

EAGA Business Builder

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June 4th, 2019

The speaker today was Roger Linn—i9 Sports



Roger Linn is the son of an avid Dallas Cowboys fan who named his son after one of the more famous pro quarterbacks. For all you non-football followers (or if you were born after 1979), that would be Roger Staubach. Until earlier this year, we were only aware of the one famous quarterback named Roger. Now we know two. Roger Linn was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. Channeling his namesake, he played high school football—quarterback. After high school, he played two more years at Victor Valley Community College. Then, a full scholarship to play quarterback at University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.

In addition to his on the field play, Mr. Linn was a bit different from the 'usual' college quarterback in other ways too. He graduated Magna Cum Laude...and on time. But he still had to chase the allusive pro football career. Roger continued on to another level; playing six seasons in the Arena League. During that tour, he managed an impressive 74 passing and 13 running touchdowns. (Pretty comparable to Roger Staubach. True, Mr. Staubach had 153 touchdowns, but had nearly twice as long do get it done - so the annual average is just about the same). Mr. Linn finally decided to leave the arena for good after a game in Allentown, Texas. That's when he took a hefty shot in the ribs, but managed to finish the game with a collapsed lung. After that game, he mustered enough energy to pack it in for good (unless you count the games when he was a player coach for the NM Stars a couple of years ago.) These days, the 'old, retired' Roger Linn spends his spare time hunting, snowboarding, golfing, reloading, shooting archery or horseback riding. That is when he isn't working. His working time is spent, sometimes on his 19 year career as an Advanced Video Projectionist, and sometimes on his new business as a franchise owner for i9 Sports. That latter business is a youth sports organization. Children between the ages of 3 and 14 are offered an opportunity to participate in a variety of sports activities. Currently i9 offers basketball, La Crosse, football, soccer, cheer and a couple of others. Roger's group is also experimenting with a new multi-sport camp where the players get an opportunity to participate in four or five different sports in a short period of time. The goal is to provide the players a chance to get a little experience in a variety of things so that they can find out which, if any, they are really interested in. The founder of the i9 organization used nine words, all beginning with the letter 'i', to describe his intention for the entity's operation, hence "i to the 9th power"; or "i9 Sports. The words: imaginative, innovative, interactive, integrity-driven, impassioned, inspirational, instructional, insightful and inclusive. The i9 Sports plan is intended to give each child a chance to play, without unnecessary stress or pressure. Fun is the first point of emphasis. Activities basically occur only one day a week. Teams practice right before the games. To assist is the non-stressful atmosphere: There are no tryouts (teams are formed by the company staff); buddy and coach requests are permitted; sportsmanship is emphasized (for both participants and parents). Roger's company has been pretty successful. They started in 2011 with 200 athletes and 3 sports. The largest group was football, then soccer, then cheer. Their first full year, 2012, i9 Albuquerque was given the company's "Rookie of the Year" award (meaning they were best of all the new franchises started that year). In 2014 and 2015, Roger's company was awarded the Franchise of the Year & MVP Club". That award is based on membership growth during the year. In the eight years since they started, Albuquerque i9 Sports has grown substantially. They currently have about 45,000 members and about 6,000 individual athletes per year participating in the offered sports. If you have any children (or grandchildren; or acquaintances) that are between 3 and 14 years old, and are interested in getting them involved in the i9 Sports program, you can contact Roger at 505-209-2000, or you can go their website to learn about options, and signup there. Remember that Roger offers EAGA members a discount, so if you signup online, be sure to enter the code "EAGA20" when asked. Roger guarantees your athlete a fair and fun, learning experience. And you can be pretty sure that, if the sport of choice is football, the learning is likely to include a bit of teaching from one of the two pretty good quarterbacks named Roger.

- ◆ Elections for two open board member positions will be held during our meeting this coming Tuesday. If you have any questions, please contact Kit Turpen or Exec Director, Mario.
- ◆ Board members please note: The June meeting will be right after breakfast on June 11th.
- ◆ Don't forget the celebration of the lives of Mike and Barb Ferrari. Details and RSVP information noted below: "Join us in an informal gathering to honor and celebrate the lives of Mike and Barb Ferrari. Light food and bar service will be available. The gathering will take place on June 14th at 7:00PM at The View Event Center, 1550 Tramway Blvd NE. Please contact Greg Ferrari at greg.ferrri@gmail.com if you plan to attend."

Business Leads:

None noted today

Reciprocity:

Thank you to John Mead—John Thomas Jewelers for opening on his normally closed day and giving me the 100% EAGA discount when replacing my watch battery.

- Jack Zipper

Thankyou to Pat Maloy—Maloy Mobile Storage for the use of ramps for our playground relocation project.

Thankyou to Damian Pascetti—Pascetti Steel for the lead on resurfacing playground equipment.

Thank you to Kit Turpen—HUB Insurance for a great rate on student accident insurance.

- Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America

Badge Board Greeters

June 11th	Scott Peck—MP Group
June 18th	Terry Roberts—Rocky Mountain RV & Marine
June 25th	Kevin Lorenzen—Aflac
July 2nd	No Meeting Fourth of July Holiday
July 9th	Tim Baca—Kangen Water
July 16th	Kale Isaacson—Fyzical Albuquerque
July 23rd	Miguel Mendoza—Perfection Pools and Spas
July 30th	John Baerman—Susie N Cleaners and Alterations

Upcoming Speakers

June 11th	Guest Speaker Bobby Ehrig—New Mexico Veterans Integration Center
June 18th	Manny Ortega—Ortega Appliance Service
June 25th	Mark Abramson—Los Ranchos Gun Shop
July 2nd	No Meeting Fourth of July Holiday
July 9th	Kevin Lorenzen—Aflac
July 16th	Laurence Saban—AED One-Stop Shops
July 23rd	Jack Thompson—Legacy Mortgage
July 30th	

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez
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