

# A helping hand to fulfill college dream

*A preparation program is aiding Camden High's Daiguan Causey in reaching his goals.*



ELIZABETH ROBERTSON / Suburban Staff

**"College is something I always wanted to do,"** says Daiguan Causey, an honors student who hopes to play pro football.

By **Bill Iezzi**  
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

While his friends sleep in on these lazy summer mornings, Daiguan Causey is usually up at 5:30 a.m.

While his friends enjoy dinner at home and hanging out with one another, Causey doesn't even arrive home until 9 p.m.

Causey, a Camden High School football player, has another agenda. Struggling to break free of what negative forces prevail in his neighborhood, Causey is working year-round toward graduating from high school, attending college, and becoming a professional football

player.

His launching pad is the Upward Bound program. A student with a 4.2 grade point average, Causey sees education as a way up. And so do 97 other students with whom he has given up five weeks of vacation to attend a sort of college-prep boot camp called the Upward Bound Academy at Camden County College in Blackwood.

It's not easy.

The alarm awakens Causey at 5:30 Monday through Thursday so he can make a 7 a.m. bus to Blackwood. Between 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., the junior attends classes that will help him prepare for the

coming school year as well as the Scholastic Assessment Test.

Afterward, Causey takes a bus to Camden High for four hours of football practice before returning home.

A guard and defensive tackle on Camden High's varsity, Causey, 16, will likely add height and weight to his 5-foot-11, 250-pound body. If he continues to hone the skills necessary to be a good lineman, things could fall into place for the honors student, an Upward Bound member since his freshman year.

When he and other athletes, who See **UPWARD BOUND** on D8