

Football Players As Role Models

Football players as role models is an important idea

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Chrissy Carew never would agree with Charles Barkley's view that athletes should not be considered role models.

On the contrary, Carew has signed up dozens of players to tell their stories and inspire youngsters with an interest in sports.

Carew started her movement two years ago and recently wrote a book based on it called "Insightful Player." Among the football players who have signed on are Hall of Famers Roger Staubach and Andre Tippett, 16-year veteran Tony Richardson and current players from across the NFL and representing nearly every position.

"I'm looking for men who are humble, with high integrity, and who will share mistakes they made, be able to open up, teach and relate to kids," Carew said. "If they are really committed to building character, have learned from their mistakes, we are absolutely happy to have them.

"I have been astounded how much I have learned from these guys. They're filled with wisdom and they don't even know it."

Carew mentions Steelers receiver Jerricho Cotchery, who was a gang member in his youth. Or former DE Jarvis Green, who was bullied when he was in school _ hard to believe for someone now weighing nearly 300 pounds. Or Lions wideout Rashied Davis, whose father was murdered when Davis was 8 years old.

In her book, Carew allows 32 Insightful Players to tell their stories. She also includes a "call to action," in which she seeks others who will share their stories and join her movement.

"I want this book to get in the hands of parents, teachers, coaches and young children," she said. "I want people to develop a healthy relationship with setbacks and obstacles. As soon as they show up, instead of freaking out, say `I'm taking a timeout here, I am going to be better for this.'

"I want kids to look at that, this inner strength they have. I want kids to support other kids, for people to be less judgmental and treat out kids with more respect.

"We will turn this into an empire involving all sports ... men's and women's sports ... and my vision is every child has a coach."