squadron, tries to deflect the ball as the shirts take the ball down the field Sept. 28 at the Luke Air Force Base Fitness Center football field. After each team scored, the opposing team had to do 10 push-ups.

Everyone agreed the ultimate football game allowed the MXG shirts and officers to come together and have fun while performing PT.

"We all had a fun time playing the game and would definitely like to do it again," said 1st Lt. Cahn Wadhams, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit assistant officer-in-charge. "Even though we are up to challenging any organization, we want a rematch."

Sports Shorts

PT challenge

There will be a warrior PT challenge 6 to 9:30 a.m. Oct. 14 at the Warrior Fitness Center. Teams of four compete. The event is free and prizes will be given. For more information, call (623) 856-6763.

Ghostly Ghou 5k

The Ghostly Ghou 5k fun run is 7 a.m. Oct. 28 beginning at the 944th Fighter Wing, Bldg. 988 on Super Sabre Street. Run in costume. Trophies, prizes, T-shirts snacks and refreshments are included. For more information, call (623) 856-6241.

Dual in the desert

There is a military wrestling tournament beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 29 at Desert Edge High School. Weigh-ins are from 8 to 9 a.m. Registration forms can be picked up at the fitness center. For more information, call (623) 856-6241.

Start Smart football

Start Smart flag football program for children, ages 4 to 6, who work one-on-one with a parent. The program is 5 to 6 p.m. for six weeks beginning Nov. 9. The cost is \$20 and includes a T-shirt. Limited to 12 participants. For more information or to sign up, call (623) 856-7470.

PICKS of the WEEK



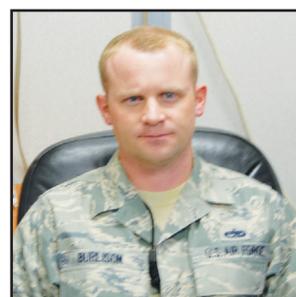
Tech. Sgt.
Jeannine Wilson
56th Fighter Wing



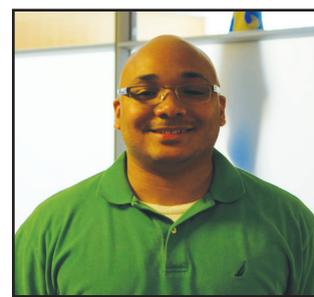
Airman 1st Class
Bryan Coppens
56th Operations Group



Staff Sgt.
Kristoffer Scott
56th Mission Support Group



Tech. Sgt.
Nicholas Burlison
56th Maintenance Group



Rodney Bonton
56th Medical Group

NFL Sunday	Tech. Sgt. Jeannine Wilson 56th Fighter Wing	Airman 1st Class Bryan Coppens 56th Operations Group	Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Scott 56th Mission Support Group	Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Burlison 56th Maintenance Group	Rodney Bonton 56th Medical Group
New Orleans vs. Carolina	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans
Oakland vs. Houston	Oakland	Houston	Oakland	Houston	Houston
Philadelphia vs. Buffalo	Buffalo	Philadelphia	Buffalo	Buffalo	Philadelphia
Seattle vs. N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants
Cincinnati vs. Jacksonville	Cincinnati	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Cincinnati
Kansas City vs. Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Tennessee vs. Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Arizona vs. Minnesota	Arizona	Arizona	Minnesota	Arizona	Arizona
NCAA Football Saturday					
Vanderbilt vs. Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Florida State vs. Wake Forest	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
Colorado vs. Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford
Kansas vs. Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State
Texas A&M vs. Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
Kentucky vs. South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina
Miami (FL) vs. Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Miami (FL)	Miami (FL)	Virginia Tech	Miami (FL)
Auburn vs. Arkansas	Auburn	Auburn	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Last week's percentage	63 percent	44 percent	69 percent	69 percent	31 percent
Yearly percentage	62 percent	59 percent	57 percent	62 percent	62 percent

Trash talk

"Deployed Airmen make the best picks."

"ONE: Mind. Heart. Purpose. Goal. Go Pack!"

"Winning isn't everything – it's the only thing that matters."

"Time for some embarrassment. Hopefully not my own."

"Geaux Tigers!vb"