

(FCA Camp)

For 65 youngsters---in kindergarten through sixth grade---two days of their summer break from school participating in fun-filled sports themed games, bonding with friends, and becoming “strong” in their faith. The activities last week were part of the annual South Central Kentucky Fellowship of Christian Athletes Power Camp.

“We had a fantastic camp,” explained Brian Runyan, the director of FCA in southcentral Kentucky. “The kids were excited. The weather held off so we were able to do all of our events.”

Power Camp combines sports with a special message. The nationally-recognized FCA program is active on school and college campus across America. Locally, FCA is a school-recognized club established for years at the high school and middle school. In recent years, FCA has expanded to include students at the Allen County Intermediate Center (ACPC) and Allen County Primary Center (ACPC). Even though FCA’s name includes athletes, participation in the faith-based club is open to anyone.

The interest and participation in FCA among elementary and intermediate students have been extraordinary. Almost weekly throughout the school years, dozens of FCA students gather before school at both ACPC and ACIC for a time of devotional message from FCA student leaders from the middle and high schools. Occasionally, speakers include AC-S alumni now active in FCA programs at the college level.

The capstone FCA event for the younger students in the two-day Power Camp.

“Power Camp really started because of how strong FCA had been at ACPC and ACIC,” Runyan noted. “With there being so many kids now involved in FCA, a lot want to go to leadership camp at Campbellsville University. Leadership camp is for middle and high school students. We wanted to go ahead and give the younger kids a taste of what that would be like so that they can look forward to that later on.”

Runyan added that connecting with kids through FCA programs will help the Gospel message to be shared.

“The sooner we can reach kids the better,” Runyan said. “FCA is about faith and sports. We love the competition side with kids sweating, running, laughing, and having fun. We also give them a little bit of faith.”

Both days at last week’s Power Camp at the high school, the campers listened to invited guests share stories about their faith. The speakers included a former college football player as well as a current high school coach who connected with the students by displaying his strength. The campers also gathered twice daily in “huddles.” The huddles are small groups led by local and area FCA leaders. The huddle leaders shared their own stories of faith and presented a short devotional.

The day also included fun and games. The campers competed against each other in soccer drills, baseball throwing contests, relay races, tug-of-war, dodge ball, and the highly popular tube tug---an activity in which the campers battle to capture tire tubes.

The camp attracted campers from Allen and surrounding counties. Older FCA students from the high school and middle school assisted with the camp in preparation for the older FCA Leadership Camp scheduled for next month at Campbellsville University.