



MATRIX SPORTS ACADEMY

A Letter from Coach Ike

March 25th, 2026

When I first heard that the state of Maryland had officially sanctioned girls flag football, I'll be honest—it hit me personally. As a dad of a teenage daughter, I immediately thought about how many girls have grown up around this game... watching their brothers play, watching games on TV with their dads... but never really being given the chance to step out there themselves. Now, they finally can, and I knew right away I wanted to be part of that.

I started small, with a few free clinics focused on skill development for girls who were ready to learn the game. But what I saw in those sessions stuck with me. The focus, the energy, and the way these young women showed up ready to work, compete, and learn something new—it was different. You could feel that this was bigger than just football. It was an opportunity. And that's really how Matrix Sports Academy began.

From there, we partnered with NFL FLAG and launched our first season, welcoming 87 girls who set the tone from day one. In that first season alone, 26 athletes earned All-County or All-Division honors, one athlete was named a U.S. Army All-American, and now we're seeing girls from our program continue on to play at the collegiate level. That's something I don't take lightly.

But if I'm being real with you, that's not even the part I'm most proud of. What stands out to me is who these young women are becoming. They're showing up for their communities, leading, supporting each other, and growing in confidence—not just as athletes, but as people. And that's what we care about most.

That's also why we're continuing to grow the right way. This year, we're launching a pilot program focused on the mental health and development of our athletes, because we know the game is only one part of their journey. Our responsibility is to support the whole athlete. At Matrix, we are intentional about developing confident, resilient, and well-rounded young women on and off the field.

Our goal is simple: to create real opportunities for these young women to go as far as they want in this sport, including playing at the collegiate level and earning scholarships.

One of my proudest moments so far has been seeing Matrix Sports Academy recognized as a Top Three Finalist for Rookie League of the Year at the NFL Flag Summit in Orlando. That

recognition means a lot, but more than anything, it reflects the work these athletes are putting in and the community we're building together.

We're just getting started. If you're an athlete, a parent, or someone who believes in creating more opportunities for young women in sports, there's a place for you here. We're building something special, and we'd love for you to be part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Isaac Williams
CEO, Matrix Sports Academy