

## Elite Football Academy

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For De Smet High wide receiver Wes Kemp, football is life.

"I think the receiver, you're always high lighted, you're always one on one, and have the ability to make the big plays in the game," he said.

The rising senior has been catching passes since he was a little guy and now that he's all grown up, the constant training has paid off.

"Wes has received 14 or 15 division one offers," said Matt Biermann, who runs the Elite Football Academy.

Those are all offers to play in college, and he's decided to run routes at the University of Wisconsin next year, something he says he owes to the high energy training he gets here.

"I definitely think Elite is putting me over the edge as far as becoming a better football player and making me a division one athlete and a better asset for my team."

The Elite Football Academy is run by a dozen or so coaches that have all been there, who played at the college level or beyond.

"We do bring a lot of energy, we have young coaches who bring a lot of energy to the game and the kids love it and respond to it," Biermann said.

He was a receiver for Mizzou and now runs the academy.

"We do it because we love the game of football and we want to make the game of football better."

It seems everyone that comes here dreams big, no matter what the size.

"Well when I grow up I do want to be in the NFL when I grow up and be a quarterback," said 10-year-old Andy Coulter.

"They're dreaming and that's what we want them to do, we want them dreaming and thinking about the game," Biermann said.

One great thing about the training, Coulter gets to learn from athletes twice his size, and next to guys like Kemp.

"Sometimes when I come out here I get to throw with middle schoolers and that's fun because they're all bigger than me," Coulter said.

"It's key for them to come out here," Kemp added. "I wish I would have come out here when I was that age cause I would have been a lot more ahead of the game."

They focus on every position here.

The popular ones like QB and wide receiver; but also all the defensive positions and line spots so everyone is welcome.

"We're not focusing on one group we want to train all the positions," Biermann said.

Dozens of Elite's students have gone on to play in college and Biermann hopes more St. Louis athletes will commit themselves to the game he loves.

"We're trying to build up and help make St. Louis a better football town."

And Kemp is running and catching proof that Elite Football Academy will do just that.

"You need that thing that's going to put you over the edge. I think Elite Football Academy is one of those things that with your technical buildup as a wide receiver and your makeup as a football player it's one of those things that's going to make you a better player," he said.

The training is usually held at Velocity Sports Performance in Chesterfield, but they are separate businesses, so you need to call them separately to register.

(314) 787-9204 is the number to call.

