

The National Football Foundation CHAPTER NETWORK



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Building Leaders Through Football

CHAPTER PLAY-BY-PLAY



1995 Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George

Heisman Trophy winner **Eddie George** from Ohio State will be honored as the 2005 recipient of the Ohio Gold Award at a Feb. 8 banquet sponsored by the **Columbus Chapter**. Recent recipients of the award include **Chris Spielman**, **Jim Tressel** and **Andy Geiger**. The event, the chapter's 45th annual scholar-athlete awards banquet, will also feature the awarding of the **John H. McConnell** Scholarships.

"Knowing Eddie since his freshman year at Ohio State, it's been nothing but awesome watching him grow and develop into a wonderful human being," said **Larry Romanoff**, president of the Columbus Chapter. "He is one of the great representatives of the impact of the college football experience. We are excited to honor him and especially to add him to a prestigious list of Ohio Gold Award honorees."

The **Mississippi State (Starkville) Chapter** paid tribute to the **Miss-Lou Chapter** by honoring Miss-Lou Chapter President **Joe Fortunato** with the Starkville Distinguished American Award, which was presented during halftime of the MSU vs. Ole Miss game. Fortunato
(Continued on page 2)

Riverside Chapter President Receives Prestigious Award

The *Press-Enterprise* newspaper named **Bob Burt**, the **Riverside (Calif.) Chapter** President, its Sports Person of the Year for 2005. An athletic director for two high schools, Burt helped launch the Riverside Chapter three years ago, and his efforts as the leader of the chapter contributed to his selection.



Bob Burt with 2005 National High School Scholar-Athlete David M. Miller

"His devotion to all students and his busy year that touched many lives lifted him above a field of outstanding candidates," the paper wrote in a 950-word feature story, which touted his many contributions to the region.

Helping a community in transition, Burt felt an obligation to take on the role of athletics director at the newly-launched Lakeside High School when many of the students and coaches transferred from Temescal Canyon High School. The circumstances created the unusual situation of him being an athletics director in two locations.

Burt's work led to the selection of **David M. Miller**, one of the Riverside Chapter's scholar-athletes, as one of the four National High School Scholar-Athletes.

"I just really believe in the scholar-athlete program," Burt told the paper. "For me it's a labor of love."

In the article, Sharon Miller praised Burt and his efforts to honor her son, noting that Burt helped arrange sponsors to subsidize her trip to New York City for the event.

Burt, a native of San Pedro, Calif. and a graduate of Cal State Los Angeles, began coaching at the high school level and later served as an assistant at UCLA, Hawaii and Cal State Fullerton and head coach at the discontinued Cal State Northridge program. Among his many community activities, Burt trains counselors and police officers in suicide prevention.



Hall of Famers Honored at Fiesta Bowl

Cornelius Bennett, **Mark May**, **John Huarte** and **Roosevelt Leaks**, members of the 2005 College Football Hall of Fame Class, participate in a media Q&A during a pre-game event prior to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. 2005 marked the beginning of a new tradition where each year the Bowl will showcase the most recent College Football Hall of Fame class. **The Valley of the Sun Chapter** played a key role in hosting the Hall of Famers during their visit to the Grand Canyon State.

(Continued from page 1)

played two seasons with Mississippi State and was an All-America selection in 1951. He also recently traveled to Atlanta to be



Joe Fortunato

honored as one of the 12 members of the 2005 class of "Legends of SEC Football" during the Southeastern Conference Championship weekend. 2005 Hall of Famer **Cornelius Bennett**, Alabama 1983-86, was also honored as a member of the class.

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter has teamed with the Anthony Muñoz Foundation, which will present its 2006 Offensive Lineman and Defensive Lineman of the Year Awards presented by Old Spice at the chapter's Feb. 16 scholar-athlete banquet. The awards recognize the top high school linemen in the Tri-State region of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.



Anthony Muñoz

The Wyoming Chapter added 70 new members, including 58 three-



Knoxville Chapter Funds "Special Spectators" Visit

The Knoxville Chapter sponsored a "Special Spectators" visit during the Nov. 19 UT-Vanderbilt game, bringing kids from East Tennessee Children's Hospital and UT Medical Center to Neyland Stadium for all of the day's activities and traditions. Special Spectators, a national non-profit organization, creates a fun-filled day for seriously ill children surrounded by a college-sporting event.

Under the leadership of Chapter President **Dick Williams**, the chapter boasts a busy agenda, including an NFL/NFF Coaching Academy, Play It Smart, its award luncheon, a golf tournament and its scholar-athlete banquet.

Don't forget to send photos, announcements and event descriptions to news@footballfoundation.com.

year memberships, to its rolls since Nov. 1, bringing their total to 540 members. The bump came from a direct mail and phone bank effort targeted at attendees of the chapter's most recent banquet, past adult award winners, former members, former scholar-athletes, parents of scholar-athletes, members of related Wyoming community organizations, and 27 current players from the University of Wyoming football team. Please email Chapter President **Mike Schutte** at MShootee@starband.net or call him at 970-484-2797 for sample letters and forms used in this most recent campaign.

The Vermont Chapter held its fifth annual Vermont High School Senior Bowl with 91 players making up the North-South All-Star squads. The November game took place at Middlebury College's Alumni Stadium with representatives from

each of the state's 33 varsity football programs. Proceeds from the game support the chapter's scholarship program. Under the leadership of Chapter President **Mickey Heinecken**, the All-Star game rounds out an active agenda for the chapter,



Commonwealth Chapter Honors Local Official

During the 5th Annual East Coast Bowl, the **Commonwealth Chapter** paid a special salute to **Russell L. Bland**, who has been a fixture for the past fifty years as an official in the Petersburg, Va. area. The chapter honored him for both his longevity and his standards of fairness and leadership in the field of officiating. Bland officiated many historic games during his tenure, including the T.C. Williams and William Fleming High School game immortalized in the movie *Remember the Titans*. "I was deeply honored," Bland told the Richmond Free Press. "It's good to get your roses while you're living."

including an NFL/NFF Coaching Academy, Play It Smart, a golf tournament and its annual banquet.

The Mid-Michigan Chapter, in conjunction with the *Detroit Free Press*, hosted an All-State Dream Team Football Awards Banquet on Dec. 15. Chapter member and Central Michigan University Athletics Director **Herb Deromedi** received the



Herb Deromedi

Joseph H. Carey Distinguished American Award and former Chippewa player **Kevin Egnatuk** took home the **Hal Schram** Award. Deromedi retired on Jan. 15.