



Michael Lehan and Greg Scruggs demonstrating a drill themselves, focusing on teaching the campers technique during the day at Pro Football Camp.

DEFYING GRAVITY? **FORMER NFL PRO MICHAEL LEHAN**

At last year's Pro Football Camp, Michael Lehan, speaking to the campers said, "It's an inspiration for me to come back and see the young faces, because as I look at each of you, I see a reflection of myself." While Lehan was in part referring to the campers' dedication in skills and drills, he was also recognizing the campers' off-the-field character development over the course of camp. This character development occurs during Pro Football Camp's "Off the Field with the Pros" sessions, where Lehan and his fellow NFL athletes teach the campers about respect, dedication, perseverance and integrity, among other traits.

Lehan, in particular, is well suited for this type of speaking, because he is the principal at Osseo High School in Minnesota. He works with kids daily, and has developed a strong sense of how best to connect with youth, whether they are Pro Football Camp attendees or students in high school.



Michael Lehan speaking with the media at 2017 Pro Football Camp. Lehan's post-NFL career has led him to being the principal of Osseo High School in Minnesota.

However, his ability to relate to kids is not just due to his job, but also his passion for teaching and being a principal. “There’s a saying, ‘if you love what you do, you don’t work a day in your life.’ When I was playing football, I worked. Today, I don’t work. I come in because it’s my passion, it’s what I enjoy doing.” Lehan’s passion, combined with his extensive experience in teaching and coaching youth, would be sufficient to make him one of the foremost athlete coaches at Pro Football Camp, but Lehan has one other key characteristic that allows him to be even more effective in this role.

Growing up, Lehan was a foster child, and was forced to overcome the challenges accompanying that life. Specifically, he notes that his greatest fear as a foster child was the fear of being rejected. That fear was something that he carried with him over the years, even during his career as an NFL cornerback for the Cleveland Browns and the Miami Dolphins. He worked with foster care groups throughout his career, and got involved with Hope & Home, a Colorado-based foster agency because he wanted to help other foster kids be free from that fear of abandonment with his regular presence and involvement in their lives.

Ross Wright, CEO, Hope & Home said, “It’s rare that kids in foster care are able to hear directly from someone in a position of influence who was once in their shoes. Michael Lehan is such an inspiration to our kids because he can look at them and say, ‘I know how you feel. I’ve been where you are.’ It’s an incredible opportunity for kids who often feel marginalized and forgotten to know that, even though the odds are stacked against them, they can still grow up to do amazing things. Pro Football Camp gives kids the incredible opportunity to not only learn football skills, but also life skills from athletes they admire.”



Michael Lehan encouraging players at Pro Football Camp in 2017!

Lehan has worked with Hope & Home for over a decade, working with the foster children and helping to inspire them as an example of how they could overcome the same circumstances he faced as a kid. After all, Lehan beat the incredible odds stacked against him to become a NFL cornerback. He always knew that he wanted to be able to give back to kids and inspire them. His work throughout and after his NFL career reflects his dedication to helping kids overcome problems large and small, always working to inspire kids to pursue success.

Lehan's story and life highlight that every camper has a shot to make it in the NFL, and his support helps to boost their chances of making it. Though the odds of making it to the NFL are akin to defying gravity, it is worth remembering that every NFL player used to be a longshot kid too.



Michael Lehan going one-on-one with a camper in WR drills. Lehan coaches players one-on-one during drills at Pro Football Camp each year, both on- and off-the-field.