

\*Ukulele Music\*

Keith: Welcome to the LeeCoSchools Edcast #19 with Coach Carrero. Now Coach Carrero is the soccer coach or the men's soccer coach at Smith's Station high school

Kyle: that's right

Keith: and we talked to him because last season they won the first area championship in program history

Kyle: yeah yes oh that's fantastic yeah it was a pretty big deal for the Smith station guys

Keith: yeah very big deal for that team and very big deal for him because that was his first year I thought I was his first year as the coach at that level

Kyle: that's right

Keith: um he had been the junior varsity coach or whatever at the junior high and so I just slap don't know anything about soccer right and I was just fine learning from him some of the stuff about soccer because I just

Kyle: yeah my soccer experience ended in kindergarten actually is when I did soccer that was

Keith: that's more experience and I got

Kyle: yeah yeah

Keith: because um my rest of the world calls it football but for me football is Auburn Tigers on Saturday so yeah but it was a great it was a great chat with him it was great to learn some stuff about soccer and I enjoyed it

Kyle: yeah that's good

Keith: if after this you find yourself with any questions comments complaints criticisms compliments colloquialisms conundrums or concerns you can find us on the web at [www.lee.k12.al.us/edcast](http://www.lee.k12.al.us/edcast) you can find us on twitter and instagram @leecoschools you can find us on facebook at [facebook.com/leecoschools](https://facebook.com/leecoschools) we also have our own icon on the Lee County app that is available in the Apple App Store and in the Google Play Store or you can email us at [edcast@lee.k12.al.us](mailto:edcast@lee.k12.al.us) and we hope you all have a wonderful holiday if you're listening to as it comes out this will be coming out right before the winter holidays break so we hope you all have a wonderful and safe winter holiday break and Kyle....

Kyle: GOOOOOOALLLLLLLLLL!!!!

\*Funky Transition Music\*

Keith: so, Coach, let's just start out by introducing yourself and tell us a little bit about yourself how did you get here to be at Lee County what's your sort of professional CV that kind of thing

Coach Jeff Carrero: I was born in Fort Benning military brat okay move back and forth between Germany and fort Benning

Keith: where in Germany? Frankfurt?

Coach Jeff Carrero: and I lived in Frankfurt and predominately - Wiesbaden area for longest time then I was in went to Columbus State graduated ROTC only four years got out ended up at Swift denim them mm-hmm probably would still be at Swift Denim if enclosure if NAFTA and CAFTA and they got involved turned around I was lucky enough there to go to Uniroyal tire sales yep and that's up here of the road and I was gonna be a manager mm-hmm so I was in training and while I was in training you know I was learning and then I started being able to go to the meetings and then I when I went to the meetings I heard the same verbiage happening again that I heard a swift denim well when they said they're never gonna do this yet we're doing this and we're sending this product over to this plant here to simplify things here and all and it's just like you know why I remember cotton as it was a product that's with denim it rubbers a you know saying you know manufactured manufacturing and I saw the writing on the wall yeah so I just happened to have a conversation with John Painter yeah you know I was a community coach my son was the kicker on football team he was all about city all-state getting this blood bear there you go you know back there he graduated 2008 but you know he said yeah I think we have a position you know open it up yeah he said you can coach football you know help your son kick in and coach soccer and I said that'd be great so sending my resume and everything and we didn't hear nothing about it and also one day he called he said uh come talk to mr. Walton who was the principal at the time at Smith station high school right and I met with him and as I was expected an interview and he was saying you know coach you know mr. painter said they're gonna be myself down at school said this is your room the surge area is what you're doing it's like it's like what he's telling me what I'm gonna be doing I mean you know this is the day you'll be starting there all the sudden stuff and said here's the paperwork get it done sitting by the way says I'm not gonna be your principal you know Katherine Ledbetter is gonna be taking over the school it's like so you wouldn't be working for me so have a good career I spent a couple of years at the high school working for Miss Ledbetter and then got transferred to what at the time was Wacoochee junior high so that's right and it was loved it out there oh yeah I can't I mean I think that is the best thing for I understand why they did what they did but right Wacoochee served a great purpose and getting these seventh and eighth graders away from everybody

Keith: yes I agree

Coach Jeff Carrero: you know yes it did I think it was great because a lot less influences a lot less issues you know a little bit more seclusion right you know kids weren't running away from Wacoochee because there was there was nobody but oh yeah there yeah yeah you're not going anywhere yeah so and I started working for Rick Harris yeah and and Shannon Tomlin who's been there even before Rick Harris was there she was there when mr. Biddle was principal of Wacoochee yep and I've been there ever since you know they moved over to Smith station junior high school there this is really close to my house but there's a lot more traffic there a lot more action going on around and especially being with the elementary schools surrounding us and stuff so it's a it's a busy place you know I've been there or started in those six so starting year thirteen and I think

Kyle: well it's so interesting to me that you got to see both two of the biggest mills that closed down in our area especially in our lifetime I remember when Swift closed down we had we have a mutual friend whose dad had worked there for a bunch of years and I mean that was a big deal you know once we've closed down and then and I'm sure that was a weird experience for you being one of the probably only a few people who could look at this and go I've seen this before I know

Coach Jeff Carrero: I told I told some of the people cuz they were about five or six people that lifts would have to work at Uniroyal yeah in order to enhance it it's happening again I said you need you know buckle up buttercup yeah you know a lot of people have been absorbed and the companies around Opelika I know mondo has a lot of folks

Kyle: huge plant up there yeah a huge plant out in the Beulah area

Coach Jeff Carrero: I've had a I've had several the ex-employee say you need to come on out there you love it so they treat you right you know but I'm happy more manager so but I've gotten really comfortable with what I'm doing you know I've been able to up to this summer I'm not doing anything with it but the past four summers I've been working with whitewater Express I'm going to spring into summer after soccer but this year my goal is to stay healthy

Kyle: there you go

Coach Jeff Carrero: you know past five years at tore my Achilles I've had double hernia torn meniscus and my knee and every summers been ruined yeah some reason so my wife told me my goal this year is to stay healthy she's not doing the lawn anymore

Keith: that's what it was you just got tired of cutting grass find whatever excuse you can find

Coach Jeff Carrero: she bought me a new lawn mower to make sure I'm happy got me a little cart you know so I'm not lugging all the dirt no stuff back and forth you know to hook that up to the lawnmower and you know work smarter not harder yeah he's my philosophy now

Kyle: so talk to us about soccer how long have you coached soccer here

Coach Jeff Carrero: I've coached well my boys were playing red star soccer out of columbus club soccer and my oldest son was in eighth grade it was a seventh grade and gonna be in eighth grade and I approached Trey Holliday who was athletic director and football coach back then as a parent and said you know listen you know fully good soccer you know for the school and I bugged him about it and I said you know my son's gonna be kicking for you and he's playing football but he liked to play soccer that's his primary sport you know what can we do so it's that uh February after this football season and I think my son was in 7th grade going in eighth grade call me you know in the office a listener says I have to declare this as a sport because athletic guys declare sports you know to play he said but you're not getting any money school doesn't still don't support soccer we we are our own entity as far as we earn our own money I hate our own way sometimes when there is money in the budget pretty much we are self-sufficient and so we got the work established the Booster Club and at that time on became president in the Booster Club you know I had a couple other boys that we knew were playing red star wool parents jumped on board and started being first thing we did is at summer camps even before smith station even had a soccer team I was doing camps out there in the summer because we had to buy goals we're gonna play yeah yeah buy uniforms if we're gonna play yeah so did some summer camp and we had interest meetings you know they you know we started almost a year out we had one year to get ready for what kids could even practice I became a commute coach helping out coach Jim Creek who was like the first boys coach and he was there for a few years but you know we just kept on going until I became an employee at Lee County school system and I became a coach coach and i was assistant coach coach creek on the varsity and then he also had me doing the junior high team

Kyle: so that first year were you able to raise up enough money to get soccer started

Coach Jeff Carrero: yeah oh yeah i recently when we did the pizza dough stuff summer camp and selling the cokes and stuff and you know the kids were very excited about it so we had a lot of support and one of one of the persons we had support was was from deputy Anderson who's the Lee County sheriff's deputy yeah that's what his son tried soccer for about a year dropped out but he kept on helping us for like the first three years and then all sudden one day he said Jeff says you know they tell you man I'm selling all my stuff he still of us with the trailers and moving goals and I mean all the stuff says I'm selling all my stuff says I found my calling I'm gonna be a Lee County sheriff's deputy you know so I've been doing it on the side as a reserve so I'm going full-time and but I got to mention him because he wasn't and he was a quiet person he was when he told me is going to be a sheriff's deputy I said the community he's getting to serve yeah it was a good guy right there

Kyle: but he was key to you guys' early success

Coach Jeff Carrero: yeah yeah him bill Edwards whose son Blake was playing Steve Johnson who had daughters playing you know form good core group of parents along with him that stayed with it the whole way through and even after their kids left the program continued to support for a few years that's great so good support from the parents and everything

Keith: because you had to have that it because soccer has gained has gained a bigger following in the last 10 years maybe yeah especially with especially with American teams getting to the World Cup

Coach Jeff Carrero: well what's happening now is a lot of people that have played soccer just learning about it 10 15 years ago we're starting to have kids yeah

Keith: that's the other thing

Coach Jeff Carrero: and so it's starting to it's gonna multiply in the next couple of years and these will be knowledgeable parents

Kyle: and a real sport like American football

Keith: I'm gonna be honest with you I've tried watching soccer but that's what it looks like I just run

Coach Jeff Carrero: well and then it's you know it's a simple game and it is you're running in your and you're kicking and everything now exertion that game but you know in a way if you've ever watched handball you better watch basketball mine you know the difference between basketball and soccer is we're playing on a big field a lot more space living on a field where they're playing on a court with five and a court but the same principles of movement off the ball zone zoni getting your passing lanes you know but score is not as much yeah and that's why we celebrate the scoring so much more that's right it is already big deal it's a big deal when you score yeah you know you celebrate you just an accomplishment yeah

Keith: this past World Cup was the highest scoring final game I think France vs. Croatia's like the long it was the highest-scoring games since the 60s or something

Coach Jeff Carrero: yeah it's uh I think they almost tied everyone bill was 4-2 if they were made another goal somebody would have been seven goals in the game that would have been tied with the highest ever while so but you know soccer has been wanting to get more scoring in the game people change

rules tactics change you know in the 90s is the ticky-tacky soccer of Spain passing the ball around possessing the ball then Spain has never changed their philosophy you have teams like Iran and Russia who pretty much bunker down and just play defense and they're just waiting for their one little opportunity at one shot to get their goal and when they got that one goal you were in trouble because it's hard enough scoring so now it's really gonna be hard

Kyle: so they would just horde the ball up until opportunity

Coach Jeff Carrero: they wouldn't even horde the ball they let you keep the ball as long as you rules they you know they pack down the field on you couldn't get past that wall of people you know you get so close to the goal the angles start getting harder it's almost like an NFL closer you get to the goal line when you get on that four or five yard line and plays are changing because you don't have that space that's trying to move this tree what's the save the soccer when you get too close to the angles get harder you know so you want to keep them right about 18 20 if you got a decent keeper it over huh they'll stop the shots that are coming in there from that distance yeah but what France had they played the same way they did but France had skill and that's the Croatian out possessed him and more passes control the game but when France got the ball they they needed to great effect they used it to great effect and that was that's keep you know used to be possession possession used to be the thought in soccer but now it's you know you can possess it but you possess it you're moving down the field you're counter-attacking you're getting to the goal before they can draw back and bunker down you know you're trying to get your shot for the other team recovers and so it becomes a game of now of speed yeah you know and of getting that angle and don't being home

Kyle: that's interesting and so with the changing mindsets when you're looking for players like what are you how do you how do you assess players that want to play soccer for you

Coach Jeff Carrero: first thing and assess is their grades

Kyle: really that's what's important?

Coach Jeff Carrero: it's it's a vitally important there's no need of me trying to work with the child who is a C-D student and it's about to take on the load of practicing four or five days a week hour and a half to two hours a day yeah and then expect them to maintain or improve on their grades

Kyle: that's tough yeah

Coach Jeff Carrero: it's tough you know you got to look at the the child you gotta look at the attendance sometimes you gotta look at the parent - mm-hmm you know is he getting support you know I'll take kids home I got no problem for it right but you know I there's only so much you can do for a lot of kids and you're looking for you know the desire because it takes a commitment you got to want to do soccer because there's a lot of running oh yeah a lot of conditioning you know a lot of a lot of work a lot of mental preparation but you have some kids you know it's becoming specialized like all the other sports a year-round sport you know baseball they got the Fall Ball now they got the wooden bat League stuff and everything footballs coming up to 77 you know to keep the kids going and basketball has a summer basketball and everybody's doing that all the sports are doing that because they want to keep their kids you know they're being greedy you know cuz you know I'm on keep this kid I don't want to lose him to another sport right it's like my biggest fear now is lacrosse really lacrosse is a growing sport and it's growing coming down the eastern seaboard and I think Auburn has a team lacrosse team and everything

and what lacrosse is doing they're pulling out of the same demographics that I am as far as he already yeah the same size you know kids that's you know too small for football right but a good size huh you know can an athletic athletic you know not fast enough to run track but still really fast right you know not tall enough to play basketball you know super tall basketball and little doesn't play basketball but is a good hike you know coming in 6-1 6-2 yeah you know one hundred sixty-five hundred seventy-five pounds right you know boom and that's what they're grabbing so I mean everybody's gonna grab it so you know my guys are playing the Fall Ball fall soccer then they're coming back to me my job is to when they separate they're playing with kids from Auburn High School Central High School Opelika high school you know as a team if you're gonna have a six kids on a team with it the element has a rule which I understand why they had that rule but against States when playing Georgia teams it's hurts because all their kids in our high school are going flipping right over to fall or walking right over to Cobb County you know and soccer and they're saying hey we're all on one team boom we're playing the fall then they just walk back in the high school season you know whereas I have to mesh it all back together we collect and read rebuttal it's almost like I'm the you know what has the USA national team coach has to do all the players go back to their club teams I have to bring them back in there for this period to reintegrate reintegrate get together no you got to have the grades up a slip-up I'm not perfect you know I would love it that my players would get the A's and B's or straight A but I can't fault them if they're getting C's and they're passing all their classes I'm not their parent you know their parent needs to set those standards I can't set them for them you know they you need to understand if they want to go to college I can tell you no need to have A-B C's ain't gonna cut it right take your ACT as a sophomore or even as a freshman not the not just the practice ACT take the real deal get it in there because as soon as you get that magic number of an 18 most colleges take they'll start talking to you register with NCAA you can contact the coaches and they'll contact you back as soccer you have to sell yourself right yeah you know those coaches are busy sometimes they'll find you but that's not often most time you have to say hey look at me look at me here are my games here's some video I am college eligible right now right you know it so that a CT and the higher the score the better

Kyle: oh yeah

Keith: so the college coaches don't recruit don't don't do the kind of recruiting that players have to basically show themselves

Coach Jeff Carrero: yes and that's why they have all these uh showcases with the club balls and everything that's going on and the tournaments are big draws because they have all the teams in one location and the coaches will walk around them watch teams in the internet and stuff so can be done in Lee County you know but you got to want it and you can't blame the school because the teaching is there oh yeah the quality teaches there

Kyle: well especially when you're talking about from k12 to college I mean we've got some people we taught one of our other podcast was with Beth Parklman whose job is to get kids ready to leave school and go to whatever is after school for them and so they got someone home on the on payroll that is designed to help them get ready for this stuff so not everywhere has that

Coach Jeff Carrero: but all I can do is lecture and talk and I'm excited whether whether they go in the army sure any branch in the military the Air Force or Navy I'm excited when they find a career I know a couple soccer players that got in the Coast Guard a lot of them are looking to Coast Guard really excited about that so you know it's just as long as that are happy and successful and I'll see them sometimes and

they're you know married and have their first kid you know it's it's a good feeling to know say hey they're doing good yeah Rafael Torres who is that Northside teacher in the north side soccer coach he was one of the first players to come out of Smith station soccer really when we first start our program he played his junior senior years because that's only two years they had it but I'll never forget because the football coaches they were just livid because he quit playing football so he could play club soccer so he could get ready for spring soccer for Smith station as a junior

Kyle: what year is this

Coach Jeff Carrero: this was back in 2000 I want to say graduated 2006 okay so that would've been 2004-2005

Kyle: the name sounded very familiar I wasn't sure

Coach Jeff Carrero: well he was he was a coach to the eater for a by city soccer yeah last year he won the Golden Apple at Northside yeah and everything and so actually you had two Smith station people win bi city the varsity boys soccer coach of the year you know you want it for Northside

Kyle: you'll still let it count

Coach Jeff Carrero: still counts in my book cause he's one of our babies come over I'll retire your assistant you know I think Muscogee County's realized his value and everything in ages yeah they're treating him right which is great yeah which is good for him I said you know soccer in a way is different from the other sports also that you can quit playing high school but that's not your last game right unlike with football that's of players sometimes that's a those guys last last game you know in baseball that's a lot of those guys last baseball game they may go play softball right yes a softball league or something right but in soccer there's adult leagues all over the place and competitive you know even if you go to Auburn you know you can join their intramural soccer team which is competitive and they can travel all over southeast playing soccer you know you can go play somewhere else and play competitive you know have a great time

Keith: before I move on to the next thing I wanted I want to I just asked so I want to ask a little bit about the mechanics of play you know because I draw plays and all that kind of stuff but then I watch you know I'll watch some SEC soccer every once in a while and it just seems like organized chaos I'm sure that my perception is wrong how did you draw up plays how does it how does it work

Coach Jeff Carrero: your perception is 100% right okay it's organized chaos

Keith: okay I was expecting you to go you idiot

Coach Jeff Carrero: hundred percent right you know you have your your forwards guys that primary score then you have your midfielders who can pretty much supposed to control the mid part of the field then you have your defenders and then you have your goalkeeper okay all right you you you know you have a goalkeepers responsible keeping the ball off the net ins control the 18-yard box and you have your defenders who responsible for picking up people that are trying to attack with the ball their first their first and primary job is to defend their secondary role is to support to the TAC and to push up as we call it so they be we want to have soccer as a game of numbers if I can transition the ball quicker up than you can and before you know it we're playing 3d to where I have three in um - I'll have one open

man and I'll be able to get a shot off in a goal right okay so objective right now and the day's soccer is to counter-attack and that means transition quickly to offense and get the ball where I can have numbers

Kyle: you can catch them off-balance

Coach Jeff Carrero: catch them off-balance I'll catch them off-balance so then you have your midfielders whose job is to bring the ball up and also score and also draw back in the fin they work harder they put the most mileage on the field cuz they're gonna they're pretty much going the whole field right then you have the forwards whose job is pretty much hanging around the center of the field waiting for an attack to develop and once it develops they are involved in the play yeah and everybody has certain areas that they cover the zones that they are responsible for covering and everything and you just it's just shifting with the ball moving with the ball as the ball goes you shift right or you shift left no ball going up you push up you know so you can be a soccer for high schools a little bit different even college a little bit different from the pros because the players are not as strong right so I know some things a lot of these high school kids cannot kick the ball 65 yards across the field like you see in a profile on the sidelines well that's not gonna happen right so I know if the ball is all the way on my sideline over here I expect my player to cheat over 10 15 yards over here didn't use report to help support but also be within range if he tries to cross the ball that's about as far as I've always gonna kick I'll be there for and we need to be an all the way out here right even that space open let's close the space to close the field down yeah you know so it changed it a little bit for that but it is organized chaos there are set plays and that if you listen to the world cup commentators are all watch any games they're surprised on the amount of quote set plays except played soccers when the ball is stopped for penalty or goes out of bounds for whatever reason ok alright and that is we're thinking of American football and even basketball comes in because I've thought of this a couple of years ago started integrating it with soccer because bigger advantage if ball is stopped I want my players in a certain position everybody has a certain role everybody knows what they're gonna do whereas before in soccer everybody would just line up like an a-line and everybody just go for it yeah this now with my teams they have areas that they go to we have we have now watch England play we play saw how England does their corner kicks integrating that into how they we're gonna do our corner kicks and we're to England get their thoughts on their corner kicks from American basketball when if you ever watched basketball you ever see like you balls out of bounds underneath the basket and all the basketball players are like getting that straight line and the guy will go hit the ball everybody goes along turns out to certain area that's exactly what I'm doing with my corner kids really well because it is hard to mark yeah they keep up you know they're not even have more space whereas basketball oh yeah maybe 10 feet 12 feet right I'm look you're looking at I got 12 yards to work with where my guys are going to space uh-huh it's great yeah so we're integrating that to our other corner kicks and give ourselves more opportunity to score

Keith: it's great

Kyle: yeah American football you know they have a play they run they run the play then they're done with it it feels like soccer players to be good soccer players think more on their feet you know

Coach Jeff Carrero: yep you have opportunity creative yeah but there you know there are limits so with sure yeah yeah I know everybody has their roles but you have opportunity to be creative and do things and



Keith: and football you know the coaches they swapped film and there's film study and stuff so is there any value to that for whatever you're preparing for a game

Coach Jeff Carrero: you know we've never had the money for that yeah we've never had that I eat a ton blueberries so I can have some memory okay I pretty much replay games in my mind give my little notepad and I'll scratch down notes you know like right after the game and just try and go off memory and talk to my players about the game we're looking at getting some video assistants but then to me it would be something I would use I don't think I've shared too much with my players yeah because I would rather have them spend more time touching the ball right now then watching a video sure yeah and stuff but I can tell them what they're doing wrong then if I have to prove a point I'll definitely whip it out okay here's a video this is what we discussed this how it went down is how we got to improve right you know there is there is value to it you know we've never had the resources for that

Keith: so like you'll watch you know you got a gaming a central you don't watch film of their games because every game is different there's no value of that

Coach Jeff Carrero: well every I want you to get ready for me I ain't gonna get ready for you I want my team's be good enough that we're coming on the field you made adjustments for us yeah we're taking you out of your comfort zone we're gonna we're gonna do what we can do best over and over and over again within five minutes we know exactly who your studs are right we know exactly how you're playing and if you hadn't scored us in five minutes then we've already made our adjustments and game on Kyle: closed any gaps

Coach Jeff Carrero: closed any gaps that we've had on the start you know you can tell them warm-ups who they're either guys you know you can see them they stand out you know like Cristiano Ronaldo you know stands out like a sore thumb Portugal and was real madrid not gonna need that des stands out you know he's a stud Messi you know he's the stud just the way he carries himself walks around Suarez you know he's a stud you know Harry King England you know you just see it booming and another thing is my players know a lot of these guys cuz they play Club ball with them and against him so they'll come tell me they'll say coach this guy from Prattville you know we gotta watch this guy this guy and this guy from Prattville then we'll let's listen let's talk about it you know we know what their players can do you know so when we play Prattville we knew never swatch the film or anything knew all about their midfielders yeah all that Intel and layers and then my players were already confident saying but we can handle it because we've played against them play with the I played with these guys I'll play these guys you know Stanhope Elmore you know we've had guys interact with them on club level bases so he knows Stanhope Elmore I knew about them even before we play em you know so I mean really video at this level it'd be nice but it is a perk

Kyle: well yeah in luxury and luxury it sounds like the video is great for the football teams because they are not as interwoven after the season as your guys are you

Coach Jeff Carrero: well also football you know they're learning plays

Keith: yeah that's where organized chaos has a requirement

Coach Jeff Carrero: you're picking on you know you never know what some of these boys are thinking good day bad day sure no arguing with the mom argument with dad fall out with a bad grade sure had his girlfriend you know that the thought process that these players this age you know you know you a

player can change and grow an inch or two from the time and start working out in october/november art to you know February March you know they have six month growth spurt you know be a different human being yeah you know so I was like okay Wow so it's it's hard I think as we progress when we get better I think we're gonna start watching more video yeah I think trying to do a couple of times this year but isn't if I don't I'm not stressing about it yeah

Keith: well so speaking of getting better last school year your team won the first area championship in program history right yes so congratulations resolution well you know when I saw they come across the Twitter feed I was excited for y'all so what was that magic of that team and hey how many starters do you get to bring back and how are you gonna carry that magic through this to this season

Coach Jeff Carrero: well there really was not much magic there

Keith: organized chaos and all

Coach Jeff Carrero: yeah

Kyle: the magic of hard work

Coach Jeff Carrero: let me tell ya a lot of these players we had success you know it for a longest time I didn't get an opportunity to be a varsity coach so the biggest thing I did was I brought up the past let's listen these are the same guys that you beat you know three years ago some of you beat them two years ago never lost you know inside there's no reason why we can't beat them again right this is there's no magic bullet to it it's like build up their confidence let them understand that they are winners they are champions then they need to play up to expectations right you know and there are several players hadn't played for me like for three or four years and it's just like I had to reel them in and get them to play as a team because a lot of them on you know and that's like I said that's what I feel my biggest job is I'm bringing players back together after being the part you know they weren't meshing right you know you could have guys that like if I feel like you're not worthy to play with I'll never pass you the ball and it almost becomes a game within a game where you see three or four players doing everything we're trying to do everything and everybody else is standing around right you know and

Keith: how do you combat that

Coach Jeff Carrero: I was a dictator it's my way or you go you're not playing you know and and they some of them a lot of them knew it from previous experience up you know I meant what I said yeah you know I can if I'm gonna lose I'll lose without you right lose with you we're gonna lose my way I'm not gonna lose your way right so you know we had a few lectures a lot of lectures and but once we started winning you know winning cures a lot of ills it does yeah and gets everybody believing yeah and that's the biggest thing said when you step on the field we can win we expect to win and it kills us that you know we're area champs we beat Auburn beat central and Auburn wins state in my my principal reminds me of that all the time I tell them I said well you don't Nick Saban says it's hard to win the SEC than the national championship yeah yeah sure gives more national championships than SEC Championships yeah so but you guys start somewhere and we got beat everybody in our backyard that's that's big that'll be this that's big yeah for us to win because we were always second or third place but we were in a big region enterprise and North you and Dothan and Auburn and central in Opelika and everything we finished second or third place you know never old felt like olds the bridesmaid right and even though we only have two players in our area we still never did it for the past four years since they

made this change five years so it's great actually to break that glass ceiling yeah say yeah we're their area champs right this is our area we're excited about it and I expect the same this year yeah you know we are we are we are reloading we're not rebuilding we are reloading I got probably three the best defenders I've ever had one group you know known them since they was in seventh grade and got the pictures where I used to be taller than them now they're all at all six-two six-three one of my pics right at 6-foot they've got a great goalkeeper even though I lost all-state goalkeeper and he signed with Emmanuel I was going there to play goalkeeper this year got a young man will blade of who was hurt last year expect him to get healthy and not miss a beat and goal and with that I'll be able to change my my organized chaos a little bit my shade yeah and I'm trying to put more pressure up top yeah to score more goals and by scoring more goals I've put more pressure on them they'll have to drop back and right take more pressure off us and you know just really just go with it have the numbers

Kyle: that brings up a question you know you're you know we've asked we've talked to other people you're not able to recruit like any of the college level things how do you get the the quality people that you have play with

Coach Jeff Carrero: well you develop them a lot of these kids have been with us for six years now Wow I started seventh grade and you cultivate them and then you retain them you know it's just not recruiting is this retention right but also when you win I've been lucky enough to have several military families move in with their kids you know and they chose Smith station soccer over Central you know over one would because we had a pretty much a good yeah soccer program winning tradition yeah real excited down sizes I've also had a couple of them after two three years now they've got looking starry-eyed man he's gonna be a stud even you know I've got his order to transfer and you know we're moving it's like ah so it's a double-edged sword yeah

Keith: are you ever tempted to go to the parent file or just give me temporary guardianship for this season

Kyle: you had mentioned Coach Saban saying something earlier when we we interviewed early on Coach Glisson and he said he went somewhere one time you'll remember it better than I will but he went somewhere and they talked about how hard of a job it is being a high school coach because you've got

Keith: that was Gus Malzahn that said that

Kyle: it was excuse me so tell the story then

Keith: you know Gus Malzahn said that the high school coaches have a harder job than he does because they have to take the talent that's available to you and mold it into the great team that you have that you

Kyle: when he gets people who won't apply they already know all their stuff they already had their yeah they've been cultivated yeah yeah

Coach Jeff Carrero: and that's something I learned from Jim creek the first coach because he said Jeff says I'm not trying to knock you down or anything says you're still my assistant barsa coach said but you need to coach the junior high team and it's just like I said well you know because if you get them ready there then how much I got to do because they're gonna be ready to go right and that's where this this thing of me I got used to just building the players getting them ready you know running them weeding

out the ones I don't want to participate bringing up doing all this stuff and doing them and then also not see it all just go there right nothing you know and then a lot of players not who I thought should have gone to college never went to college or played and it was just killing me inside yeah there's nothing I could do right no but that's what I'm gonna try and change you know winning will bring college coaches you know will bring more attention to the program yeah and that's what we got to do well I have success next year you you don't know what's gonna happen

Kyle: sure you know as long as you prepare yourself with no words

Coach Jeff Carrero: we're preparing for success I'm looking at the kids I have on paper I look great but I never know what these kids are gonna do because a lot of times their best seasons their junior year and that's that's got to change too yeah because all sudden there's as a senior that I got all seems like the seniors have all the senior stuff they got to do and I want to do this my last year I want to do this come a ton of the distractions and then there there are a lot of the seniors don't even play Club ball their final year because they said I can't you know I really don't have time for it I'm going to do this I want to do that and I tell them and I preach them I said you know guys it's been what 40 years since I've been in high school I don't remember girlfriend's names I remember uh

Keith: sorry ladies

Coach Jeff Carrero: girls girls I went to the prom with or whatever right now but I remember my coaches I remember my teammates those are the memories that you're gonna win in asset and when you're winning you remember even more yeah

Keith: let's let's get away a little bit from the game and just to the player management cuz you're dealing with kids from 7th to 12th grade so I mean we're talking like 12 so their brains are still cooking they're still there they're still capable of making poor decisions so how do you handle when a student especially in these days with social media and all that kind of stuff they make a poor decision on that how do you handle stuff like that

Coach Jeff Carrero: I tell you I couldn't uh I would not have survived having a cell phone people videotaping me back in 70s when I went to school this dumb stuff we did it just dumb stuff and not being the malicious not hurting anybody but stupid stuff just kids doing stuff kids dude it's baby counties these kids have no sense of boundaries a lot of them and it makes it hard and one of the one of the changes I got to implement this year is that I see you do and stuff on social media you're not supposed to be doing because I tell them all I said you all are an extension of me if somebody says coach does one of your players it becomes my responsibility you are a reflection of me and my values you know not just a Smith station high school not just of you know right Harris you're involving me in this I'm suspending I'm not gonna reward that behavior I hate it and there ain't gonna be no second chances you know you go speeding down a road you go speed down the road yours percent a little speed limit then also you get caught and you get a ticket policemen's not gonna want to hear well this first time I think he knows anything right you know we all he knows are you getting your car yeah you're gonna pay the fine well you're caught you gonna pay the fine yeah but the social media is his biggest challenge I told the parents I heard last year some of the parents were very critical of players online that's gonna stop the parents parents talk talk about other players if I find out we're gonna have with the athletic director the principal one I'm come to Jesus meeting yeah and if that doesn't work then your family will pay the price which is your player because you don't have to be part of this situation I can't I can't have adults

dragging down kids especially adults that have never played and do not realize the work and effort these boys and girls yeah put during practice and during the game when they get out there you got a problem contact athletic director we'll set up a meeting we'll talk and we're gonna talk about your child and I'm going to talk about anybody else's kid we're gonna have a parent player coach contract mm-hmm we're gonna sign this year let them know this this stuff is unacceptable it won't be tolerated you know

Kyle: everyone needs to be very aware of your expectations absolutely because and you know if you're gonna cultivate a winning team you have to have everyone needs to be on the same page

Keith: so the skills that your players learn I say on the field but I think it's probably the pitch what are the skills what kind of skills are you teaching these players that they're gonna be able to carry on into their lives teamwork

Coach Jeff Carrero: well it's not all teamwork like you said everybody gonna say it's all teamwork to the hell teamwork it's uh we're trying to get social skills which is a big you know you've gone to restaurants and you've seen a table look like let's say two families getting together the three families getting together to eat all the kids have their heads down and they all pray know everybody's got the little cell phone and they're doing it and then the food comes everybody eats no communication no conversation so really social skills trying to where everybody works together and talks and communicates also try to teach some leadership skills you know trying to find leaders trying to define leaders we are going to probably have a leadership group and not exactly captains or I'll talk to them and two seniors two Juniors probably gonna add a sophomore and trying make the team more about them I'm trying to get out of being a total dictator right well I had to be this year I think field if we're gonna go that next step the players need to have more owners great work ownership gonna have like little you leadership groups who we can do to do better what they like what they don't like what their opinion is what we can do what will make them better

Keith: well I'm gonna wrap up here I'm gonna ask you one last question how much time do you spend on teaching the players how to over-exaggerate and injuries that control the yellow card against the other team

Coach Jeff Carrero: you want the truth I can't stand it but our players you know you can teach your players to fight through it and fight through it and there comes a time where there's no benefit if you you see it we're all sudden let's say I'm playing I had the ball of my feet and another guy comes and he hits me in the back mm-hmm you know and I don't fall down I'm struggling to run with the ball and also I miss kicked the ball kicked the ball out of bounds there's no penalty right now did that guy was that guy fairly plain me when he hits me in the back no no he didn't get the call cuz I never fell down on fought through I'm having one or more touches with the ball you know I lose control with it because I'm out of balance you're all out of whack yeah when you go full-speed I think that's where became prevalent where people just started falling so they would say listen this is a foul as counts this counts yeah you know and you see see see in the world we saw it so normal cut and then I'll send the dives that started everything you know I'm all my players I tell us that listen guys I love that you're hardcore right and you can you fight through it yeah you know you take the shots I said but then my guys after two three shots and no calls and nothing my guys took around they'll retaliate that's where we get in trouble so you know I'm telling us these guys you know let me help I get involved the referee and everybody says will you yell at the referee well gotta draw his attention I gotta protect my players right because here you are getting beat up and he's missing it and he's not calling it because you doesn't see you go down and

you're fighting for the ball and he thinks it's good you know players are still standing you know no blood no foul it's like dude we're getting crushed out here yeah you know sooner or later I tell my players so listen you get hit hard you gotta take it you losing control says no don't try and preserve your balance you know hit the ground yeah and especially for forwards you know the guys that are main attackers that are in the box I said listen that guy wraps you up and pulls your Jersey down you make sure you cut left to right where it's evident that he's pulling you down and you you know you're don't worry about your balance you just crumble right I'm not saying take a dive right yeah

Kyle: but don't try to hide it

Coach Jeff Carrero: don't try and hide it yeah you know you're not trying to hide it you know when they talk about the World Cup players getting possession to receive the foul I'll never do that with my guys

Kyle: what is that now explain that to us

Coach Jeff Carrero: let's say I am running at a certain angle and I see that you're coming at another angle to intercept to intercept me at the last second I change my angle into you into you just enough where you're running at full speed there is nothing you can do really to avoid me but to literally careens come into you yeah and then all said I fall down and you're getting the foul because of course you hit me from the side or the back whereas you position yourself to get to get that yeah you know they're that intelligent you know like I said you wonder why people do that stuff like what the heck

Keith: well cuz sometimes when you're watching it looks like a blade of grass hit this guy he's on the

Coach Jeff Carrero: yeah that's the dodge yeah yeah but that's what Tom and I said you think about well why did he had all this space to run over here why did he shift his angle and run to that defender together cuz they're getting the foul they want to get the power which to me is just dirty but it's so hard and so ya can't catch it in guys man look yeah the stuff with the Brazilian soccer in Colombia soccer is just so bad for soccer but then the tackling was to that other team in letting stopping it you know that was bad too yeah tackling during the set plays that we talked about my corner kicks and dragon players down where they can't jump into even do a header or play the ball and wasn't initially getting called over that was horrible that is horrible which is really taken away from the game but you have the dives of I saw it on the internet about their little six year old kids they had like the kid would like yeah one guy got he was grabbing his face and the guys slapped him on the chest and just just like the one word said this is my goat Neymar watch this and it's one of those fainting goats and he kicked the ball toward the goat and the goat take about three steps and follow

Kyle: look coach we certainly appreciate your time thank you awesome things in smiths station we just hope that you continue and we'll be listening for your season this year yeah yeah

Coach Jeff Carrero: I'm excited to be honest with you why I expect to win and we're reloading got some great seniors a great group of juniors yeah solid sophomores I had some really good success and I got some really big boys I inline I got some I'm not a small team I'm a big boy team got some big players over 6 foot tall I'm pushing them yeah and we're gonna go ahead and set plays trying get them balls on the heads knock it in the back of the net

Keith: fantastic we wish you the best of luck continue to be awesome

\*Ukulele Music\*