



NFF MINNESOTA CHAPTER

*News and notes from the chapter of
the National Football Foundation and
College Football Hall of Fame
serving the state of Minnesota*



February 2010

Two-Minute Drill

• Congratulations to the champions of Prep Bowl XXVIII:

- Cretin-Derham Hall H.S. (5A)
- Totino-Grace H.S. (4A)
- New London-Spicer H.S. (3A)
- Waterville-Elysian-Morristown H.S. (2A)
- Minneota H.S. (1A)

• The Big Ten Network and the Big Ten Conference are celebrating Black History Month with a series of features on football greats like Gopher standout and College Hall of Famer **Bobby Bell**. Visit www.bigten.org to read the feature story on Bell and other phenomenal student-athletes.

• Save the date: Our chapter's 3rd Annual "Honoring Legends-Inspiring Leaders" awards event will be held at the University of St. Thomas on **April 18**.

• Is your NFF-MN membership about to expire? Can't remember if you're signed up for a one- or three-year membership? Contact Sean (sean@nffmn.org) to review or renew your membership status.

The Play Caller

Mr. Sean Gothier
Minnesota Chapter President
sean@nffmn.org

www.nffmn.org

In the Huddle

RICH GANNON TO SPEAK AT APRIL 18 AWARDS EVENT



2002 NFL MVP Rich Gannon. The QB's 17-year career included seasons with the Vikings, Redskins, Chiefs, and Raiders.

Former NFL quarterback and 2002 NFL MVP Rich Gannon will give the keynote address at the 3rd Annual "Honoring Legends-Inspiring Leaders" awards event on April 18.

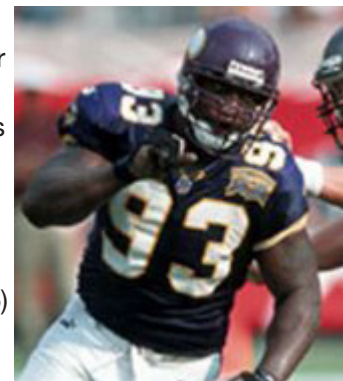
Gannon began his NFL career with the Vikings and set numerous team and league records during his 17 season tenure in the league. In 2002, Gannon led the Oakland Raiders to an AFC Championship and a

berth in Super Bowl XXXVII, which earned him NFL MVP honors.

"We are extremely excited and honored to have Rich Gannon as our featured speaker," says Chapter President Sean Gothier. "Rich embodies the mission of the National Football Foundation by the way he has demonstrated leadership, perseverance, and a competitive spirit throughout his life."

JOHN RANDLE ELECTED TO PRO H.O.F.

Already inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and the Vikings' Ring of Honor, defensive tackle and premier pass rusher John Randle has been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Randle has undoubtedly earned his trip to Canton, beginning his 14-year professional playing career as an undrafted free agent out of Texas A&I, amassing 137.5 sacks playing for the Vikings and Seahawks, and appearing in 7 Pro Bowls. The NFF-MN member and Medina, MN, resident was named All-NFL 5 times (consecutively, from 1994-1998) and led the NFL in tackles (15.5) in 1997. Randle and 6 others will be enshrined on August 7.



GAME BALL

This edition's game ball goes to Centennial High School head football coach and NFF-MN member **Mike Watson** for earning Kare11 All-Metro Coach of the Year honors. Coach Watson led his team to a 10-2 record and a share of the Northwest Suburban Conference title. Our chapter would like to congratulate Coach Watson on 32 years of coaching and wish him well as he retires.

GOOD READS: NFF-MN MEMBERS WRITE ABOUT THE GAME

Members **Jim Bruton**, **Al Papas, Jr.**, and **Ed Flaherty** aren't just football fans—they're literary experts on the sport. Each has published at least one book about football and its indelible influence on players, coaches, and fans at nearly every level of competition.

Though charter member Jim Bruton spent a few years playing professional football himself, his first book about football, ***A Tradition of Purple: An Inside Look at the Minnesota Vikings*** (Sports Publishing, 2007), is an even greater contribution to the sport. It is an exciting distillation of everything a fan would want to know about the Vikings franchise since its start in 1961, including stories about players, coaches, fans, ownership, and big games in the team's history.

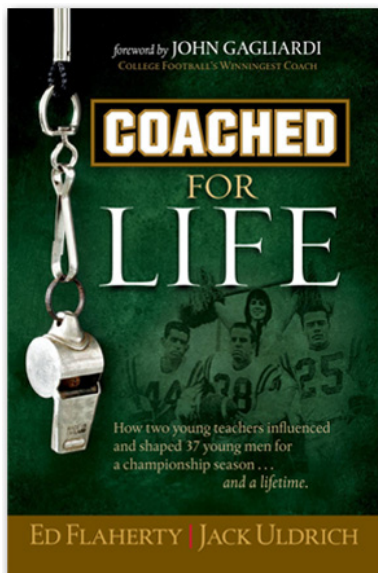
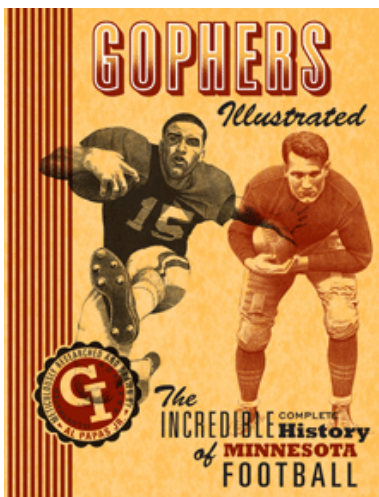
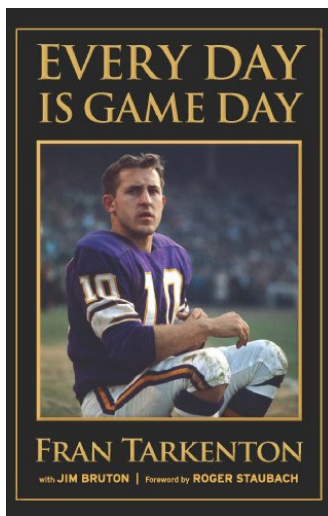
Bruton has also written a book about University of Minnesota football. ***Gopher Glory: The Pride of Maroon and Gold*** (KCI Sports Publishing, 2009) recounts important moments, traditions, and people in the program's history.

Also released in 2009, ***Every Day is Game Day*** (Triumph Books, 2009) is a book Bruton co-authored with famed quarterback Fran Tarkenton. It is an entertaining account of Tarkenton's experiences as a major figure in professional football and as an entrepreneur.

Charter member Al Papas, Jr., wrote ***Gophers Illustrated: The Incredible Complete History of Minnesota Football*** (University of Minnesota Press, 2009). Papas's book spans the entire history of football at the U, from the first season in 1896 through the 2008 season, and reflects on important moments, figures, and traditions. The volume also features original drawings by the author.

Member Ed Flaherty is co-author (with Jack Uldrich) of ***Coached for Life*** (Lariat Inc., 2009), a story that demonstrates the far-reaching influence of two high school football coaches. It is the true account of Flaherty and his Great Falls Central High School teammates as they

became state champions in 1962 and winners and leaders in life thereafter.



BOX SCORE

Facts and figures from our chapter and beyond

- 10-** Number of victories earned by Centennial High School in the 2009 season under the leadership of All-Metro Coach of the Year Mike Watson. (In the 2008 season, the number of victories was 2)
- 137.5-** Number of career sacks recorded by College and Pro Hall of Famer John Randle
- 418-** Number of passes NFL MVP quarterback Rich Gannon completed in 2002, breaking the single-season record (404) set by Warren Moon during the previous season
- 4,654-** Number of career rushing yards for the Gophers' all-time leading rusher and NFF-MN member Darrell Thompson
- 9,185-** Number of Minnesota Block "M"s in TCF Bank Stadium. In its inaugural season, "The Bank" hosted Golden Gopher victories over Air Force, Purdue, Michigan State, and South Dakota State

CONTACT

Do you have news, notes, or features that you would like to see in a future newsletter? Would you like to correct an error or voice your opinion? If so, please email newsletter editor Carlee Tressel at ctressel@gmail.com.

TEAMWORK

Become a member of NFF-MN and enjoy numerous benefits:

- Nominate and vote for candidates for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame
- Connect with Hall of Fame coaches, players, and all those who are passionate about football
- Honor local student-athletes through scholarships and recognize those who are outstanding contributors to the football community
- Invitations to chapter events
- Quarterly newsletters from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame
- Free admission into College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana
- Invitation to the chapter's Annual Awards Banquet (April 2010)
- Opportunity to support the "Play-It-Smart" Program, which strengthens the skills of high school football players from economically disadvantaged environments
- See pages 5-6 of this newsletter for form and details



END ZONE

Mission Statement of NFF-MN

Our mission is to serve Minnesota and the nation by developing leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit, and academic excellence in America's youth through promoting amateur football.

Game plan for fulfilling our mission:

1. Inspire excellence through Minnesota and College Football Hall of Fame player and coach role models.
2. Highlight the educational and character-building benefits of football through youth programs.
3. Honor, publicize, and financially support student-athlete football players.



THANK YOU TO OUR FEATURED SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:





**National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame
Membership Application:**

I am a: New Member Renewing Member

Chapter Name: Minnesota Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

VARSITY CLUB

One-Year Membership -- \$40

ALL-CONFERENCE CLUB

Three-Year Membership -- \$99

HALL OF FAME CLUB

Lifetime Membership -- \$1,000

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to The National Football Foundation.

Please charge my membership to my **Credit Card**.

Credit Card Type

Credit Card Account Number

Exp. Date

Signature of Card Holder or Typed Name if this Form is Emailed

BENEFITS WAIVER

X I prefer to waive all benefits offered at my gift level, rendering my entire contribution tax deductible.

Please Mail, Fax or Email this page to:
The NFF & College Hall of Fame, Inc.
433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Suite 1130
Irving, TX 75039

Fax: 972-556-9032

Phone: 800-486-1865 Email: membership@footballfoundation.com

National Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame Background:

- Founded in 1947, 122 Chapters in the United States with more than 12,000 members
- Mission is “to promote and develop the power of amateur football in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive zeal and the drive for academic excellence in America’s young people”
- Membership proceeds are used for college scholarships for Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients and to support the College Football Hall of Fame
- Nearly \$1 million in college scholarships are awarded annually to student-athletes that excel on the football field, in the classroom and in the community
- NFL/NFF Coaching Academies are conducted for high school and youth football coaches (60 Coaching Academies in 2006 included 9,000 coaches)
- Play It Smart Program - created by the NFF in 1998 with significant support from the NFL to support 11,000 student-athletes in 136 high schools by placing highly trained academic coaches with at-risk student-athletes to help their personal and academic development
- Independently administer, tabulate and communicate the BCS standings
- Web site for the Minnesota chapter is www.nffmn.org
- Web site for College Football Hall of Fame is www.collegefootball.org

Membership Benefits:

- Annual voting in February/March for the College Football Hall of Fame (subject to approval of the Hall of Fame Honors Court Members)
- Ability to nominate players/coaches for inclusion on the Hall of Fame ballot
- Invitations to events and Membership discounts for attending events
- Free admission to the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana
- Weekly emails summarizing recent college football news and events
- Charitable tax deduction
- Reduced ticket price to the Minnesota Chapter’s Annual Awards Banquet, “Honoring Legends, Inspiring Leaders.” Held in April, this event will honor scholar athletes, coaches, officials, college Hall of Famers, and other leaders in Minnesota amateur football

Minnesota Chapter Board President

Mr. Sean Gothier

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