



2009 Season

Dear Parents & Players,

The Board of Directors for Little Ladd Football & Cheering and the Portland Youth Football League are proud to announce the merger of the two leagues into one entity. Effective March 3, all youth football in Portland will now fall under the name Portland Youth Football and play as a participating member in the Maine Youth Football League. We are pleased to retain the Little Ladd name and much of its storied history by renaming the Pee Wee level of the new league, "Little Ladd". The new league will now expand for grades 2 through 8. Our plans moving forward include retaining much of what worked well and the traditions of both leagues. Some of the driving forces of this merger include:

- The enrollment of football in the Portland school system has been on the decline for a number of years. Combined with the changing demographics of the city and the rise of football in the surrounding communities, it became clear that the city could no longer support two football programs.
- Merging both leagues now provides us with a unified mission of developing youth football players and cheerleaders in the City of Portland.
- We need to improve and enhance football at the Middle School level. The new league will make this a priority starting with the 2009 season.

We realize that many of you may have questions and concerns. In addition, the merger of the two leagues will take a lot of work and engagement from those in the community to make this a success. Therefore, the new Board of Directors is holding a meeting on March 22, 2009 at the North Deering Congregational Church in Portland at 7:00pm. At this meeting, we hope to have volunteers commit to a number of sub groups that will be working on merger action steps. We encourage you to attend this meeting and become part of our exciting plans for the future. If you are unable to attend and would like to help out on a subcommittee please contact Kim Wike at kimmiew@maine.rr.com.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Little Ladd Football & Cheering and Portland Youth Football