

Can **you** *see it?*



Can you see it?



His natural talent is uncanny. He's like a magician. You can hardly believe your eyes as you watch him move the ball down the field. As his mother explains, "From the first time he made contact with a soccer ball at the age of 3½, there was no looking back!"

To say that fifth grader Scotty Frantz, loves soccer would definitely be an understatement. "I could play soccer all the time. It's great! I love running fast – I love everything about it!" Scotty's mom Melissa confirms his enthusiasm for the sport, "He was absolutely passionate about it from day one. Every coach Scotty had, even from the very beginning, told us he had special talent. As a parent, you assume lots of children

have talent, so we very politely said "Thank You", and continued to let him play. When he was six, his coach was relentless in telling us to get him in Academy/Select soccer and urged us to have a trainer just "look at him". The trainer confirmed what all of his coaches had been telling us."

Scotty trains with international coaches, plays with elite teams, (many of whom include players much older than him), and competes in numerous tournaments throughout the country. One of his coaches, Jim Piscano describes Scotty's talent, "My nickname for him is "Mr. Finesse". Scotty is very smooth and fluid when he is controlling the ball. He is a smart player and knows the game very well. He is always thinking of how he can beat an opponent with his moves and by utilizing his teammates. You never know what trick he's going to pull out of his bag."

Even at the tender age of eight, Pisgah coaches spotted Scotty's rare talent. "He was at a Pisgah soccer camp I was doing and he was head and shoulders above most of the players, if not all of them,

even the high schoolers," says Pisgah Varsity Soccer Coach Trey Arnette. "I told his mom I would put him on varsity this year if GHSA would let me, but since they wouldn't, she had to promise to keep him at Pisgah until high school. She said I didn't have to worry about that, he would be at Pisgah until the day he graduated."

Scotty looks forward to playing on the Pisgah Middle School and Varsity teams, especially when he hears about plans for the new soccer field, "Having our own fields will really strengthen our school spirit and our bond as one big family." Scotty's mom adds, "With everyone's help, we can provide our students with a chance to develop, compete, and have fun in the sport of their choice in an environment that is safe, healthy, and enjoyable. Athletics can do a lot for a school, so it is imperative to demonstrate a positive Christian lifestyle as our students share the fun and excitement of a full athletic program."

Scotty may not be old enough to play on a Pisgah soccer team yet, but he is already making contributions to the



**Even at the tender
age of eight, his
Pisgah coaches
spotted Scotty's
rare talent.**



sion

school in many other ways. "His design was selected for the school Christmas card last year," explains Art Teacher June Pettway. "He is a conscientious student, always willing to try his best." Teacher Lynn Kornegay has also been impressed with his dedication, "Whatever he does, Scotty gives it 100%. He is an exceptional boy!"

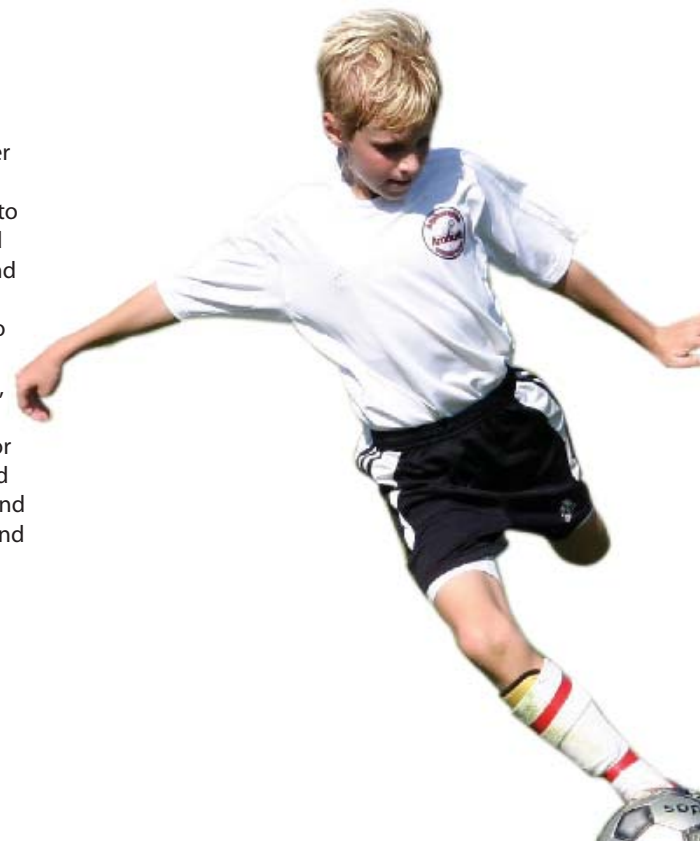
Scotty is often described as a very unselfish young man – on and off the field. He makes an effort to help his teammates succeed. He has a quote on the wall of his room that reads, "We should all seek to compete to the best of our ability, treating ourselves, our fellow teammates, and our competitors with dignity and honor. Our behavior should reflect, at all times, that of Christ and our demeanor should speak to the value of healthy competition. In the end, the two are better for having competed."

Scotty is taking that advice to heart and has already established himself as a school role model. "He is such a thoughtful young man," says fourth grade math teacher Andrea Couch. "Not

only does he excel in sports, but he is also a very focused and conscientious student. I have enjoyed watching the respect he shows for his teachers and classmates." Teacher Tom Wohlbach agrees, "Scotty is a model MPC student. Besides being a very likeable kid, he participates in class, is focused when it's time to work, and is a top student scholastically."

"Scotty personifies integrity, honesty, Christian faith, values, and sportsmanship," says teacher Heather Parker. "For as long as I have known him, I have never known Scotty not to be a friend to someone who needed one, a helper to both his teachers and peers, a role model (both in and out of the classroom). He's even sweet to his little brother and hugs his mom at dismissal! With all that being said, Scotty is not one to outwardly seek attention, he just does nice things for people because it is what God would want him to do. Scotty is amazing and I am so proud of him and honored and blessed to be a part of his life!"

Clearly, Scotty is an exceptional young man with a bright future ahead of him. He is already setting an outstanding example in the classroom and there's no doubt that he will do the same on the Pisgah playing field. Scotty can hardly contain his excitement, "I can't wait to put on a Pisgah soccer jersey!"



Can you see it?



"He's the real deal." You understand the meaning of that phrase within two minutes of meeting Pisgah sophomore FeDale Hall. An incredibly talented all-around athlete, FeDale's sports prowess is well established, but his humility and kindness are what truly make him a standout on and off the playing field. When asked about his contributions to the Pisgah sports program, he downplays his individual importance and speaks of the other players, "We have great teams – really great guys. Everyone works hard and pulls together. We support each other."

FeDale began Pisgah in eighth grade and has since made his mark in football, basketball, baseball, and track. This

year, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution named the Pisgah running back as "one to watch". FeDale loves the sport and his dedication to hours of summer and after school practice is reflected in his outstanding game performance.

Even more impressive than his sports achievements are his academic accomplishments. Pisgah faculty can't say enough about him. "FeDale is a great student who puts sincere and genuine energy into his academics, as well as his extra-curriculars," says Middle School Principal Paul Foltz. Christian Education Teacher Andrew Jones adds, "FeDale is a very mature young man. He exemplifies honor in all his interactions, with students and teachers alike. He is awesome!"

When asked what lesson he has learned from playing sports that has helped him most in the classroom and in life, FeDale is quick to answer, "Discipline. You learn to stick with things and really try your best. My coaches have taught me how important discipline and never giving up is." Head Football Coach Doug Dixon is proud to be one of the people teaching FeDale sports and life lessons.

"He is one of the best all-around athletes I have had the opportunity to coach. He is an even better person. He is a great example of a student athlete."

FeDale has made positive connections with many Pisgah teachers, even those who have just met him. "FeDale is new to my class, but he has already impressed me with his enthusiasm and spontaneous sense of humor," says English teacher Steve Harrison. "He will be a tremendous contributor to our classroom dynamics." FeDale has equal admiration for the faculty, "I have had some really great teachers. I remember my bible class with Mr. Arnette. He really knew how to relate to me, how to talk about things in an easy-to-understand way. He's great!"

His faith is an important part of FeDale's daily life, "Before I came to school here, I went to church, I was a Christian, but I wasn't paying any attention to it all," he says. "Because of what I have learned here, I started thinking about it more. My faith is stronger. Sometimes, I even talk with my friends outside of school about my faith."



**“We really want to
have a place that’s
ours, our own
home. It will show
we’re really serious.”**



ent t

FeDale is visibly enthusiastic about plans for the new athletic fields and stadium. When asked what it will mean for the school and players, his smile broadens and his voice is filled with excitement, “It’s really going to make a difference to have our own place. It’s tough to play all our games at somebody else’s field. We really want to have a place that’s ours, our own home. It will show we’re really serious.”

As for the future? “Professional sports is an option, but I want to have a back-up too. I might want to be a doctor, maybe go into orthopedics. I’ve become interested in that from playing sports.” One day, we may find ourselves cheering for an NFL player named FeDale “Real Deal” Hall. Or we may be applauding for his achievements as a brilliant doctor or even a missionary. In the meantime, FeDale is focused on giving it his all on the playing field and in the classroom, becoming the man God intends him to be.



Can you see it?



"When I was just a toddler, my Grandma would toss a ball with me for hours," recalls Pisgah junior Matt Plate. "I had a huge plastic bat and a wiffle ball and she would play with me all the time. I think she must have sensed that I loved baseball. She was an incredible role model and a great encourager. I can remember that when she was very ill with cancer, I was playing at a tournament in Kennesaw where I hit two home runs in one game. I remember the only thing I wanted to do was call my Grandma and tell her, and I know she was so happy. She was always my biggest fan."

This story illustrates just what a special young man Matt Plate is. The Pisgah

junior's down-to-earth manner and humility are refreshing in a world where those who excel in sports are sometimes boastful and proud. Matt is more comfortable talking about his family, teammates, teachers or coaches than turning any attention toward himself.

Matt's love for America's favorite pastime began early in life. "I have been passionate about baseball ever since I can remember. I feel like it is just something that I was born to do. I have always loved both playing and watching the sport. My dad took me to baseball games when I was as young as three, and I started playing when I was five. I have never once felt like it was a chore to go out and train or play. It has always been a part of who I am. And thankfully, God has blessed me with amazing coaches and mentors who have supported my abilities and work ethic 100%. My dad has also been one of my greatest supporters and teachers and has spent countless hours helping me in every aspect of my life."

This is Matt's third year playing baseball for Pisgah and his mom Laurie says, "The

school has meant so much to our family. We really can't imagine a better place for Matt to be. This year, his sister Rachel started in the 7th grade at Pisgah and she is equally happy. We have felt that the academics have been strong, the teachers have been great, and we feel that if we have concerns, we can go into the school at anytime and speak to both teachers and administrators alike."

Matt agrees that Pisgah has been a terrific match for him. "This has been an amazing school for me in so many ways, and I am honored to have been a part of the baseball team. When you enjoy your school, have great teachers, amazing friends, challenging classes and great role models, it is a great feeling to be able to give back to your school and represent them well by being a part of a team. My coaches have played a huge role in my life. I have been fortunate to be on teams that not only PLAY together, but PRAY together. My teams have been like family to me and the coaches have helped me realize that I can't do it all on my own and that it is important to have people around you to encourage you and lift you up, (and the best coaches do



“I have been fortunate to be on teams that not only PLAY together, but PRAY together.”



gritty

this even when you strike out 4 times in a game!)

Matt continues, “My coaches have guided me and taught me so many things, not just about baseball, but about winning and losing gracefully, about playing for the glory of God, not my own glory, supporting my teammates, and representing my school well. The students and teachers come out to the games to cheer us on, even though the current field is quite a distance from school, and we all have a great time sharing our love for baseball and Pisgah together.”

Matt and his teammates have heard about the plans for the new athletic fields. “I think everyone is very anxious about it. It has been something we all have heard about and we have been waiting for it to happen for so long. It is like one of the last pieces to an amazing school. We already have outstanding academics, well educated and trained teachers, gifted coaches, a school bound together with the love of Christ and a great Christian foundation to build on - one of the missing pieces

is taking athletics to the next level. I think great schools need both solid academics and solid athletics. Families are looking for the whole package these days and they have many choices. This is a great opportunity to continue to build God’s kingdom and nurture the faith of the students who will one day become great leaders and Christian role models in their own communities and families. For me personally, athletics are what drive me to be my best, academically, socially, and spiritually. I think that my teammates would agree that having a home field to play on would mean everything. This is my junior year, and I would love to be able to play my last two years of high school baseball on the Patriot’s home field!”

Matt’s parents realize that the proposed stadium and fields hold great promise for Pisgah students, families, and the community. “We know how important it is to Matt and to the school to see these fields built and we will do everything we can to support the school in seeing this dream become a reality. It would mean so much to Matt and to the many other athletes we have

come to know over the years to be able to realize their full potential and the depth of their school spirit on their own playing fields! What a great way to honor and acknowledge the dedication of our amazing students and coaches!”

What will it mean to Matt and his teammates when they take to the Pisgah field for the first time? “Everything!! It would be so great to have the home field advantage, to be able to walk or take just a 2 minute drive to practice, to help work with and maintain something that you have been a part of building,” says Matt. “It would be absolutely awesome! I would ask those who are thinking about contributing to please prayerfully consider their donation. I would tell them that the money will have a great return in many ways and with many lives. What an incredible way to support the endeavors of young people in the community and to show their Patriot spirit!”

Can you see it?



Inspiri

Countless athletes begin their pursuit of a sport after being inspired by a highly paid, well known celebrity superstar. But Kelly and Katie Strawinski found inspiration closer to home. Their interest in track and cross country grew from watching their older sister Kristen train and compete.

Pisgah junior Kelly and seventh grader Katie are both active in multiple sports. In addition to running, Kelly is an accomplished gymnast and Katie enjoys

many sports, including softball. Track and cross country have contributed to both girls' overall conditioning, and even though it takes a great deal of persistence and dedication, the girls have discovered some surprising benefits. When asked what she likes best about running, Katie explains, "The beauty around you; the friends; the RUSH right around the third mile!"

James Strawinski believes his daughters have grown as a result of participating in sports at Pisgah. "It has reinforced Kelly's understanding that ultimate success is built on practice and preparation. She has seen that her times improved more as she put in more effort in preparation. Katie has begun learning some important life lessons about competition. She has seen that she can strive to be her best while doing so in a way that does not put down her competitors and teammates."

Both Kelly and Katie strive to do their best inside the classroom as well. Their teachers have recognized their unique talents and contributions. "Kelly is excited about learning the Bible and is very intuitive," says teacher Susan M. Brown. "And as for Katie – she loves nature and is very inquisitive. She sees the things in life that many people pass over." Art teacher June Pettway agrees, "Katie has a keen interest in the natural world, which was reflected in her artwork while in the Lower School. Her chalk drawing of a deer skull was featured in the Principal's Gallery when she was in 5th grade."

It's also amazing to see these talented students perform at area meets and competitions. As they continue growing in their sport, Kelly and Katie are eager to lace up their shoes and hit the stadium track and the cross country trail that is planned for the new Pisgah athletic complex. "The new fields are



What's best about running? "The beauty around you, the friends, the RUSH right around the third mile!"



iration

much needed for all the sports," says Katie. "I am doing both cross country and softball and the field we play on now in softball is not fit for such a great team. Also, in cross country, running at Newtown gets confusing with all the paths. In their first year, runners always get lost once or twice." Kelly agrees that the new track and trail will give the teams a huge boost. "It's really going to make a difference," says Kelly. "It's going to be great to finally have a place of our own."

Their dad agrees that the new facilities offer many benefits to students, their families, and the community, "Our whole family sees the new athletic complex as an opportunity for good clean fun, exercise, and a place to continue developing all the great benefits of athletic competition. The complex will become a focus of school spirit and team spirit. It provides an opportunity for everybody

to be together, united in purpose. It will enhance the whole school's educational experience, or is that exPerience?"



Can you see it?



Dedicated

Her hand is one of the first to shoot into the air when the bible teacher asks the class a question, and it's been that way since kindergarten. "I have never taught a child who knew and verbalized so much about the bible, especially at just five years of age," remembers teacher Susan M. Brown. "She has such a very deep knowledge of the bible." And that love for God's word continues today for 7th grader Camille Tracy, who also just happens to be a very talented Pisgah softball player.

"Camille has always been an athlete," explains her dad, Todd Tracy. "She started playing t-ball with Pisgah Sports when she was five. When she was too old for t-ball Pisgah Sports started a softball program that only lasted two seasons. We then moved to Roswell Park where she has played ever since. She started playing slow pitch and then made the natural progression to fast pitch two years ago."

Camille now plays on the Pisgah Middle School softball team and says she loves the thrill of competition and being able to enjoy the sport with her friends. "I love softball for many reasons. There's nothing like getting the winning hit or fielding the game winning out. I love cheering on my teammates and having fun. Softball gives me an opportunity to be proud of myself and my team. I love this sport!"

Mom Penni says Camille's passion for the game runs in the family. "Her dad is an old baseball player and he saw that she had potential in the sport. Camille is a very hard worker and took the talent she had and built on it through practice, hitting lessons and dedication to getting better." Both her parents appreciate the lessons Camille has learned playing softball. Dad says, "She has learned that we don't always get what we want and that we sometimes have to make sacrifices for the good of the team. We feel Camille has learned to be both gracious in winning and to show good sportsmanship in losing."

Discipline, perseverance, integrity, and leadership are just some of the skills and character traits developed and strengthened through sports participation. Many of the most memorable lessons of childhood are the ones learned when kids are having



**“I am so pumped that
we will have a field
to call our own!”**



Education

fun on a playing field, which makes news of the proposed new athletic complex all the more exciting for school families like the Tracys. “The new fields are the first step in making Pisgah a well known athletic program,” says Todd. “It also makes a statement to the community and shows that Pisgah is committed to athletics as well as academics. I also think it will create a feeling of school unity and spirit to see our Pisgah fields and the athletes will have the pride of having a home field.” Camille couldn’t agree more. “I think the athletic fields will be great for the school. They will attract girls to come and play softball with our Pisgah Patriots team. I am so pumped that we will have a field to call our own!”



Can you see it?



Friendship

You find yourself holding your breath as you watch them launch into one of their stunts, lifting one of their teammates high above their shoulders or tossing her into the air. Where do they find the courage? "You just learn to trust your teammates," says seventh grader Kasey Shepp. "And I've learned that if you can trust your teammates to catch you, then in life, you can certainly trust God to always catch you too."

Insight like that comes naturally to Kasey, a poised and well-mannered young lady whose quiet confidence and thoughtfulness impress all who meet her. With her bright infectious smile and bubbly giggle, you can't help but be charmed by her. Like most girls her age,

she loves the latest fashions and music, but she's also a dedicated student. She maintains honor roll grades, despite her demanding cheerleading practice schedule.

Kasey and her fellow middle school cheerleaders pump up the fans at football games and pep rallies and definitely break a sweat while they're at it! "Some people don't think cheerleading is a sport or that we're athletes, but you really have to be in shape to do all the dancing and the lifting that we do – it's hard work!" This is Kasey's second year on the middle school cheer squad and she enjoys the challenge of learning the complicated routines and working with her coaches Elena Stoeckig and Katie Evans. "I admire both of them so much. They're great role models. They have really made connections with all of us and helped us build team spirit. I feel comfortable talking to them about spiritual things and all kinds of stuff."

Pisgah has been part of Kasey's life for as long as she can remember. "I love this school. We have a good Christian

environment and I can talk about my beliefs. I just feel at home here." Her fellow classmates describe Kasey as humble, kind, and caring and her teachers have been impressed by how this sweet young lady represents Pisgah. "Kasey is a well-rounded individual. She is a conscientious student who actively participates in class and always does her best," says her history teacher Anna Eberhard. "She has positive relationships with her peers and is a true asset to our school."

One of Kasey's classmates remembers, "When I was a brand new student last year, on the very first day of school, I felt sort of left out because lots of girls were gathered together talking and catching up with each other and I didn't really know anyone. Kasey noticed me and came over to talk. She made an effort to get to know me and help me feel welcome. I'll never forget that." Being sensitive to other's feelings is just one of the qualities that makes Kasey a model student. Another is her enthusiasm and school spirit.



“I can just picture us out there with all the lights and the crowd cheering. It will be so exciting!”



siasm

On Thursday afternoons, you'll find Kasey cheering for the middle school football team – always at another school's stadium. "Our home games are at the Old Milton fields for now," says Kasey. "It will be so great when we finally have a field of our own. When I think about the new stadium, I can just picture us out there with all the lights and the crowd cheering. It will be so exciting! When we have our own place, we'll be able to put signs up, and we'll have more people at the games supporting the team. It will just make such a big difference. We can make some special memories and it will just be awesome!"



Can you see it?



Excite

They are the sights and sounds of Friday night football: the roar of the crowd, the lights, fans decked out in school colors, student athletes, cheerleaders, and of course, the beat of the band!

When most of us picture the new fields, we automatically think of the benefits for athletes, but Pisgah musicians will have the chance to create lasting memories too. Once Pisgah has athletic fields and a stadium of their own, the school drum line and marching band will have a place to call home. Pisgah's band will feature many talented musicians, and will likely include students Ryan Tablada and Daniel Smith.

Ryan, a Pisgah junior, says his love for music and for the Lord has led him to be a part of school and church performing groups for many years. "I really just love music. I began by playing drums in fourth grade, then guitar. From there, worship songs took hold of my talents for the work of God." Ryan's passion for the guitar has inspired him to creatively incorporate music into his classwork. One of his English teachers remembers, "One day he brought in his guitar for a project that we were doing in either Advanced English or Advanced Reading and he just played and played that guitar. What a blessing he is and will be to the musical world."

Bryan Hatmaker, Pisgah's new band director sees the potential Ryan brings to the band program, "He has a very eclectic taste in music, and a good knowledge of the production end of music. Ryan was the first member of the new drum line and has been instrumental in its growth." The drum line was made possible thanks to a

generous donation from a Pisgah supporter. The school now has 17 competitive marching drums to help promote school spirit. Ryan has thrown himself wholeheartedly into drum line practice and he can already be seen enthusiastically playing drums at pep rallies and games. "While it's a small group now, the drum line shows great potential," Ryan says. "I decided to become part of the line to increase the musical talent I have been given."

Another talented drummer, Pisgah sixth grader Daniel Smith chose band for one of his middle school classes this year. He is also gaining experience and glorifying the Lord as a member of the Pisgah praise band. "Playing in the band is cool," says Daniel. "I really like music and I'm looking forward to other opportunities to play."

Heather Parker, who taught Daniel in both third and fifth grades, was surprised the first time she saw the talented young man behind the drums.



**“I decided to become
part of the drum line to
increase the musical
talent I have been given.”**



ment

“I did not know that Daniel was really into playing drums until I spent a week with him in Costa Rica this summer. I remember how happy he looked when he was playing drums behind the Harlow family singing. He looked so relaxed just rockin’ out. Daniel is an awesome young man!”

Daniel and Ryan represent the future of the Pisgah drum line and marching band. They are eager to use their musical gifts to add to the excitement of school sporting events. The new athletic fields and stadium will give them an arena to showcase their talent and contribute to the Pisgah Experience.



Can you see it?



Visit the Pisgah practice fields any weekday afternoon long after the varsity and middle school football players have headed home and you'll discover a hidden treasure. You'll find incredibly determined and dedicated athletes pushing themselves, sweating, and playing with all their hearts. You'll be inspired by their passion for the sport. You'll be impressed by their power and size, especially considering they're all just 9, 10, and 11 years old. They are the Junior Patriots and they provide a glimpse into the future of Pisgah sports.

"The fact that they're out here in 100 degree temperatures - wanting to play and learn - it's just amazing," says Jr. Patriots Coach Jocko Cendoya. The team looks up to their coach and the example

he sets for the power of persistence and how to bounce back when times get tough.

Jocko, his wife Tracy and their three children lived just north of New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit. Like many families, the Cendoyas were displaced after the storm and Jocko's employer gave him the option of transferring to either Houston or Atlanta. They chose to move here because they have family in the Atlanta area. The Cendoyas began searching for a school for John - 4th grade, Jacob - 2nd grade, and Sofia - Kindergarten. "We went around to the school systems and we weren't getting the help we wanted as far as getting our kids enrolled. One of our family members suggested we visit Pisgah. We walked in and from day one they said come in, no questions asked, and it was great. It's been such a great experience as parents to see our children grow, not just academically, but spiritually, and in just every way - seeing them excited everyday about going to school, which is something for 9 years they weren't doing. It's been a great experience."

Pro

Part of that Pisgah experience includes coaching the next generation of the school's football players, helping them become the young men God intends them to be. "Lessons learned from participation in athletics can have some of the most meaningful and lasting effects on shaping the character of a young life," explains Marc Felice. "Athletes learn the importance of working together toward common goals, self-sacrifice, putting the welfare of others before themselves, perseverance, determination, self-discipline, respect, sportsmanship, and honor."

Jocko, his fellow coaches and players look forward to the day when they will all be a part of games in the new Pisgah stadium. As the Jr. Patriots put in long hard hours of practice, the coaches remind them of the exciting plans for their future home field, painting a picture of Friday night games under the lights with cheering fans in the stands. "Once we get everybody coming to the games and the kids enjoy being a part of it and they're all part of the Pisgah program where they can use it full-time. It's just going to be amazing!"



mise

**“The fact that
they’re out here
in 100 degree
temperatures,
wanting to play
and learn, it’s just
amazing!”**



Can you see it?



Presbyterian & Mount Pisgah - American Mission Society
MOUNT PISGAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FLAP
inside cover



9820 Nesbit Ferry Road

Alpharetta, GA 30022

678.336.3385

www.mountpisgahschool.org