

The next Gulf Coast Athletic Club meeting is Monday, Nov 7.

Inky Johnson, former Tennessee football player and author of the book "Inky Johnson: An Amazing Story of Faith and Perseverance," will be our special guest speaker.

Please RSVP as soon as you can.

Former Tennessee defensive back Inquoris "Inky" Johnson was one of the most popular student-athletes in recent school history. He played defensive back at Tennessee from 2004-06 and seemed destined for the riches and glory of the National Football League. Inky's future was dramatically altered late in the fourth quarter in the game against the Air Force Academy in 2006 when he suffered a severe shoulder injury that threatened and ultimately altered his life and ended his dream of NFL stardom.

Through it all, though, Inky never gave up hope or faith.

After his injury, Johnson continued to work in various roles within the UT athletic department while he finished his bachelor's degree and then earned a master's degree in sports psychology. It was through this involvement in the athletic program that Johnson first became aware of JustLead, the flagship program of Emerald Youth Foundation, a nonprofit ministry for youth in inner-city Knoxville. Johnson said he was drawn to the organization's unity of purpose. "All of us have one common purpose and one common goal, to build up strong Christian leaders in the community," said Johnson. "That's something that I wanted to be a part of." Instead of an NFL career, Johnson became the program's sports and health coordinator.

Now, Johnson oversees activities for more than 500 of the approximately 1,200 children involved in JustLead programs every year. His job entails everything from gathering and implementing the latest research on health and sports activities, to visiting schools during the day to spend one-on-one time with individual kids. "Basically, I just go and try to show them that somebody cares about them," said Johnson. "

These days, Inky is also an author telling his story of overcoming adversity in his book "Inky Johnson: An Amazing Story of Faith and Perseverance," a story that anyone would enjoy reading.

Mark your calendar and join us for another great meeting.

More information about GCAC can be found at GCAC's new website: www.gcathleticclub.com

Iron Bowl Tickets Raffle: Time is running out to purchase your raffle ticket for a chance to win 2 tickets to this year's Alabama vs. Auburn Iron Bowl. This year's game will be in Auburn. A maximum of 100 raffle tickets will be sold on a "first come-first serve" basis and will be \$30 for 1 raffle ticket or \$50 for 2. You do not have to be present to win and you do not have to be an Alabama or Auburn fan to participate. If you do not want to use tickets, there are plenty of people that would want them. Contact Fred Dickinson, 975-1500, email fdickinson@gulftel.com to purchase. Winner will be chosen at this Nov 7th meeting. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help continue the support and scholarships to Gulf Shores High School Athletics.

Membership dues for GCAC will continue at \$200 for the season and include social time, dinner, team reports and entertaining speakers at each meeting. All dinner meetings begin at 6PM and will continue at Craft Farms Clubhouse. Guests or prospective new members are welcome for guest fee of \$25 which can be applied to dues should you join GCAC.

Following is a meeting schedule for the season with speakers as currently available:

Nov 21-- Dr Gaylon McCollough-- "Coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant: Grandmaster of Mind over Matter"

Jan 23--Coach Larry Fedora--Head Football coach-University of Southern Miss.

Spring Golf Tournament

Please RSVP to: dec.mcclelland@edwardjones.com , 251-968-9010 or Fred Dickinson, fdickinson@gulftel.com , 251-975-1500 .