

The National Football Foundation CHAPTER NETWORK



Vol. 2, Issue 8 May 18, 2006

Building Leaders Through Football

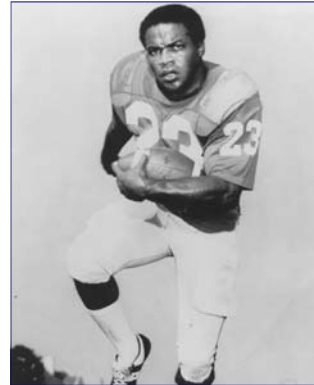
CHAPTER PLAY-BY-PLAY



Al Groh

The Eugene Corrigan-Bradley Faircloth (Greensboro, N.C.) Chapter held its annual awards dinner on May 1 at Wake Forest's Bridger Field House, adding \$28,000 to the more than \$284,000 the chapter has distributed in scholarships over the past 15 years. The Atlantic Coast Conference and the Greater Winston-Salem Sports Commission served as the event's main sponsors.

Virginia Head Coach **Al Groh** delivered the keynote speech, challenging the 26 scholar-athletes of the chapter's 2006 class to commit to continued excellence in the future. Appalachian State University Head Coach **Jerry Moore** accepted a special plaque in recognition of the Mountaineers Division I-AA National Championship. More than 300 people attended the event. **Rich Brenner**, sports director of FOX 8 WGHP-TV in Greensboro, served as the master of ceremonies. **Herb Goins**, the athletics director for the Guilford County School System, serves as the chapter's president.



Jerry LeVias

The Texas Tech (Lubbock) Chapter held its 2006 Scholar-Athlete banquet on April 17. In addition to honoring its scholar-athlete class, the chapter presented **Pete Ragus** an Outstanding Contributor to Amateur Football Award. Ragus was the first University Interscholastic League (public school) coach in Texas to win a Texas state football championship with black players on team (Class 4A Corpus Christi Miller in 1960). The chapter also honored **Jake Webb**, who officiated over 700 football games in West Texas, with its Outstanding Official Award.

Jerry LeVias, 2003 College Football Hall of Fame inductee, gave the keynote address. LeVias, a standout end from SMU 1965-68, earned the distinction as the first black scholarship football player in the Southwest Conference.

Drawing more than 375 people, the **Gene J. Casey** (New Haven, Conn.) Chapter held its 46th annual banquet April 2, honoring 27 scholar-athletes.

The chapter recognized noted author **Leigh Montville** with its Distinguished American Award. Montville, the former *Boston Globe* and *Sports Illustrated* sportswriter, has penned several books, including works on Ted Williams and Babe Ruth.



Amelia Luciano

For the first time in the chapter's history, a female football player, **Amelia Luciano**, received recognition as a scholar-athlete. Luciano, a three-year letter winner at Watertown High School, played wide receiver and linebacker, never missing a practice in 4 years. Ranking number one in her class and a member of the National Honor Society, she is also the captain of the men's swimming team as a diver and the school's long jump champion in track.

The chapter also presented a Merit Award to Cheshire Coach **Mark Ecke** and an Officials' Recognition Award to **Michael Barbaro**.

With more than 1,200 people in attendance, the **Greater Baltimore Chapter**

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Photos: (Left) Chapter President Bill Dooley and Hall of Famer Don McCauley; (Right) NC State's John Ritcher and Head Football Coach Chuck Amato.

The Triangle (Raleigh/Durham) Chapter honored 29 scholar-athletes on April 17 at a banquet held at North Carolina Central University. The chapter distributed \$25,000 in scholarships to the high school seniors while honoring several college players, including NC State's **John Ritcher**, the son of College Hall of Famer **Jim Ritcher**. Chapter President **Bill Dooley**, the legendary coach at North Carolina, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest, suffered an aneurysm immediately following the event. We are happy to report that he's recovering.

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awarded \$10,000 to its top five scholar-athletes on March 8 at its 46th Annual Banquet. The chapter covers 110 high schools, and accepted 95 nominations this year, including three students with perfect sections on their SATs, four all-county players, five who ranked first in their class, and 11 class officers. The chapter highlighted the accomplishments of all 95 nominees.

"This is an unrivaled privilege," said **Kelley Cox** to the *Baltimore Sun*. "I'm tremendously honored to be picked out of a group as distinguished as this one."

Kelley, who played defensive end/linebacker at McDonogh High School, won the chapter's top scholar-athlete award of \$4,000, which will help with his tuition at Brown University in the fall.



Western Mass banquet emcee Bob Reardon and Sean Conerly

With over 500 people in attendance, the **Western Massachusetts Chapter** held its 45th Annual Dinner April 4th at the University of Massachusetts, honoring 14 scholar-athletes and All-Star teams from Springfield and Berkshire County.

Sean Conerly, a student at the Northfield Mount Hermon School, claimed the Francis X. Keating Award for "a deserving football player who has overcome adversity."



Ralph Desantis Chapter President Christy Hayes, Gregg Sperling with wife and daughter, and chapter founder Jerry McDougall

Over 185 attended the **Ralph Desantis** (Fairfield County, Conn.) **Chapter** Banquet on April 13. The chapter presented **Gregg Sperling** its "Officials Chapter Award". Sperling, a high school football official and a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp Reserves, recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Conerly started the year in Metairie, La, but Hurricane Katrina uprooted his life with his family relocating to Atlanta. Northfield Mount Hermon provided him a scholarship to play nose tackle, and this fall, after a successful year on the gridiron and in the classroom, he will enroll at Union College. **Dr. Eric Widmer** also earned recognition for his contributions as headmaster at Deerfield Academy.

The **Bill Denny/Central Jersey Chapter** honored 24 scholar-athletes at its 38th Annual Awards Banquet on March 19. All 24 honorees received scholarships, with their top scholar-athlete earning a \$1,000 award. The chapter also recognized Rutgers's Assistant Coach **Joe Susan** as their Distinguished American.

Over 315 people attended the **Arkansas** (Fayetteville) **Chapter** annual banquet on April 15. Soliciting nominations from each of the more than 300 high schools in the state that play football, the

chapter selected 45 students for recognition this year, distributing \$6,000 to the top honorees. The chapter also presented Outstanding Official and Distinguished American Awards while recognizing each of the 2005 state championship coaches.

Under the leadership of Chapter President **Eddie Bradford**, the chapter has built a reputation as one of the strongest in the country. As the nation's largest NFF chapter, boasting over 700 members, it will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2007.

Under the leadership of Chapter President **Chris Kearney**, the **Chicago Metro Chapter** drew 140 people on April 20 for an awards ceremony recognizing six high school seniors with \$6,000 in scholarships for their excellence as student-athletes and leaders in the community.

The Voice of the Chicago Bears **Jeff Joniak** served as emcee, former Chicago Bear **Steve McMichael** took the podium

as the event's keynote speaker, and Chicago Bears Director of Community Relations **Caroline Guip** addressed the attendees about the Chicago Bears' community outreach efforts.



Steve McMichael

NFF Chapter Board Members in attendance included former NFL players **Mark Murphy** (current athletics director at Northwestern), **Dan Jiggetts** and **Brian Baschnagel** (1975 National Scholar-Athlete from Ohio State) and College Football Hall of Famers **Leroy Keyes** (Purdue) and Coach **Tom Beck**. Former Chicago Bears **Richard Dent**, **Bobby Douglass** and **Emery Moorehead** attended, as did Purdue's **Tim Stratton** (also on the Chapter Board), **John Bullock**, **Paul Maggiore**, **Rob Perry** and **Carl Allegretti**. A special thanks to **Wolfe Tone** and **Ryan O'Desky** for helping host the chapter's first banquet in six years.

EXTRA POINTS:

- Former Kansas All-American and Chicago Bears QB **Bobby Douglass** has joined the Chicago Metro Chapter's Board of Directors.
- Ohio State's **Donte Whitner**, a 2003 Northeastern Ohio Chapter scholar-athlete, was chosen as the eighth pick overall in the NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills.
- USC's **Reggie Bush**, a 2003 Walter J. Zable (San Diego) Chapter honoree, went as the #2 overall pick to the New Orleans Saints in the NFL Draft.