

News Releases

Nov. 22, 2006

Read to a Huskie

Fourth grade students from Chesebro Elementary got a special treat on Monday, Nov. 20. A short bus ride to the DeKalb Public Library brought them face to face with student athletes from Northern Illinois University.

Students from the classrooms of teachers Shawn LaPlante and Mariane Keller came armed with books to read to the Huskies. Thirteen athletes from NIU met with groups of 2-3 youngsters per athlete. The small groups helped alleviate shyness and allowed the fourth grade students and the NIU athletes to read to each other and ask questions.



A Chesebro student reads to NIU baseball player Brandon Hodge at the DeKalb Public Library while classmates listen.



Corinne Walsh, a senior volleyball player from NIU, listens intently as a Chesebro fourth grader reads.

“On Monday, the library was full of Huskies and children,” said Dee Coover, director of the DeKalb Public Library. “NIU student athletes from several sports came to the library to listen to fourth graders from Chesebro Elementary school. Each child had a favorite story to read to the athletes and the student athletes also read to the fourth graders. The athletes signed autographs and answered questions about playing sports and stressed the importance of studying hard. Everyone was smiling and listening. Each NIU Huskie had a group of two or three students to mentor and share reading. The students were each shy to start, but once the ice was broken, smiles came out and so did the questions. Thank you NIU.”

While at the library, students received a guided tour and learned how to get a library card.

The “Read to a Huskie” event is a result of a partnership between the DeKalb Public Library, DeKalb School District 428 and Northern Illinois University. It was coordinated by Coover; Sue Orem, literacy coordinator for District 428; and Ajahnae Hinley from NIU.