Weather: REDLANDS, CA | Now: 55°F | High: 67°F | Low: 53°F | 5-Day Forecast Live Traffic 10E 10W 210E 210W 215N 215S 15N 15S Subscriber Services | Home Delivery | e-Edition | Mobile Search RSS | Login | Newsletter Mobile Edition This Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH Home News Sports Business Opinions Entertainment Our Town Info Obituaries Marketplace Place an Ad Homes Jobs Auto Directories Be the first of your friends to CLICK PLAY TO HEAR STORY! Recommend Share ... or choose from all podcasts on this site **Terriers bless the helmets** Kevin Trudgeon, Staff Writer Posted: 08/10/2010 11:53:30 AM PDT Most Viewed Most Emailed 1. Shreve gets probation, no jail time in battery By KEVIN TRUDGEON incident 2. Yucaipa petition drive Staff Writer fights uptown project San Bernardino man REDLANDS - Larry White drove a long way to talk to the Redlands High School football team Monday

The Horizon Church Pastor, located in Victorville, is not an NFL player or Terrier alum, but all eyes were on

"I want all of you to be ready to answer the call," said White, who was invited to participate in the tradition,

which has been going on since Head Coach Jim Walker came to RHS, by senior offensive lineman Jordan

"If Coach Walker tells you to go in the game, if a teammate is in need, will you be ready to answer the call?"

him in the RHS weight room as he delivered a speech during the traditional blessing of the helmets.

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to arms, which was followed by a team prayer, preceded RHS's first practice in pads Monday.

The blessing of the helmets is one in a long line of Terrier traditions, something that White said was one of the biggest reasons he agreed to make the long drive and be a part of it.

"It's a real privilege and honor to be part of the tradition of this program," said White, himself a former coach. "This is unique, I have never been involved with anything like this. And I can tell you right now, I agree with Coach Walker that there's a spiritual side of life."

"I would never come in and say, 'You all need to find Jesus,' I would say, 'Find your journey, do what you need to do to get yourself there and become a quality



Minnesota



young



man and an upstanding citizen.' Because these guys, as a team, they deal with death, they deal with loss, they deal with triumph and defeat and you've got to put your faith in something."

Seated around their helmets, which were lined up in the center of the room, members of the varsity, jayvee and freshmen teams listened to what White and Coach Walker had to say.

"I think this kind of grows a spirituality to the game that I think you need to have," Walker said. "And I didn't say religious fervor as much as spirituality, where the guys feel comfortable together, praying. Because we do pray before games, we say the Lord's Prayer, and so I kind of kick off the season this way, with that same kind of solemnness."

For the Terrier seniors, the blessing of the helmets is nothing new. But that does not mean that the message held any less significance.

"I take it to heart all the time," said senior linebacker Paul Gonzales. "It's tradition. It's the first day of practice, let's bless the helmets and let's get after it."

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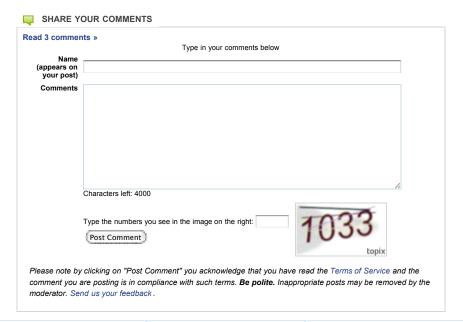
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