

## Youngsters learn skills, meet NFL players at Mike Devlin camp

### FOOTBALL

BY FRANK DOWD  
katsports@tribnewspapers.com

Athletes in grades two to eight had the opportunity to learn a variety of football techniques, which included blocking, tackling, passing, receiving and running-back skills, from NFL players last week at a camp held at Mount Sinai High School. One of the highlights was an appearance by New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez.

"The kids were really excited to meet him," Port Jefferson assistant coach Jeff Koutsantanou said.  
Shonn Greene, Brick Ferguson and

center Nick Mangold also attended the camp.

The New York Jets offensive rookies visited the camp on the first day. The following day, the defensive rookies took part in the festivities. Six New York Jets coaches worked with the kids as well. The players and coaches were very personable and signed autographs for all 270 athletes that participated in the clinic.

This was the second annual Devlin football camp. It was intended to allow youngsters the opportunity to interact

### Mike Devlin camp

*Continued from page 17*

with NFL players for a low cost of \$125 for the week. Although it was a non-contact camp, that didn't stop the participants from being able to experience the game from every position on the field. "It was almost identical to last year," said Mount Sinai head coach Vinnie Ammirato. "The parents and kids are great. The kids work hard."

When Jets tight-end coach Mike Devlin started the camp last year, only Mount Sinai was involved. Now, things are different. "We were pleased with the kids coming from counties and other areas," he said.

Many different people and organizations were responsible for making the camp a success. Miller Place, Comsewogue, Ward Melville, Mount Sinai and Port Jefferson school districts all got involved. "It was a local effort," Koutsantanou said.

The camp is a nonprofit organization that has enhanced the lives of many people locally. "It was important to us to



Some of the Mike Devlin camp members and staff take a break and pose for a shot. Courtesy Jeff Koutsantanou

give back to the community," said Koutsantanou.

Their efforts this year helped them raise \$5,000 for Friends of Karen, which is a charity that helps children with life-threatening illnesses. "I really like the Friends of Karen," Devlin said. "They go out of their way to help. When they explained it to me, I felt like it was such a worthwhile cause."

Executive Board Member of the North Shore Colts Nick Tabile played an instrumental role in the program. "He does a phenomenal job with registration and field setup," said Ammirato. "Without people like him, the camp wouldn't be as successful."

The New York Jets donated many giveaways for the kids. "We wouldn't be able to do it without them," Devlin said. "The support of the Jets and allowing me to come out here and do this is an awesome deal."

He continued, "I'd like to thank everyone in the community who kicked in to help."