

Rings Ordered By State Champs -- Students can be hired to earn funds for state rings

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That ringing noise you hear, may soon be the Sulphur Springs football team wearing their state championship rings.



A total of about 100 persons, including players, trainers and coaches sent of the order for the official state championship football rings in late January.

Sulphur Springs head football coach Greg Owens said they will be arriving near the end of March, after spring break.

"The prices of the rings vary based on the finish chosen," Owens said. "They had three options, they all have the same design on them with their name on it. The silver is \$255, the imitation gold is \$555 and the 10 karat gold is \$755."

He continued, "It's been a fun process, a neat deal for us. The kids are excited and impatient like everyone else. They want the rings right now."

Owens allowed any person who finished the year on the roster to order a ring. It was not based on playing time, like earning a letter in football. Owens said that students have already begun doing work in pursuit of funds to pay for the rings.

"The kids can't accept donations, but they can do work for the money toward the rings," Owens pointed out. "People in the community have asked if they can help. They can call me and arrange to hire the young men. They can call me at the high school (903) 885-2158 or e-mail me a gowens@ssisd.net"

Owens said he could arrange to have the students contact the persons interested in them doing jobs for them to earn money for the rings. The money can be paid to Owens or the checks can be written to Sulphur Springs Independent School district.

"People interested in hiring kids, should leave me a phone number and what kind of work is involved," Owens said with a laugh. "You have to remember you're not getting skilled craftsmen. But they can rake leaves, painting or digging in a flower bed. As calls come in to me then I assign them to the jobs It's really on the kid to make contact. It's part of them learning responsibility as well. I feel like the students have earned the ring, but this is how they have to do it."

Owens said some students have already done jobs for money and draw rave reviews for their work and politeness.

"Our players are ordinary kids. People see them in football uniforms and think they're big and bad," Owens said. "They're kids trying to earn some money. When they are out on these jobs, they all know how to behave and how to act. If they don't act right we will hear about it. But the reports so far have been very positive. It's a neat thing and we are appreciative of everybody who wants to help."

Owens said most of the calls he has received have been from individuals, but some businesses and churches have expressed interest in hiring the players as a way to contribute to the cause.

"The ability to get a state ring is something they will have the rest of their life. About 1,100 schools participated in football and 160,000 athletes," Owens said. "When those numbers sink in it is 'wow we're a state champion.'"