

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SWAT TEAM BRINGS NTOA'S PFQ CHALLENGE TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

BY RYAN STRECK

In an unprecedented event that brought together local law enforcement and athletic prowess, the Saint Charles County (MO) Regional SWAT Team challenged high school football teams with the NTOA's intense SWAT Physical Fitness Qualification test showdown, leaving spectators in awe of the displays of strength, endurance and teamwork.

The extraordinary event took place with teams from three different high schools: the Troy Trojans, Wentzville Liberty Eagles, and the 2022 Missouri state champs, the Francis Howell Vikings. The high schools' state-of-the-art training facilities provided the perfect backdrop for the thrilling face-off. The idea behind the challenge was to promote community engagement and foster positive relationships between the police force and the younger generation while emphasizing the importance of physical fitness and teamwork.

NTOA'S PFO



CHALLENGE



The Saint Charles County Regional SWAT Team, known for their precision, discipline and dedication to protecting the community, welcomed the opportunity to showcase their abilities outside their usual crime-fighting duties. The challenge aimed to break down barriers and show a more approachable side of law enforcement while inspiring the youth to pursue active and healthy lifestyles.

On the other side of the competition, the high school football teams were eager to prove their mettle against the formidable SWAT officers. Known for their grit and passion on the football field, these young athletes relished the chance to test their skills in a different arena.

The challenge encompassed a series of physically demanding exercises, each designed to test different aspects of fitness and teamwork. The event kicked off with an

800-meter run, 400-meter walk/run with a vest, gas mask and carrying two 25-pound weights, burpees, air squats and pull-ups. All these exercises are designed to overcome various challenges that SWAT officers face in the line of duty. The energy was palpable as the teams pushed themselves to the limit, with spectators cheering on their favorite sides.

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PHYSICAL FITNESS

One of the many highlights of the event was watching the display of camaraderie and mutual respect. Members of the SWAT and high school football teams mingled between challenges, sharing experiences and words of encouragement. This interaction helped bridge the gap between law enforcement officers and the young athletes, promoting understanding and appreciation for each other's roles in the community.

After a day of intense physical challenges and camaraderie, both sides emerged victorious. The real triumph, however, was the strengthening of the bond between law enforcement and the younger generation. Many participants expressed their appreciation for the event, highlighting the positive impact it had on their perception of each other.

Team leaders Montana Stephenson and Eric Feagans, who spearheaded the initiative, expressed their gratitude to the high school football teams, coaches, and dedicated SWAT officers for their enthusiastic participation. They emphasized that events like these are crucial for building trust and understanding between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

As the sun set on the regional SWAT team vs. high school football teams challenge, it marked the beginning of a new chapter in community engagement. The shared experience of pushing physical boundaries and supporting one another has left a lasting impression on all involved, fostering a sense of unity and respect that will resonate long after the cheers have faded away.

About the author

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*Photos courtesy of
Sgt. Montana Stephenson*





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