

Alton Redbirds kick off fall sports season with scrimmages, team introductions

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ALTON - After heading back to school on **Thursday**, the students and faculty **Alton High School** are ready to get back into the swing of the school year. Fortunately for the sports fans the school and in the community, that means packing the stands on **Friday** night at **Public School Stadium**.

In their annual **Fall Sports Kick-Off Night**, the athletes and their coaches were formally introduced to their fans with a series of scrimmages and expositions. Though

the games were noncompetitive, it did not stop the players from showing each other and their peers in the crowd what their teams and groups can do.

Athletic Director **Jeff Alderman** is ready to see his school's athletes perform throughout the next several weeks.

"It's a neat event for our our community," he said. "It's neat for our kids to show off what they've been working on for the past couple weeks and kind of get the jitters out of their system before next Friday or whenever their games may be and recognize them. It's a nice way to start off the new school year."



To kick off the night, the girls volleyball team headed into the gymnasium inside **West Elementary School** to show their fans and families what they had to offer this season. On **Monday, Aug. 22**, the varsity team will head to **Columbia High School** to compete in their first match of the season. The Lady Redbirds will host their **Alton Invitational Tournament** on **Friday, Sept. 9** and **Saturday, Sept. 10**.

As the Lady Redbirds played their noncompetitive match, the boys soccer team hit the field for their scrimmage. The boys, under the direction of new coach and alumni player

Nick Funk, performed with intensity and drive. Their season will kick off on **Friday, Aug. 26** where they will host their **Round Robin Tournament** on the new soccer field behind the high school.



Between scrimmages, the cross country, boys and girls golf, girls tennis, cheer and dance squads as well as the football teams greeted the audience with their coaches for their introductions.

Led by band director **Alyssa Cudney**, the **Marching 100** brought a portion of their field show routine, entitled "Trance," to their audience for the first time. Featuring a solo by a bass clarinet player, a dazzling routine by the color guard and an astonishing drum line breakdown, the band of over 160 members will surely stun their competition along with their fans in the crowd with their full show in the weeks to come.

In the night's main event, the football teams headed out to the field for two separate scrimmages. While the varsity squad took some time to work out some kinks in their offense, their defense seems to be getting stronger by the day. The team will travel on **Friday, Aug. 26** to **Rock Island High School** to face the Rocks in their first game of the season.

"We're excited about our football program," Alderman mentioned. "They're still young. We're excited that they're learning to compete. There is an awful lot of talent there and we are excited about that and the coaches are working hard."



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