

# Lebanon Warrior Youth Football League History

For many years The City of Lebanon's recreations department organized and hosted a youth football league for the children of Lebanon. In those days the league served children in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. There were two divisions, one for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and another for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Players within a division were placed on teams and those teams would play against other Lebanon teams within the same division. Eventually Lebanon invited Little Miami Youth Football to join. The addition of Little Miami provided a brief glimpse at what it would be like to play football against other area communities.

In 2001 a small group of coaches and parents from the City League approached the City of Lebanon and asked for permission to develop traveling teams in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. After receiving permission from City officials, three teams were formed. The coaches of those first traveling teams were Randy Logsdon (6<sup>th</sup> Grade), Steve Cochran (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Brad Norris (4<sup>th</sup> Grade). Players on the original teams were not a group of "select" players from the City league, but merely a group of players that volunteered to travel to other communities to compete. Anyone that registered was accepted onto one of the traveling teams. In that first season, the teams competed in the Western Ohio Junior Football Conference.

At the conclusion of the first traveling season City officials met with the three traveling coaches to discuss the future of Lebanon youth football. For various reasons a decision was made by City officials to discontinue their support of the traveling initiative. That same night on the sidewalk outside of City Hall a decision was made by the traveling coaches that they would form a separate recreational league within Lebanon that would offer it's participants the opportunity to travel and play against Centerville, Miamisburg, Vandalia, Springfield, Huber Heights, Fairborn, West Carrollton, Meadowdale, Beavercreek, Kettering, Mad River, Northmont and others.

The original founders were Steve Cochran (President), Randy Logsdon (Vice President & Secretary), Brad Norris, Wendell Hutchison, and Lisa Cochran (Treasurer).

In the second year of operation a Board of Directors was formed which included the founders as well as Brad Maupin, Mark Stotts, Dave Howard and Don Osborne.

The Lebanon Warrior Youth Football League's popularity took hold and quickly became the sole option in Lebanon for players and Cheerleaders in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

In the first five years of operation the LWYFL experienced tremendous growth with the number of participants exceeding 525 players and cheerleaders making it the second largest member organization in the Western Ohio Junior Football Conference.

The LWYFL, with support of the Lebanon City Schools, played their first season at James VanDeGrift Stadium but it was clear that the rapid growth of the program demanded the LWYFL have their own game field. Again with the support of the Lebanon City Schools and the City of Lebanon the LWYFL began an aggressive field construction project to build a new home for the football players and cheerleaders. The new home was located on a piece of donated land situated behind the current High School on Drake Rd. The project consisted of installing the field, goal post, scoreboard, grandstands, press box and concession stand. This project was completed at a cost of \$150,000 and was supported and paid for through the generous efforts of many local families and businesses. The project began in May of 2005 and was completed in July just days before our first game. Throughout the years the league continued to make improvements to the facility making it one of the nicest youth football fields in the area.



LWYFL's Field 2006

In the first 4 years the LWYFL were fortunate to send 8 teams to the Semi Finals. In the 5<sup>th</sup> year the LWYFL sent its first team to the Championship as our 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> grade White team defeated Northmont Gold 18-13 at Welcome Stadium.



2007 Super Bowl Champions Lebanon Bantam White