

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

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Northwestern Football Announces “Orland Park Day” *Orland Park Native Coach Pat Fitzgerald Invites Hometown*

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Saturday, September 12 Northwestern University football game against the Eastern Michigan Eagles has been designated “Orland Park Day” at Ryan Field in Evanston.

Northwestern University Football Coach Pat Fitzgerald, an Orland Park native, has invited residents of his hometown to take advantage of discounted tickets and enjoy the fanfare at the September 12 game at which Mayor Dan McLaughlin will serve as an honorary team captain.

“Orland Park is very proud of Coach Fitzgerald and all that he’s accomplished,” McLaughlin said. “Pat Fitzgerald has never forgotten his hometown and is now inviting the entire community to enjoy a day of football at Ryan Field,” the mayor added.

Fitzgerald was the featured guest at Orland Park’s Kids’ Day at the Taste of Orland Park 2009, signing autographs and posing for pictures. “People lined up to see Coach Fitzgerald during the Taste,” McLaughlin said, adding, “It was a great welcome home because Kids’ Day was held at the John Humphrey Sports Complex where Pat began his career playing youth football as an Orland Park Pioneer.”

All Orland Park residents are invited to purchase tickets for half price, \$13 per person for Big Ten football. Residents should use the code NUOPD when ordering tickets online at NUSports.com or by phone at 847-491-CATS. Standard convenience charges apply when ordering online or by phone. September 12 is also Heroes’ Day at Northwestern and all armed service and public safety officials and their families will be admitted free.

They need to show their identification at the ticket booth outside Gate J (near the south end zone) to be admitted on the day of the game.

As an honorary captain for Northwestern, McLaughlin will be on the field with the team captains for the coin toss to start the 11:00 a.m. game. Fans are invited to arrive early to enjoy the free fan fest area, Wildcat Alley with interactive games, music, food, face painting the free Goose Island Beer Garden and more.

“We had Orland Park night with the White Sox on August 5th and more than a thousand Orland Park residents came out,” McLaughlin said, adding, “We’re hoping for even better numbers for the Northwestern game when Orland Park will show how very proud we are of one of our own --- Coach Pat Fitzgerald.”