

The National Football Foundation CHAPTER NETWORK



Vol. 2, Issue 12 June 28, 2006

Building Leaders Through Football



Coach Don Nehlen receives his Hall of Fame plaque at the 48th Annual Awards Dinner

Nehlen spent 21 years at WVU, guiding the Mountaineers to two undefeated regular seasons and 13 bowl game appearances. Named National Coach of the Year in 1988, he became the 17th coach in NCAA Division I-A history to record 200 wins.

The West Virginia Chapter officially changed its name to the **Don Nehlen West Virginia Chapter** at its annual banquet June 17. The name change honors West Virginia University coaching legend **Don Nehlen**, who received induction into the College Football Hall of Fame last year.

“Coach Nehlen truly represents the mission and values of our organization,” said Chapter President Paul Moran in regards to the name change.

CHAPTER PLAY-BY-PLAY

Six hundred and sixty one people showed up to honor some of Missouri’s best student-athletes at the **St. Louis/Tom Lombardo Chapter Banquet** on May 7. Over \$21,000 in awards and scholarships were given to deserving collegiate and high school scholar-athletes, youth

Johnston. “It’s our hope that we get some new names into circulation with recruiters nationally. There are kids here today who will be extended scholarship offers based on what these schools have seen from them this afternoon.”

Twenty-seven universities and colleges attended the combine, including Southern Cal, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, UTEP, Idaho, Boise State, Wyoming and Nevada.



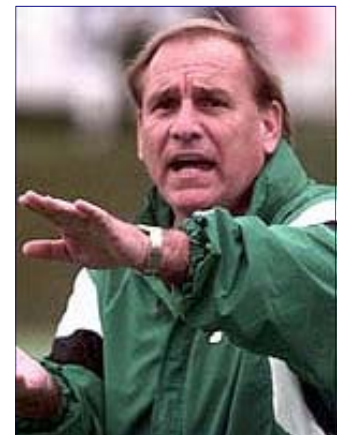
Coach Larry Kindbom

leagues, leadership award winners and the Missouri State Athletic Association. Washington University in St. Louis Head Football Coach **Larry Kindbom** helped emcee the event held at the university’s field house.

The **San Bernardino County Chapter** held its first recruiting combine on May 9 where over 200 players from 43 area high schools participated in the day’s events. This marked the first time in the county’s history local kids did not have to travel to other cities like Los Angeles and San Diego to partake in combines.

“The universities who are here today know the kids they want to look at already,” said San Bernardino County Chapter President **Jeffrey**

The Middle Georgia Chapter held its annual banquet on May 11 at the Healy Point Country Club. One high school varsity player from each public and private school in the seven-county area surrounding Macon, Ga. accepted honors as well as a player from Fort Valley State. **Bob Pruett**, former head football coach at Marshall University, served as the featured speaker. Under Pruett’s leadership, the Thundering Herd boasted two undefeated seasons, five Mid-American Conference championships, and five bowl game victories in seven appearances.



Bob Pruett



Chapter President the Honorable Dave Harrison, Chapter Executive Director Jack Grinold, the Contribution to Amateur Football Award recipient Peter Yetten, and NFF Northeast Regional Coordinator Howie Vandersea.

The **Eastern Massachusetts Chapter** honored 22 high school scholar-athletes May 8. The chapter also presented **Bob Bancroft**, who coached 26 years and served 19 years as an athletics director, its Ron Burton Distinguished American Award. Coach **Peter Yetten**, who compiled a 207-67-2 record during 27-season career, claimed the chapter’s Contribution to Amateur Football Award.

The Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals and St. Louis Rams recently held Coaching Academies in their respective cities. All three Academies had approximately 200 coaches in attendance.

Chicago Chapter President **Chris Kearney** reports that Bears coach **Lovie Smith** and his entire staff served as clinicians for their inaugural Academy, and former Bears **Bobby Douglass** and **Glen Kozlowski** spoke at the event. The event raised more than \$7,000 for the chapter.

Bengals Head Coach **Marvin Lewis**, his coaching staff and members of the Marvin Lewis Community Fund staff participated in the Cincinnati Academy. **Ricky Hunley**, Bengals linebacker coach and 1997 Hall of Fame inductee, served as the event's emcee.

St. Louis/Tom Lombardo Chapter President **Bob Bunton**, with help from the St. Louis Rams and Washington University in St. Louis, held one of the few two-day NFL/NFF Coaching Academies in the country. Bears Head Coach **Larry Kindbom** served as a clinician, and **Michael Yarbrough**, the Rams director of community relations, played a key role in academy's success.



Mike Leach

The Touchdown Club of Houston Chapter held a luncheon June 8, inviting Texas Tech Head Coach **Mike Leach** as the keynote speaker. Leach, now in his sixth season at Tech, spoke about football and his personal philosophies.

Also serving as his team's quarterback coach, Leach has changed the face of Texas Tech football, breaking over 150 individual and team records in his five years with the Red Raiders. Last year he led Tech to its third straight NCAA Passing Title and its second straight NCAA Total Offense Title. Leach, a former assistant at Oklahoma, is the only Tech coach in history to lead each of his first five teams to bowl games.

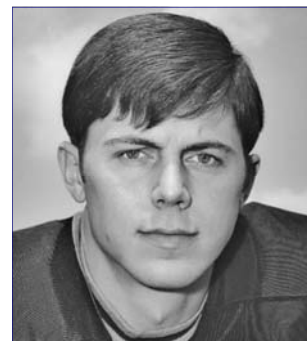
Steve Schubert, managing partner for the Arenafootball2's (af2) Manchester Wolves and former wide receiver for the New

England Patriots and Chicago Bears, claimed the **Joe Yukica Chapter's** Distinguished American Award at a May 9 banquet. Schubert earned All-America honors in 1972 while playing for the University of Massachusetts. The chapter also shared a moment of silence in honor of former Conway Football Coach **Gary Millen** who died just four days prior to the event.

Nearly 100 high school student-athletes attended the 5th Annual Danny DeFalco Leadership/Sportsmanship/Life Challenge Conference May 24 at Virginia State University. The conference, which is hosted by the **Commonwealth Chapter** (Va.) under the leadership of chapter president **Joe Miller**, teams high school seniors with leaders from the college ranks and the local community. The event provides the participants an opportunity to learn leadership skills while helping them develop objectives for their teams, coaches and schools.

The chapter also held its 8th Annual Hank Norton Fishing Tournament on June 6 in Deltaville, Va. The event served as a chapter fundraiser.

"Celebrating Our Legends II" provided the theme for the **Northwest Indiana Chapter's** annual honors dinner on Father's Day, which highlighted former Purdue quarterbacks **Mike Phipps** and **Drew Brees**.



Purdue's Mike Phipps

Phipps, who will receive induction into the College Football Hall of Fame on Dec. 5, was an Academic All-America and first-team All-America for the Boilermakers in 1969 and spent twelve years in the NFL.

Brees spent 1997-2000 as the signal caller for Purdue. Selected 32nd overall in the 2001 NFL Draft, Brees claimed a coveted NFF National Scholar-Athlete Award in 2000 for his on and off field performance at Purdue.



The Northern Connecticut Chapter celebrated its 40th annual awards dinner on June 4. Over 200 attended the event held at Maneley's Banquet Facility in South Windsor, Conn.



Southern Tier chapter leaders Ralph Boettger, John Goodson, Joel Wilson, Archie McNelis and Al Brunetti

Twenty-nine scholar-athletes, including two collegiate scholar-athletes, received honors at the **Southern Tier Chapter's** inaugural awards dinner on May 8 in Binghamton, N.Y. Over 150 people attended the event coordinated by **John Goodson, Ralph Boettger, Joel Wilson, Archie McNelis and Al Brunetti**. Southern Tier obtained "chapter status" last year.