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NFL star Chris Harris Jr. trying to leave legacy in Tulsa area

Dekota Gregory Tulsa World Jun 15, 2017 Updated 13 hrs ago 0

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Chris Harris Jr. is trying to give his community what it never had when he was growing up.

Harris was a football star at Bixby High School until 2006 and went on to become a standout at the University of Kansas. Today, he plays cornerback for the Denver Broncos, with whom he won a Super Bowl in 2016.

Harris will be home Friday and Saturday to participate in two free camps for kids, including his own "3rd annual Underdog Academy" at Bixby. The football camp is open to kids 8-13 years old. The event also will include a cheer camp for the first time for kids 5-10. Every participant will get a camp shirt, gift bag and lunch.

Harris will lead a cornerback station, and then talk to the participants at the end of the camp.

"We didn't have any camps or role models like that when I was growing up," Harris said. "I've just always wanted to bring it back and have an impact on the community and leave my legacy here."

Harris will join former NFL players Felix Jones and Robert Meachem for the 2017 Life Skills and Drills Football Academy at Booker T. Washington High School. Former Hornets standout Tyler Lockett, who plays for the Seattle Seahawks, will also be at the camp with a plethora of other former local football standouts.

The camp is for athletes entering sixth through 12th grades. It will feature an NCAA eligibility workshop, parents' college seminar and position-

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specific instructions. Each participant will get two meals, a shirt and two workouts.

“In Tulsa, it’s hard for kids to see success there and to see that they can make it out of there,” Harris said. “I think we kind of give them life, something to dream about, that they can do the same thing we’ve done. I think that’s what makes it huge.”

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Harris’ community involvement goes beyond the gridiron. His foundation — the Chris Harris Jr. Foundation — has the goal of “providing underprivileged youth with unique opportunities so they can more adequately achieve their goals,” according to the Harris’ website. The foundation funds the Underdog Academy, as well as Shop With a Jock. Harris takes 50 kids from the Denver Children’s Home and Denver Salvation Army shopping during the holiday season for Shop With a Jock.

Harris will also read to children at the Bixby Library at 10-11 a.m. Monday.

“It kind of gets the whole community going,” Harris said. “Everybody in the community wants to be active and wants to volunteer. It’s kind of good just getting everybody out to be able to put back into the community.”

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MORE INFORMATION



NFL star Chris Harris Jr. hosting two camps in Tulsa area
NFL player Chris Harris Jr. is hosting two sports camps June 16-17 in the Tulsa area.

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