

# Gladiator News

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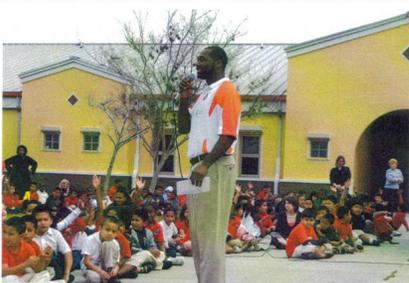
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## Tillman Elementary Calls on Bradenton Gladiators to Motivate Students for FCAT

### PRESS RELEASE

PALMETTO - For the past six years, James Tillman Elementary School has held a Florida Comprehension Assessment Test (FCAT) "prep" rally. Each year, school administrators search diligently for motivational speakers that can reach elementary aged children and get them motivated for the FCAT. Well, after being referred by one of the school's administrative assistants and reading the Gladiators mission statement, Tillman's SIP Director Nancy Porter had to look no further.

"I read in the Bradenton Gladiators mission statement that you promote the development of leadership, character, sportsmanship, tolerance, discipline, and athletic ability. Those aspects correlate to Tillman's goal in respect to the message we want to deliver at this FCAT prep rally", wrote Porter in her invitation request to the Gladiators.



Edrick Sweeting, President, Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc. speaks to Tillman children at rally

The Gladiators' goal was to motivate the students to do their best, believe in themselves, embrace learning, and persevere when the going gets tough. Through song and dance by Tillman's drum choir and students and inspirational speeches given by Gladiators' President Edrick Sweeting and player Joe Patoray, the crowd of approximately 500 students and faculty were truly moved. The children were enthusiastic while players Jeff Charlton, Thomas Jefferson, and Darrell Holloman distributed t-shirts, backpacks, and thunder sticks to those students who were extra attentive.

"The most important thing was to get the students to stay focused and complete the test to the best of their ability" says Charlton. Thomas Jefferson added, "If children don't believe in themselves or think they can't pass the FCAT, this makes it difficult for them to achieve academic success. We want to motivate the children and make them aware that there are positive things out there for them and people who care."



Thank you letter from Nancy Porter, SIP Director, Tillman Elementary who wrote "... today during a break in testing, one little girl said to me when I asked her about the test, 'It's just like homework, that's all.' So you see your message was heard."

If giving back is a testament to a person's character and it speaks volumes; the Bradenton Gladiators continue to turn the radio up. As an added bonus, the Gladiators gave autographed tickets to its upcoming game Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to students and staff at Tillman Elementary.

### Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc.

Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. The programs offered by the organization include youth camps and mentoring programs; educational award programs; and a young adult minor league football program. For more information contact us by phone at (941) 320-7576, via email at [gladiators@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gladiators@tampabay.rr.com) or visit us online at [www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com).