



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

March 2009

Two-Minute Drill

- The 2nd Annual “Honoring Legends, Inspiring Leaders” Awards Dinner will be held at 6:00 pm on **April 19** at the University of St. Thomas. All are invited to attend the dinner. Tickets are \$40 for non-members and \$30 for NFF-MN members. Purchase tickets online at www.nffmn.org or contact Sean Gothier at sean@nffmn.org to arrange payment by mail. Read all about who will be honored at the dinner and who will attend on pages 1-3 of this newsletter.
- Looking for an economical advertising opportunity for your business? Place an ad in the banquet program (\$200 full-page; \$125 half-page). Contact Sean Gothier (sean@nffmn.org) for further details.
- Welcome to all new NFF-MN members including former Viking, “**Benchwarmer**” **Bob Lurtsema**.
- 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.

The Play Caller

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www.nffmn.org

In the Huddle

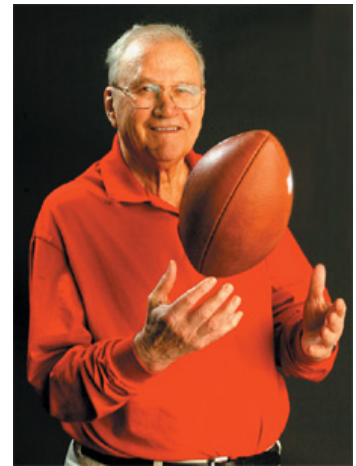
AWARDS DINNER TO FEATURE HALL OF FAME LEGENDS

The Minnesota Chapter will honor 11 outstanding individuals from the world of professional and amateur football in Minnesota at the Chapter’s annual awards dinner on April 19. The event, which will be held at the University of St. Thomas, will feature a keynote address by St. John’s University head football coach **John Gagliardi** and a public interview with NFF-MN member and NFL and College Hall of Famer **Randall McDaniel**.

NFF-MN will also recognize Hall of Famers John Randle, Jeff Siemon, and Coach Jim Christopherson. Numerous college football and NFL legends will be in attendance, and WCCO-TV news personality **Frank Vascellaro** will return as

Master of Ceremonies for the second year.

The Chapter will present the 2009 Distinguished Minnesotan Award to **Jim Malosky, Sr.**, former University of Minnesota Duluth head football coach. The award honors a person who has made a lifelong contribution to football in the state of Minnesota. A Crosby-Ironton native, Malosky cultivated winning football programs at Morris and Morningside (Edina) High Schools before becoming the head coach at UMD from 1958 until 1997. Malosky’s teams won more than 250 games during his 40-year tenure, including two MIAC conference crowns (1960, ’61), five NSIC crowns (1979, ’80, ’85, ’90, ’95, ’96), and



Legendary St. John’s coach John Gagliardi (photo: Tom Dahlin)

a perfect 10-0-0 season in 1980. In his final 28 years as head coach, the Bulldogs had a win-loss record below .500 only twice. When Malosky retired in 1997, he was the winningest coach in Division II college football. Malosky was inducted into the

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GAME BALL

This month’s game balls go to:

- NFF-MN member **Randall McDaniel** for his induction into the Professional Football Hall of Fame
- UMD Bulldogs head coach **Bob Nielson** for being named NSIC Coach of the Year



NFF-MN TO RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN COACHING, TRAINING, OFFICIATING

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UMD Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and the NSIC Hall of Fame in 2000. The stadium where the Bulldogs play today is named in his honor.

The 2009 Courage Award will be presented to **Ryan Goetzinger** of Caledonia, MN. The Courage Award is given to an athlete that has demonstrated the will to persevere through adversity. Goetzinger, a fullback and linebacker for Caledonia High School, has displayed tremendous strength and determination by achieving in the classroom and on the football field despite suffering serious burns from a barn fire as a child. Goetzinger has become a role model for his peers and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse or the University of Minnesota Mankato to study physical therapy and continue to play football.

Lefty Yurek will be honored with the 2009 Outstanding Officiating Award. To earn the Outstanding Officiating Award, an official (active or retired) must have more than 25 years of officiating experience at a high school, college, or professional level; have officiated games at the local, regional, and national levels; be highly respected by peers and coaches; have given back given back as a mentor to the officiating

community. Yurek's work as an official satisfies these criteria and transcends them. According to the selection committee, "Lefty Yurek portrays the epitome of football officiating both on and off the field." For 39 years (1959-1997), Yurek officiated high school football games, including State section, quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship games. He also served as a college football official in the NSIC and MIAC conferences for 26 years. In addition to his work on the football field, Yurek has officiated high school and college basketball and high school soccer, hockey, and fast-pitch softball competitions. He was inducted into the NSIC Hall of Fame as a football and basketball official in 2001 and continues to serve the MSHSL as a committee leader and football official observer. He has been an instrumental part of the St. Paul Officials Association for 34 years.

Gary Smith is the 2009 recipient of the Fred Zamberletti Award. The award, named for the legendary longtime athletic trainer for the Minnesota Vikings, honors an outstanding Minnesotan practicing athletic training. Smith, this year's honoree, has served an incredible range of teams. He was the head trainer for the U.S.A. hockey team at the 1980 Winter

Olympics in Lake Placid, which earned him a place in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2003. Smith has also worked with the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Strikers soccer club, Minnesota Moose hockey team, the Minnesota Kicks soccer team, and was head athletic trainer for the Philadelphia Flyers in the early 1990s. In addition, he was the Sports Medicine Coordinator at North Memorial Hospital from 1983-1989. He was inducted into the Minnesota Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 2002. Smith tirelessly continues his work at the Institute for Athletic Medicine, a service of Fairview and North Memorial.

The 2009 Play It Smart P.R.I.D.E. Award will be presented to **Mychal Frelix**, a senior at St. Paul Central High School. Frelix has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the Play It Smart program and was named to St. Paul City All-Conference Team in 2008. He will play in the 3rd Annual Urban Bowl football game this summer and begin work on his bachelor's degree this fall. He is the son of Seleta and Albert.

Play It Smart, an educational program run by the NFF, aims to transform student-athletes' passion

BOX SCORE

A brief look at NFF-MN by the numbers

- 3.97-** Average GPA of the finalists for the 2009 Scholar-Athlete award
- 11-** Number of individuals who will receive an award at the 2nd Annual "Honoring Legends-Inspiring Leaders" dinner
- 39-** Number of years Lefty Yurek officiated high school football in Minnesota
- 40-** Number of years UMD and NSIC Hall of Fame coach Jim Malosky, Sr., coached at the University of Minnesota Duuth
- 50-** Number of days until the chapter's 2nd Annual Awards Dinner (as of March 1)
- 195-** Number of days until the Gophers play a game at the new TCF Bank Stadium (as of March 1)



Former UMD head coach Jim Malosky, Sr., inspired hundreds of players during his 40-year tenure

OVER \$5,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED TO LOCAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

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for sport and intense dedication to their team into a force for greater good in their lives.



Edina High School quarterback and Scholar-Athlete honoree Anders Lee

In addition, six young men will receive recognition as outstanding high school Scholar-Athletes. These Scholar-Athletes, as nominated by their football coaches, were evaluated on their academic achievement (3.0 GPA or better), football ability, performance, leadership, and attitude, and the applicants' service to their community. Remarkably, the average GPA among the finalists was 3.97.

Scholar-athlete award winners include Edina High School stand-out quarterback **Anders Lee**, who was named 2008 Gatorade Football Player of the Year, 2008 Minnesota Vikings First Team All-State, and 2008 All-Metro Player of the Year, among other athletic awards. Lee also boasts an excellent academic record and serves as a role model to his peers and younger students through his community service and leadership activities. Lee will attend the University of Notre Dame for college. He is the son of Thomas and Lisa.

Award winner **Ryan Robinson**, a defensive end/outside linebacker from St. Thomas Academy, was named KARE-11 All-Metro, Second Team All-Metro by the Star Tribune, and First Team All-State by the Pioneer Press. Robinson was also voted Classic Suburban Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2008. Robinson demonstrates exceptional academic achievement, including being named a National Merit Commended Scholar. In addition to playing basketball and lacrosse and serving on the student council and JROTC, Robinson has devoted 50 hours of service to the Minnesota Veterans Home. He is the son of Ryan and Kathy.

Kyle Mulrooney, inside linebacker and scholar-athlete award winner from Andover High School, earned All-Conference (Northwest Suburban) honors twice and was named All-State by the AP and the Pioneer Press in 2008. He is a two-year member of the National Honor Society and in 2008 was named to the Academic All-State Football Team. Mulrooney has challenged himself with high-level Advanced Placement courses and has continued to earn top marks. He has served as a mentor to incoming freshman and volunteered in numerous youth sports organizations. Mulrooney will attend the University of St. Thomas on an academic scholarship and study business/finance. He is the son of Mike and Becky.



Class 4A State Champion and Scholar-Athlete honoree Paul Berndt

As team captain, scholar-athlete award winner **Paul Berndt** of Mankato West High School helped lead his team to a victory in the 2008 Class 4A State Championship. A running back and linebacker, he was named Player of the Game in the championship showdown and earned All-State Honorable Mention. Berndt is also a member of the National Honors Society and active in numerous service organizations in his community. Berndt will attend Augustana College on an academic scholarship, majoring in Biology and studying Pre-Medicine. Berndt is the son of Jeff and Julie.

As outside linebacker/tight-end for Totino-Grace High School, **Joe Novitzki** led his team to a State Championship his junior year. He was voted team MVP in 2008 and earned All-Conference Honors (North Suburban). A three-sport standout in football, tennis, and hockey, Novitzki also shines in the classroom.

JOIN US IN HONORING THE BEST OF THE BEST

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He is a member of the National Honor Society and earned A-Honor Roll every semester of his high school career. Novitzki has been involved in several community service endeavors, including Meals on Wheels, Feed My Starving Children, and the Ronald McDonald House. He plans to study biology in college. He is the son of Mark and Nina.

Scholar-athlete award winner **Mike Seidel** of Woodbury High School excelled as an outside linebacker and on special teams. He was a team captain, three-year starter, and earned All-Conference Honors (Suburban East Conference) in 2008 and Honorable Mention in 2007. Seidel earned Minnesota Football Coaches Association Academic All-

State honors in 2008 and won a Woodbury At Your Service (W@YS) Award for Community Service for three consecutive years (2006-2008). He plans to study engineering at either Northwestern University or the University of Wisconsin Madison. He is the son of Tracy and Bill.

The 2nd Annual “**Honoring Legends-Inspiring Leaders**” awards dinner will take place on **Sunday, April 19, at 6:00 pm** on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. To purchase tickets to the event (\$40 for non-members; \$30 for members) or to become a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation, please visit the Minnesota Chapter website: www.nffmn.org.



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 (this year: April 19, 2009)
- Opportunity to support the “Play-It-Smart” Program, which strengthens the skills of high school football players from economically disadvantaged environments

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:



MINNESOTA VIKINGS



**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, 128 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 (80 Coaching Academies in 2008 included 9,000 coaches)
- Fly It Smart Program – created by the NFF in 1998 with significant support from the NFL to support 11,000 student-athletes in 130 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

Please contact Sean Gothier (sean@nffmn.org) with any questions.