

The National Football Foundation CHAPTER NETWORK



Vol. 2, Issue 2 February 6, 2006

Building Leaders Through Football

CHAPTER PLAY-BY-PLAY



Tommy Nobis, Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation; chapter president **George Morris**; **William Hackett**, scholar-athlete honoree; **Justin Gallagher**, Gallagher Electric and Engineering Company; and **Walter Wade**, vice president of the Georgia High School Association.

Greater Atlanta Chapter Pays Tribute to Scholar-Athletes

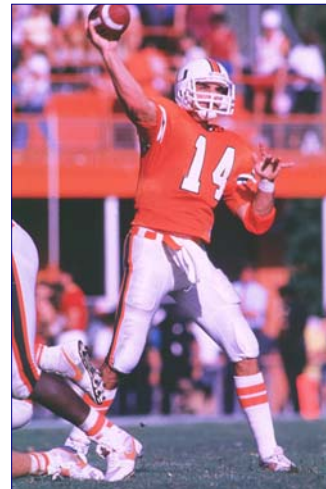
Prior to the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, where LSU dominated Miami, 40-3, **The Greater Atlanta Chapter** honored 40 Georgia high school scholar-athletes and 12 student managers on Dec. 29. Texaco Havoline, Gallagher Electric and Engineering, the Georgia High School Foundation, and the Atlanta Falcon Youth Foundation sponsored the event at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta. A total of \$53,000 was presented this year. Each honoree earned a \$1,000 scholarship, and the top scholar-athlete took home a \$2,000 check.

"This is another outstanding group of scholar-athletes from throughout the state of Georgia," said Chapter President **George Morris**, a 1981 inductee to the College Football Hall of Fame from Georgia Tech. "We are proud to add this select company, which includes student managers for the first time, to our previous winners of the last 10 years. We have been fortunate to provide nearly \$500,000 in scholarships over the years."

Award winners attended a luncheon and accepted recognition during the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl "Chalk Talk," with the players and coaches from both bowl teams in attendance.

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

Fifty high school football players accepted honors for their athletic, academic and community achievements during a Dec. 4 **Nassau County Chapter** banquet. At the same event, the chapter honored former All-Pro lineman **Ron Heller**, Miami Hurricane and New York Jets quarterback **Vinny Testaverde** and **Don Snyder**, the former football coach at Farmingdale High School, with induction into the Long Island High School Hall of Fame while members of the chapter's Golden Eleven team took home scholarships.



Vinny Testaverde

The Suffolk County Chapter honored its Golden Eleven team at a Dec. 11 banquet while recognizing Comsewogue Head Coach **Tom Cassese** for his contributions to amateur football. At the same event, NY Jet **John Schmitt**, who played in Super Bowl III, New York Giant **Jumbo Elliott**, who played in Super Bowl XXV, and Sagem High School Head Coach **Fred Fusaro** were inducted

into the Long Island High School Hall of Fame.

As the president of both chapters, **Leonard Genova** has built a network that collectively has awarded over \$160,000 in scholarships and \$10,000 to youth football organizations since 1996.



Paul Lavigne

The Joe Yukica Chapter held its annual "Huddle" last month. Speakers included Plymouth State University Panthers Coach **Paul Castonia**, St. Anselms College Assistant Coach **Paul Lavigne**, and University of New Hampshire Hall of Famer **Hank Sanders**. **Bob Mercer**, a high school official, received recognition for his service. The chapter also recognized each of the state's championship teams and several area coaches for their accomplishments during the 2005 season. The event received coverage on the 11 p.m. Channel 9 news and in the *Union Leader*.

The Valley of the Sun Chapter will hold its annual banquet on Feb. 25.

(Continued on page 2)



Chad Christensen

(Continued from page 1)

Dan Manucci, the chapter's executive director, announced Jan. 20 that **Chad Christensen**, who played quarterback, tailback, wide receiver and place holder for the Sun Devils while earning PAC-10 All-Academic honors four times, will take home the chapter's 2006 post-graduate scholarship



Dan Hawkins

Newly appointed Colorado Head Football Coach **Dan Hawkins**, formerly of Boise State, will be the featured speaker at the Feb. 13 **Colorado Chapter** annual awards banquet where 11 high school football players will be awarded \$1,000 for their accomplishments on and off the field. The chapter will also honor collegiate members of its First, Second and Honorable Mention 2005 All-Colorado Football Teams at the event.



With over 950 people in attendance, **The Portland Chapter** held its December banquet, awarding 12 outstanding student-athletes a total of \$26,500 for the seventh consecutive year. Head coaches **Mike Bellotti** of Oregon, **Mike Riley** of Oregon State and **Tim Walsh** of Portland made the presentations. San Jose State Head Coach **Dick Tomey** attended as a guest speaker.

Reed Doughty, a 2005 Draddy Finalist from Northern Colorado, will be recognized at the event as the Colorado Player of the Year. The award, sponsored by Pioneer Press, identifies the top college football player from the state at any level (I-A, I-AA, II, III and NAIA). Fort Lewis College Head Coach **Ed Rifilato** will take home Coach of the Year honors for taking the 6-4 Skyhawks to their first winning season in 21 years in just his second season at the helm.



Reed Doughty

The Corrigan/Faircloth (Greensboro) Chapter recently awarded \$24,000 to 22 scholar-athletes from the region.



Western New York Chapter Honorees, L-R: **Denny Lynch**, Buffalo Bills; **Brian Wetzler**, Erie Community College; **Mike Mikolaichik**, Buffalo State; **Aaron Sanders**, University of Buffalo; **Jeff Papia**, St. Joseph's Collegiate; **Nate Rojek**, South Park HS; **David Degan**, Lockport HS; and **Chuck Funke**, Chapter President.

Chapter President **Herb Goins** reports that **Jonathan Thrasher**, an outstanding football player at Southern Alamance High School currently attending Davidson College, received the chapter's top \$3,000 scholarship. Goins wrote that Thrasher stands as one of the chapter's most impressive award winners in its 14-year history. Over the years, the chapter has awarded \$284,000 to 264 scholar-athletes.

Chapter President **Chuck Funke** and chapter member **Denny Lynch** report that **The Western New York Chapter** held its fifth annual scholar-athlete recognition social on Dec. 12, honoring the top local high school and college players (photo above). The Buffalo Bills and the Western New York Football Officials Association sponsored the event.