

## Rams expected to head WVC field

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By Duane Cochran

Times West Virginian (<http://timeswv.com>)

FAIRMONT — The West Virginia Conference held its preseason football media day here Saturday afternoon on the campus of Fairmont State University; however, fans of the league are going to have to wait until Friday to see where their teams rank in the annual preseason coaches' poll.

According to WVC Associate Commissioner Brent Hager, due to conflicts with The Greenbrier Classic Golf Tournament being held this weekend in White Sulphur Springs, the league opted to not release the preseason football poll until Friday, Aug. 5.

Still, eight of the league's nine football coaches, including first-year mentors Pat Kirkland of the University of Charleston, David Hutchinson of Glenville State and Jonas Jackson of West Virginia Wesleyan, were on hand Saturday for media day. Concord University first-year head coach Garin Justice was not able to attend.

Two teams expected to be at the top of the league's preseason poll when it is announced Friday are Shepherd University and West Liberty University.

The Rams claimed their 12th league title last fall under the guidance of veteran coach Monte Cater and the school's fifth in the last seven years as they finished 7-1 in conference play, 12-2 overall and advanced all the way to the NCAA Division II semifinals where they were eliminated by Delta State, 29-17. Shepherd is the first WVC school to ever reach the semifinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

"We'd love to say we can build on what we accomplished last year, but there's a lot of faces from that team who aren't going to be with us this fall," said Cater, who is 173-82-1 in 24 seasons with the Rams. "We've definitely got some holes to fill.

"Personally, I think our defense is going to be pretty good. We've got eight starters back and a couple of transfers who are going to enhance us on that side of the ball. Offensively we have some positions to fill. I know it sounds cliché, but in my opinion our defense is going to have to carry us early on until our offense develops and comes around."

West Liberty, on the other hand, tied for second in the conference last season with a 6-2 league mark and a 7-3 overall record. The Hilltoppers were tied with West Virginia Wesleyan (6-2, 9-2), who recently lost head coach Dennis Creehan who left to become the new athletic director at Alderson-Broaddus.

West Liberty has had six straight winning seasons since Roger Waiatae took over as the head coach and won the 2009 league championship.

The Hilltoppers, however, must find replacements for a talented trio of offensive performers including record-setting quarterback Zach Amedro, receiver Ryan Travis, who recently signed with the Seattle

Seahawks, and running back Kevon Calhoun.

"We're going to test the old adage that you win games in the trenches," said Waialae. "As well as we played last year toward the end of the season it was basically our two lines which really carried us and all of those guys, except for our center, are back. That's exciting for us because we're usually scrambling trying to find linemen. This year we have them and as a result the spring, in my opinion, went a lot smoother for us.

"I know this might sound a bit crazy when you have to replace guys like Zach Amedro, Ryan Travis and Kevon Calhoun, but in all actuality on paper we have more overall talent and a lot more depth this year than we've had in the past which is exciting for us."

Fairmont State University has not finished any higher than sixth place in the nine-team league since 2007. However, fifth-year head coach Mike Lopez feels like this year may just be the season when the Falcons turn the corner and climb into the league's upper echelon.

"I really like the continuity of our coaching staff," said Lopez. "We've been together now for a while and I'm comfortable with Bryan (Fisher) leading our offense for a second season and coach (Shahram) Shafii directing the defense.

"This spring we got better on offense and defensively I think we added some things which will make us better. Overall, I expect us to be better than we were last year. We've brought some players in who we feel can help us immediately. One of the keys for us as coaches will be getting them ready in preseason camp to fill the roles we need them to fill. Sometimes that doesn't always happen as quickly as you would like but our goal is to get those guys ready for Clarion. I also feel like we need to develop some team chemistry between our veterans and newcomers.

"On paper I like this team, but the bottom line is you've got to perform on the field every week and as usual playing and competing in this league, which is tough from top to bottom, is never easy."

FSU's players will report for fall camp on Aug. 9. The Falcons will be on the field for the first time Aug. 11. Fairmont State's season opener is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at home at Duvall-Rosier Field against Clarion (Pa.) University.

## Rams' success boosts WVC

Shepherd's run to national semifinals helps reputation of conference

August 1, 2011

Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor (rkozlowski@journal-news.net) , journal-news.net

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FAIRMONT - If image is all that matters these days, Shepherd put the West Virginia Conference's name up in lights last season.

The Rams won their way to the national semifinals - a first for any team from the league as a Division II member.

The Rams were within an earshot of advancing to the national championship game, but a monsoonal, electrified storm and an untimely turnover foiled their chance.

No matter, by advancing to a semifinal game at Delta State enhanced the image of a conference stuck with the same stereotypical image so many around the country have of the state of West Virginia.

"This league is competitive," Shepherd coach Monte Cater said. "(Last year's run) makes a big, big difference in how a league gets measured.

"I think our league has not been looked upon as being not a very strong Division II league. Anything that can be down by anybody in our league can be looked at as a good thing."

Things went very well for the WVC during the last school year.

"Shepherd really put us on the national map," WVC communications director Brent Hager said. "West Liberty really helped in basketball."

Beside Shepherd's historic run in football, West Liberty reached the national championship in men's basketball before suffering its first defeat of the season in the final.

"In the final four, that's absolutely incredible," Fairmont coach Mike Lopez said. "That sets a standard I can use to say anybody in this league can do this, too."

Success by team can be felt by others in the conference. Just the mention of the Southeastern Conference and its run of BCS national championships has certified it as powers, no matter how well they do. There is a certain "Ahh" to the mere mention of a SEC team being on another school's schedule.

The WVC has a long way to go to reaching that type of plateau, but everybody knows how critical Shepherd's season meant to everyone in the league.

"I think that was awesome exposure for the league," West Virginia Wesleyan interim coach Jonas Jackson said. "Anytime a team from your league makes the national stage, is on TV and people see it, it's a win-win for everybody.

"Things we can say (to recruits) is that a team that beat us went to the national semifinals, and they were only one of two teams that beat us."

In Super Region I, though, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

continues to be the big brother and the other three leagues the tag-alongs.

That's the perception, though every year it seems that four PSAC schools always reach the postseason and the other three conferences are scrambling for the two other bids in the six-team regional.

In talking with former Concord coach Mike Kellar, who was at California, Pa., and now is back there, Lopez said Kellar indicated he didn't see a great deal of difference between the quality of teams in each of the two leagues.

The goal for the WVC is to advance more than a single team to the postseason, something which hasn't happened.

"The last three or four years, we should've had two teams represented," West Liberty coach Roger Waialae said. "But we play too many out of conference schedules. ... That's why the Northeast hasn't had a playoff team in two years, because they started playing out-of-conference teams."

Some of those non-conference games wind up hurting their strengths of schedule, he explained.

The PSAC teams play one non-league game, which means that most of the league's teams are getting their ratings points from within.

"Something is flawed in the system," Waialae said.

He said the rating points are based on a team's winning percentage, opponents' winning percentage and those opponents' winning percentage.

"Teams that don't play non-conference (games) can get in with three losses over a team like two-loss Charleston two years ago," Waialae said.

He labeled it a football "in-breeding," where everything "stays within the conference."

There's some talk around the league that two or three non-football-playing schools in the WVC are taking serious looks at adding the sport. That, plus a possible expansion, could initiate a situation similar to the two-division PSAC in the WVC.

Rather than be an East-West breakdown like in the PSAC, the WVC would break into North-South divisions.

While that time is not here, nor is it near, the WVC is still basking in the success last year of Shepherd.

The Rams are ranked No. 4 in one preseason poll, a position Cater dismisses as being based largely on last season.

In the land of "What Have You Done Lately?" image is not a bad thing.

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## Winchester slides into second round



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Winchester's Brady Wilson, right, is tagged out by Staunton third baseman Joshua Wenger. Dennis Grundman/Daily

By Ben Brooks -- [sports@nvdaily.com](mailto:sports@nvdaily.com)

WINCHESTER -- The Winchester Royals are moving on to the second round of the Valley Baseball League playoffs, and they can thank the long ball for it.

Matt Snyder hit a pair of home runs Monday and Nathan Minnich belted a go-ahead solo shot in the eighth inning to power the second-seeded Royals to a 4-3 Game 3 victory over seventh-seeded Staunton before a crowd of 499 at Bridgeforth Field.

The Royals (31-16), who overcame Staunton's Game 1 victory to take the best-of-three series 2-1, face Covington tonight in Game 1 of the VBL semifinals.

Minnich, Winchester's leader in home runs (11) and RBIs (33), hit the ball hard in his first three plate appearances against Staunton starting pitcher Bryan Brown, but had nothing to show for it. In the eighth, after the Braves rallied for two runs to tie the score, the Shepherd University All-American led off against Staunton relief pitcher Austin Adams.

"You can't ask people what you can do different," said Minnich about his previous at-bats. "You just have to realize that you're hitting the ball hard and hope the next one finds a hole."

Minnich did more than find a hole. He lifted Adams' 2-0 fastball over the fence in right-center to give the Royals a 4-3 lead.

"Guys like Nate and Matt go up there looking for a certain pitch to hit and don't get away from that mindset," Royals manager John Lowery said. "They work the count to where either the pitcher's going to walk them or come in with something they can hit hard. The key is not just getting a pitch to hit, but getting a pitch you can hit hard."

Few, if any, have hit a ball harder than Snyder did on his first home run. The left-hander, who has six homers in just 11 games with the Royals, launched a Brown fastball deep to right field in the second to put Winchester on top 2-0.

"It's great to have him here," Minnich said of Snyder, who joined the Royals late in the season after being hit in the face by a pitch opening night while playing with Haymarket. "Every one of his at-bats you're just staring to see what happens. He's just a stud. He can do it all. He hits singles, doubles, and that one he hit off the street."

Snyder's second homer was a line-drive solo shot in the bottom of the fourth that pushed Winchester's lead to 3-1.

"I haven't played as much this summer as I would have liked," the



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**Winchester's Kellen Camus pitches against Staunton in the first inning. Dennis Grundman/Daily**



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**Winchester's Matt Snyder is congratulated by Cory Nelson after hitting a two run homer in the second inning. Dennis Grundman/Daily**

two outs.

6-foot-6, 210-pound Mississippi junior said. "My swing's starting to get where I want it. Every game I'm feeling better."

For Snyder, a 44th-round draft pick of the Washington Nationals, just returning to the field was a huge bonus this summer.

"I wasn't sure if I'd be able to see out of my right eye," he said. "But once I talked to the doctors, I knew I was going to come back and play. I love baseball. There's nothing I'd rather do."

Snyder never got a chance for a third home run. The Braves intentionally walked him twice following his second blast. Both times the Royals had a runner on second, with first base open.

Minnich's homer made a winner of Royals reliever Matt Brazis (1-0). The Boston College junior right-hander struck out four and allowed just one hit over 2 2/3 innings in relief of starter Kellen Camus.

The Royals, who committed four errors in the game, made things a bit more interesting than they would have liked in the ninth. With two outs, Staunton's Brandon Cotten hit a routine grounder. Second baseman Gibby Briones fielded it cleanly, but a wild throw allowed Cotten to reach and advance to second.

Brazis didn't let it faze him, and he retired Preston Packrall on a fly ball to center to end the game.

"We've known what Matt's capability was when he was here two years ago before he got hurt," Lowery said of Brazis. "He's just been biding his time out there. He got a chance to be right where he wanted to be and got the job done."

Staunton scored once in the fourth on Matt Dickason's RBI and twice in the seventh on Josh Tutwiler's two-run single, both with

## SU hires women's basketball assistant

August 3, 2011 [0 Comments](#)

Julie Kaufman will replace Toni West as a women's basketball assistant coach at Shepherd University. West left Shepherd to coach at Dominican in California.

Kaufman was an assistant coach for the past three seasons at Hood College in Frederick. Hood is a NCAA Division III school.

The new Shepherd coach has a bachelor's degree from Catawba College in North Carolina and a master's degree from Hood. She played four years of basketball at Catawba.

Prior to her three years at Hood, Kaufman coached at Southern Guilford High in North Carolina, Damascus High in Maryland, Churchill High in Maryland and Salisbury Academy in North Carolina.

## Ram soccer coaches go to school

August 4, 2011  
From staff reports

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SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd soccer coaches Thayil and Ryan Quinn took some time to head back in the classroom this summer as they prepare for the coming season.

Thayil, who will be entering his fifth season as head coach with the men's team, and his first season at the reins of the women's soccer team, spent four days in Seattle, attending a coaching seminar hosted by the Seattle Sounders of the MLS.

The Sounders brought together a great group of well-respected experts in sports science; including the former fitness coach from the Bayern Munich FC.

Thayil was part of a group of 35 coaches from all over the country who learned about the latest trends and practices in fitness, recovery, nutrition and training in conjunction with the training of the Sounders' professional team. Additionally, the group studied the latest research in sport science and how it relates to training.

Quinn, who will be starting his second year as an assistant coach with the men's soccer team spent four days attending a D License coaching course sponsored by Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.

Quinn spent time alternating between the soccer field and the classroom to learn a bit more about coaching techniques, including current trends in tactics and game. Quinn was part of a 33-person cohort that took the course in July in Odenton, Md.

If he is successful in attaining his D License, he will be eligible to pursue his National C License course in the future.

Associate head coach Dustin Robbins, who will be starting his fifth season with the women's soccer team, will be attending a NSCAA Special Topics course later this fall.

"We stress the importance of education with all of our players, and I believe it should be just as important for our coaching staff," Thayil said. "I think our program will continue to improve if we always push ourselves to learn more."

The Shepherd soccer teams open the 2011 campaign on Sept. 1. The men play against Le Moyne College at 3 p.m. in Syracuse, N.Y., while the women travel to Millersville University for a 2 p.m. contest.

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

#### Rams sign defender

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Lexi Vondrak has signed a letter-of-intent to play women's soccer for Shepherd University this fall.

Vondrak, a sweeper/defender from Harrisonburg, Va., lettered for four years in soccer and gymnastics. She was a three-time first-team all-district selection and also was a three-time all-region choice. A member of four district champion teams and one region title squad, Vondrak also garnered honorable mention VHSCA All-State AA accolades.

## Another Amazing Award Season Concludes for NFF Chapter Network

Released: Two days after the conclusion of the 2011 award banquet season

August 4, 2011

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced today that its chapter network distributed \$1 million in scholarships during its recently-concluded 2011 award banquet season, which runs from January to July. Covering more than 4,800 high schools and 400,000 student-athletes, the NFF chapters selected 3,300 amateur football players, who on average boasted a 3.7

GPA, for recognition as the best and brightest for their combined excellence on the gridiron, in the classroom and as leaders in the community.

"The scholar-athlete banquet season plays a critical role in the NFF's mission of highlighting football's unique ability to build our nation's next generation of great leaders," said NFF Chairman **Archie Manning**. "The banquet season holds out the best of today for their peers to emulate. It's always awe inspiring to attend an NFF chapter banquet and listen to an emcee read the accomplishments of the NFF student-athletes."



The NFF Chapter Network, spread across 121 outposts in 47 states, serves as the pulse of a nationwide effort to encourage leadership,

sportsmanship and academic excellence among young football players. Each year the chapters collectively stage more than 1,000 events, including coaching clinics, all-star games, leadership conferences, golf outings, college nights and more than 100 scholar-athlete banquets.

"The NFF Chapter Network stands as one of the most valuable forces in all of amateur sports," said NFF President & CEO **Steven J. Hatchell**. "The passion of our members knows no bounds, and their efforts have a dramatic impact on inspiring leadership and lifting the academic performance of high school football players nationwide. It's a privilege to shine a light on their collective efforts and play a role in facilitating their impact at the grassroots level. I want to thank everybody who attended a banquet this year."

Annually drawing more than 33,000 people, the NFF banquets serve as an important

milestone for the honorees as they claim a portion of \$1 million in scholarships to further their educations. The all-time amount raised and disbursed by the chapters reached the \$15 million mark this year. Coupled with the all-time amount of \$9.5 million disbursed from the national headquarters through the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Program, the all-time amount awarded by the National Football Foundation eclipsed \$24.5 million this year.

The first chapters began operation in 1959, and the network continues to expand behind the leadership of individuals with a passion for the NFF's mission of building leaders through football. Currently, there are seven new outposts in the works.

**Jerry Stovall**, a 2010 inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame from LSU, is leading the charge in Baton Rouge, La., and Dr. **James Hansen**, the 1992 winner of the NFF William V. Campbell Trophy from Colorado, is laying the ground work for the Central Coast Chapter in Pebble Beach, Calif. Other new chapter leaders include **John Steinbauer** with the South Florida Touchdown Club (Miami); **William "Frog" Millhorn** with the Southwest Virginia Touchdown Club; **Ed Walls** in Greater Orlando; and **Kirk McNair** in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and **Doug Banks** in Central Illinois (Normal).

#### The Chapter Network by the Numbers

- Network launched in 1959
- 121 chapters in 47 states
- 12,000 members
- Reaches 4,800 high schools and 400,000 student-athletes
- \$1 million distributed annually
- \$24.5 million distributed all-time
- 3,300 students-athletes honored annually with an average of 3.7 GPA
- 58,600 scholar-athletes honored all-time
- 33,000 people annually attend a banquet
- More than 1,000 events staged each year
- All-time chapter banquet attendance: 1,186,000

A half-dozen chapter banquets exceeded 1,000 attendees each, led by the Greater Baltimore Chapter, which attracted more than 1,300 fans. Chapters recognizing more than 60 scholar-athletes each included the Capital District (N.Y.), Central New York, NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas, Middle Tennessee, and Orange County (Calif.).

Chapters distributing more than \$20,000 in annual scholarships include: Middle Tennessee Chapter of Nashville, \$41,000; Allstate Sugar Bowl Chapter of Louisiana, \$40,000; Delaware Valley Chapter of N.J., \$37,000; the Central New York Chapter, \$33,000; the Walter J. Zable Chapter of San Diego, Calif., \$31,000; Joe Tiller Northwest Indiana Chapter, \$26,550; the Corrigan/ Faircloth Chapter of Greensboro, N.C., \$30,000; the Valley of the Sun Chapter of Scottsdale, Ariz., \$28,000; the Orange County Chapter of California, \$26,000; the Westchester County Chapter of New York., \$25,000; Northern California Chapter, \$24,000; the Greater Atlanta Chapter of Georgia, \$23,000; the Baltimore Chapter of Maryland, \$22,500; the Wyoming Chapter, \$22,500; the Oklahoma Chapter of Oklahoma City, \$21,000; the Moose Krause/South Bend Chapter of Indiana, \$20,000; and the Portland Chapter of Oregon, \$20,000.

The NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas Chapter held its third annual event at Cowboys Stadium with 620 attendees on hand to witness the honoring of 62 high school and collegiate scholar-athletes. Two chapters, Columbus (OH) and Schuylkill/Pottsville (PA), celebrated their 50th anniversaries.

Many chapter banquets pay tribute to notable individuals who have made significant contributions to football, their local communities or the nation. The tributes include Distinguished American Awards, Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Awards and Outstanding Football Official Awards.

#### Chapter Award Honorees - 2011

- **Neil Armstrong**, famed astronaut, Gold Medallion Award recipient (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Joseph Boulos**, chairman of the CBRE/The Boulos Company; Distinguished American Award (State of Maine)
- **Steve Brady**, CEO, Ocean City Home Bank; Distinguished American Award (South Jersey)
- **Eugene Cernan**, famed astronaut, Gold Medallion Award recipient (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Ray Christensen**, former University of Minnesota football radio announcer; Distinguished Minnesotan Award (Minnesota)
- **Dan Coughlin**, sports reporter, Cleveland Plain Dealer/Fox 8; Dick Zunt Ohio Sportswriter of the Year Award Recipient (Northeastern OH)
- **Bill Curl**, director of media relations for the Louisiana Superdome for the past 10 years; Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
- **Ralph Damren**, former official; Football Official Recognition Award (State of Maine)
- **Jim DeBell**, NFL Side Judge; Outstanding Football Official Award (Rochester)
- **Spike Dykes**, former Texas Tech head coach; Distinguished Texan Award (Texas Tech)
- **Fran Fischer**, long-time voice of Penn State football, Lifetime Achievement Award (Central Pennsylvania)
- **Tom Finken**, former NFL official, John Adams Officials Award (Colorado)
- **Jack Ford**, played college football at Yale, a nationally recognized trial attorney a highly acclaimed TV anchor and member of the NFF Board of Directors; Distinguished American Award (Gene Casey/New Haven)
- **Frank Gambino**, Wyoming sportscaster for 20 years; Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Wyoming)
- **Bill Gilbane**, president and chief operating officer, Gilbane Building Company; Distinguished American Award (Emo DiNitto/Rhode Island)
- **Dick Gorrie**, past chapter president of the Orange County (Calif.) Chapter; Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Orange County, Calif.)
- **General Mike Gould**, superintendent US Air Force Academy; Tom Lombardo Leadership Award (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Gordon L. "Gordy" Graham**, former head trainer at the University of Minnesota-Mankato; Fred Zamberletti Award (Minnesota)
- **Miami (OH) University Football Team**, Lee Tressel Ohio Coach of the Year Award (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Mike Heimerdinger**, former offensive coordinator, Tennessee Titans; Bonnie

Sloan Courage Award (Middle Tennessee)

- **Mike Holmgren**, former head coach, Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks, winner of Super Bowl XXXI while in Green Bay and current president of the Cleveland Browns; Distinguished American Award (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Admiral Frank B. Kelso**, retired Admiral, United States Navy, served as chief of U.S. Naval Operations in the early 1990's; Fred Russell Distinguished American Award (Middle Tennessee)
- **Leroy Keyes**, College Football Hall of Fame inductee from Purdue, Distinguished American Award, (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Bernie Kosar**, former NFL Quarterback; Dino Lucarelli Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient (Northeastern Ohio)
- **Bill LeMonnier**, 17-year football official in the Big Ten; Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Chicago Metro)
- **Ed McCaffrey**, former Stanford All-America and NFL wide receiver, Community Outreach Award (Colorado)
- **John McHugh**, secretary of the U.S. Army; Distinguished American Award (Central NY)
- **Billy Montgomery**, state legislator from Louisiana; Distinguished American Award (S.M. McNaughton)
- **William Mottola**, former commissioner, New England Football Conference and former chairman of the NCAA Division III football championship selection committee; Contribution to Amateur Football Award (State of Maine)
- **Haloti Ngata**, former University of Oregon defensive tackle and currently with the Baltimore Ravens, Outstanding Leadership Award (Utah)
- **Charley North**, former director of football operations, University of Alabama and Texas A&M University; Merv Johnson Integrity in Coaching Award recipient (Oklahoma)
- **Gary Patterson**, Texas Christian University head coach; Distinguished Texan Award (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Mike Price**, UTEP head coach and former head coach at Weber State and Washington State, Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Utah)
- **John Robinson**, former college and NFL head coach, 2009 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee from Southern California and UNLV; Contribution to Amateur Football (Walter Zable/San Diego)
- **Jerry Ross**, famed astronaut, Gold Medallion Award recipient (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Marie Rudolph**, co-founder of the Military Bowl; Contribution to Amateur Football (National Capital)
- **Don Ruggeri**, former Massachusetts Maritime Academy coach; Distinguished American Award (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Jerry Seeman**, former NFL official; Outstanding Football Officiating Award (Minnesota)
- **James Staunton**, California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Commissioner, Distinguished American Award (Orange County, Calif.)
- **Robert Vernatchi**, NFL official; Contribution to Amateur Football Award (Sacramento)

Lending their support to promote the events, current college head coaches addressing or attending chapter banquets this season included (alphabetically):

#### Head Coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision Ranks

- **Gary Anderson**, Utah State University (Utah)
- **Mack Brown**, University of Texas (Greater Austin)
- **Troy Calhoun**, United States Air Force Academy (Colorado)
- **Dave Doeren**, Northern Illinois University (Chicago Metro)
- **Derek Dooley**, University of Tennessee (East Tennessee)
- **Randy Edsall**, University of Maryland (Greater Baltimore)
- **Rich Ellerson**, Army (National Capital)
- **Pat Fitzgerald**, Northwestern University (Chicago Metro)
- **James Franklin**, Vanderbilt University (Middle Tennessee)
- **Al Golden**, University of Miami (Brian Piccolo (Ft. Lauderdale))
- **Danny Hope**, Purdue University (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **June Jones**, Southern Methodist University (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Chip Kelly**, University of Oregon (Portland)
- **Jerry Kill**, University of Minnesota (Minnesota)
- **Bronco Mendenhall**, Brigham Young University (Utah)
- **Dan McCarney**, University of North Texas (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Ken Niumatalolo**, Navy (Greater Baltimore)
- **Paul Pasqualoni**, University of Connecticut (Northern Connecticut)
- **Gary Patterson**, Texas Christian University (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Larry Porter**, University of Memphis (Memphis)
- **Mark Richt**, University of Georgia (University of Georgia)
- **Mike Riley**, Oregon State University (Portland)
- **Rick Stockstill**, Middle Tennessee State University (Middle Tennessee)
- **Don Treadwell**, Miami University (Ohio) (Northeastern Ohio)
- **Tommy Tuberville**, Texas Tech University (Texas Tech)
- **Kyle Whittingham**, University of Utah (Utah)

#### Head Coaches from the Divisional Ranks

- **Jay Accorsi**, Rowan University (N.J.) (South Jersey)
- **Dewayne Alexander**, Cumberland University (Tenn.) (Middle Tennessee)
- **Rob Ambrose**, Towson State University (Greater Baltimore)
- **Skip Bandini**, Curry College (Mass.) (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Watson Brown**, Tennessee Tech University (Middle Tennessee)
- **Nigel Burton**, Portland State University (Portland)
- **Jeremy Cameron**, Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Dale Carlson**, Valparaiso University (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Glenn Caruso**, University of St. Thomas (Minn.) (Minnesota)
- **Paul Castonia**, Plymouth State University (N.H.) (Joe Yukica/New Hampshire)
- **Monte Cater**, Shepherd University (W.Va.) (Greater Baltimore)
- **Rick Christophal**, Austin Peay State University (Middle Tennessee)
- **Earnest Collins, Jr.**, University of Northern Colorado (Colorado)
- **Jack Cosgrove**, University of Maine (State of Maine)
- **Mike Feminis**, Saint Xavier University (Ill.) (Chicago Metro)
- **Joe Fincham**, Wittenberg University (Ohio) (Springfield, Ohio)
- **Bob Ford**, University at Albany (Capital District, N.Y.)

- **Mike Gravier**, Bluefield College (Va.) (SW Virginia TD Club)
- **Dan Gritti**, Rhodes College (Tenn.) (Memphis)
- **Eric Hamilton**, College of New Jersey (Delaware Valley (N.J.))
- **Adam Howard**, Notre Dame College (Ohio) (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Tim Keating**, McDaniel College (Md.) (Greater Baltimore)
- **Larry Kehres**, University of Mount Union (Ohio) (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Larry Kindbom**, Washington University (Mo.) (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Ed Lamb**, Southern Utah University (Utah)
- **Bill Maskill**, Midwestern State (Tex.) (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Ron McBride**, Weber State University (Utah)
- **Sean McDonnell**, University of New Hampshire (Joe Yukica/New Hampshire)
- **Ed Mestieri**, Colby College (Maine) (State of Maine)
- **Mike Morosky**, University of California-Davis (Northern California)
- **Kevin Morris**, University of Massachusetts (Western Massachusetts)
- **Guy Morriss**, Texas A&M-Commerce (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Pat Murphy**, Saint Anselm College (N.H.) (Joe Yukica/New Hampshire)
- **Tim Murphy**, Harvard University (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Bob Nielson**, University of Minnesota-Duluth (Minnesota)
- **Bob Owens**, Chapman University (Calif.) (Orange County, Calif.)
- **Bradley Dale Peveto**, Northwestern State (S.M. McNaughton)
- **Rod Reed**, Tennessee State University (Middle Tennessee)
- **Bob Ritter**, Middlebury College (Vt.) (Vermont)
- **Regis Scafe**, John Carroll University (Ohio) (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **John Snell**, Baldwin-Wallace College (Ohio) (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Brock Spack**, Illinois State University (Chicago Metro)
- **Mark Speckman**, Willamette University (Ore.) (Clark County, Wash.)
- **Bob Stitt**, Colorado School of Mines (Colorado)
- **Bob Surace**, Princeton University (Lehigh Valley, Pa.)
- **Andy Talley**, Villanova University (Philadelphia)
- **Buddy Teevens**, Dartmouth University (Joe Yukica/New Hampshire)
- **Sherman Wood**, Salisbury State University (Md.) (Greater Baltimore)
- **John Wristen**, Colorado State University - Pueblo (Colorado)

**Members of the College Football Hall of Fame addressing or attending events included:**

- **Brad Buddle**, University of Southern California (Orange County)
- **Jim Christopherson**, Concordia (MN) College (Minnesota)
- **Jim Covert**, University of Pittsburgh (Chicago Metro)
- **Coach Vince Dooley**, University of Georgia (University of Georgia)
- **Coach LaVell Edwards**, Brigham Young University (Utah)
- **Pat Fitzgerald**, Northwestern University (Chicago Metro)
- **Eddie George**, Ohio State University (Springfield, Ohio)
- **Chris Gilbert**, University of Texas (Greater Austin)
- **Ted Hendricks**, University of Miami (Chicago Metro)
- **Chad Hennings**, United States Air Force Academy (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Mark Herrmann**, Purdue University (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Cosmo Iacavazzi**, Princeton University (Delaware Valley, N.J.)
- **Frank Kush**, Arizona State University (Valley of the Sun)
- **John Lattner**, University of Notre Dame (Chicago Metro)
- **Roosevelt Leaks**, University of Texas (Greater Austin)
- **Leo Lewis**, Lincoln University (Mo.) (Minnesota)
- **Coach Bill Manlove**, Widener (Pa.), Delaware Valley (Pa.), La Salle (Philadelphia)
- **Archie Manning**, University of Mississippi (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
- **Fred Martinelli**, Ashland University (Ohio) (Mike Cleary/Northeastern Ohio)
- **Russell Maryland**, University of Miami (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Randall McDaniel**, Arizona State University (Valley of the Sun)
- **Steve McMichael**, University of Texas (Chicago Metro)
- **Giff Nielsen**, Brigham Young University (TD Club of Houston)
- **Ron Pritchard**, Arizona State University (Valley of the Sun)
- **Coach John Ralston**, Utah State, Stanford, San Jose State (Northern California)
- **Gary Reasons**, Northwestern State (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Pat Richter**, Wisconsin (Wisconsin, Madison)
- **Coach Darrell Royal**, Mississippi State, Washington, and Texas (Greater Austin)
- **Jeff Siemon**, Stanford University (Minnesota)
- **Coach Jim Sochor**, University of California-Davis (Northern California)
- **George Talliaferro**, Indiana University (Central Indiana)
- **Fran Tarkenton**, University of Georgia (University of Georgia)
- **Danny White**, Arizona State University (Valley of the Sun)
- **Paul Wiggin**, Stanford University (Minnesota)
- **Alfred Williams**, University of Colorado (Colorado)

**NFF National Scholar- Athletics attending or speaking at events included:**

- **Brian Baschnagel**, 1975 honoree from Ohio State University (Chicago Metro)
- **Drew Brees**, 2000 honoree from Purdue University (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Dan DeRose**, 1983 honoree from Colorado State University - Pueblo (Colorado)
- **Dave Foley**, 1968 honoree from Ohio State University (Springfield, Ohio Chapter)
- **Quin Harris**, 2008 honoree from Louisiana Tech (S.M. McNaughton)
- **Dr. Michael Shepard**, 1991 honoree from California-Davis (Orange County)
- **John Stinchcomb**, 2002 honoree from the University of Georgia (University of Georgia)
- **Matt Stinchcomb**, 1998 honoree from the University of Georgia (Greater Atlanta)

**Other keynote speakers and VIP attendees included:**

- **William D. Adams**, Colby College (Maine) president (Maine)
- **Judge Lance Africk**, Allstate Sugar Bowl president (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
- **Ray Agnew**, former NFL player and current pro scout for the St. Louis Rams (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Dick Ambrose**, former NFL player with the Cleveland Browns (Mike Cleary/NE Ohio)
- **Tommy Amato**, Chicago Bears assistant manager (Chicago Metro)

- **Jerry Angelo**, Chicago Bears general manager (Chicago Metro)
- **Brad Bates**, Miami (Ohio) athletics director (Northeastern OH)
- **Josh Bleill**, Indianapolis Colts community relations (Central Indiana)
- **Vaughn Broadnax**, former NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Bill Brooks**, former NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Rich Brooks**, former head coach with the University of Oregon, University of Kentucky and St. Louis Rams (Portland)
- **Mike Brown**, announcer with 710 ESPN Seattle Radio (King County/Seattle)
- **Bob Casciola**, past president of the National Football Foundation (Valley of the Sun)
- **Bill Carollo**, Big Ten Football official (Chicago Metro)
- **Charlie Carr**, Midwestern State University (Tex.) athletics director (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Joe Castiglione**, University of Oklahoma athletics director and NFF board member (Oklahoma)
- **Mike Catalana**, 13 WHAM News sports director (Rochester)
- **Gary Cavalli**, Executive Director of the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl (Northern California)
- **Roosevelt Colvin**, former Purdue defensive end and NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Jeff Compber**, Northern Illinois University athletics director (Chicago Metro)
- **Carlton Cooper**, Texas A&M-Commerce athletics director (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Bob Corradi**, Massachusetts Maritime Academy athletics director (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Gene Corrigan**, former ACC Commissioner and NFF board member (Corrigan-Faircloth, N.C.)
- **Tim Curley**, Penn State athletics director and 2011 NFF John L. Toner Award honoree (Central Pennsylvania)
- **Larry Czarda**, president of Greensboro College (NFF Corrigan Faircloth)
- **Rick DeMulling**, former NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Manny Diaz**, University of Texas defensive coordinator (Greater Austin)
- **Rick Dickson**, Tulane athletics director (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
- **Doug Dieken**, former NFL player with the Cleveland Browns (Mike Cleary/NE Ohio)
- **Boots Donnelly**, former Middle Tennessee University head coach and athletics director (Middle Tennessee)
- **Al Dorenkamp**, Central College athletic director (Iowa)
- **General Ed Eberhart**, former commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Bobby Engram**, former Penn State All-American Wide Receiver (Central PA.)
- **Bradley Faircloth**, co-founder of the Corrigan-Faircloth Chapter & former associate commissioner of the ACC (Corrigan-Faircloth, N.C.)
- **Mike Finn**, associate commissioner of the ACC (Corrigan-Faircloth, N.C.)
- **Fran Fisher**, voice of Penn State football for 40 years (Central PA)
- **Alex Flanagan**, NBC Sports and NFL Network reporter (John Ferraro/Los Angeles Chapter)
- **Mike Flood**, Seattle Seahawks vice president of community relations (King County/Seattle)
- **Phillip Fulmer**, former University of Tennessee head coach (East Tennessee)
- **Fran Ganter**, Penn State director of football operations (Central PA)
- **Theodore Gatsas**, mayor of Manchester (Joe Yukica/New Hampshire)
- **Dr. E. Gordon Gee**, Ohio State University president (Columbus)
- **Tim Gleason**, commissioner of the Ohio Athletic Conference (Mike Cleary/NE Ohio)
- **Brandon Gorin**, former Purdue offensive tackle and current NFL free agent (Central Indiana and Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Howard Griffith**, former fullback at Illinois and in the NFL, current Big Ten Network analyst (Chicago Metro)
- **Mike Hamilton**, former University of Tennessee athletics director (East Tennessee)
- **Jim Hanifan**, former NFL coach with the St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Falcons (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Chris Hansen**, running backs coach from FCS National Champion Eastern Washington (King County/Seattle)
- **Tom Hansen**, former Pac-10 commissioner (Northern California)
- **Ken Hatfield**, former Air Force, Arkansas, Clemson and Rice head coach (Arkansas)
- **Jim Hawthorne**, voice of the LSU Tigers (East Tennessee)
- **Pamela Hayden**, The Simpsons voice actress (John Ferraro/Los Angeles)
- **Tom Herbert**, Big Ten football official (Chicago Metro)
- **Will Herring**, Seattle Seahawks linebacker (Auburn)
- **Doug Hertz**, member of the Tulane Board of Administrators, president and CEO of United Distributors (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
- **Honorable P. Harris Hines**, justice, Supreme Court of Georgia (Greater Atlanta)
- **Kelly Holcomb**, former NFL player (Middle Tennessee)
- **Bob Hyde**, vice president of community relations with the Tennessee Titans (Middle Tennessee)
- **John Jackson**, former All-American wide receiver at USC (Riverside)
- **Robert Jackson**, former NFL player with the Cleveland Browns (Mike Cleary/NE Ohio)
- **Merv Johnson**, University of Oklahoma director of football operations (Oklahoma)
- **Nolan Jones**, Northwestern University director of football operations (Chicago Metro)
- **Steve Jones**, current voice of the Nittany Lions (Central PA)
- **Jeff Joniak**, radio voice of the Chicago Bears (Chicago Metro)
- **John Kadlec**, former legendary Missouri player, coach and administrator; voice of the Tigers (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Jon Kitna**, Dallas Cowboys quarterback (Tacoma Pierce County, Wash.)
- **Bob Lee**, former NFL player and president of Legion Properties Brokerage Co. (Northern California)
- **Mike Leonard**, former NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Richard Lisk**, general manager, Trenton Steel football team (Delaware Valley)
- **Bill Little**, University of Texas special assistant to the football coach for communications (Greater Austin)
- **Carlos Mainord**, former college and NFL assistant coach
- **George McCaskey**, Chicago Bears chairman (Chicago Metro)
- **Virginia McCaskey**, Chicago Bears owner (Chicago Metro)
- **Randy McClanahan**, former linebacker at the University of Louisiana at

Lafayette and in the NFL (Valley of the Sun)

- **Greg McGarity**, University of Georgia athletics director (University of Georgia)
- **Jon Meterparel**, Boston College play-by-play broadcaster (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Tim Millis**, executive director of the NFL Referees Association (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Fred Mitchell**, author and Chicago Tribune columnist (Chicago Metro)
- **Scott Murray**, Emmy award winning sportscaster (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Gerald Myers**, former Texas Tech athletics director (Texas Tech)
- **Bob Neyland**, son of Hall of Fame Coach Robert R. Neyland (East Tennessee)
- **Travis Niekamp**, Washington State director of football operations (King County/Seattle)
- **Tom Nowatzke**, former All-American from Indiana (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Steve Orsini**, Southern Methodist University athletics director (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Mike Pereira**, former NFL vice president of officiating and current NFL analyst (Sacramento)
- **Don Pierson**, legendary Chicago Tribune football sportswriter (Chicago Metro)
- **Allen Pinkett**, former University of Notre Dame running back (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana)
- **Chris Plonsky**, University of Texas women's athletics director and NFF board member (Greater Austin)
- **Mike Prior**, former NFL player (Central Indiana)
- **Thomas Reenock**, mayor of the Borough of Northampton, Mass. (Lehigh Valley)
- **Rich Rodriguez**, former Michigan and West Virginia head coach (NFF Michigan)
- **Toby Rowland**, voice of Oklahoma football (Oklahoma)
- **Caroline Schrenker**, Chicago Bears director of community relations (Chicago Metro)
- **Larry Scott**, commissioner of the Pac-12 Conference (Northern California)
- **Dewey Selmon**, two-time consensus All-American defensive lineman with the Oklahoma Sooners (Oklahoma)
- **Steve Sewell**, former All-America running back with Oklahoma and the Denver Broncos (Colorado)
- **Carver Shannon**, standout at Southern Illinois, former NFL player with the LA Rams (John Ferraro/Los Angeles Chapter)
- **Vai Sikaheima**, former NFL player and current sports director/anchor WCAU TV-10, NBC (Philadelphia)
- **R.C. Slocum**, former Texas A&M head coach (NFF East Tennessee)
- **Fred Smerlas**, NFL Pro Bowler (Jack Grinold/Eastern Mass.)
- **Al Smith**, former NFL player (Middle Tennessee)
- **Lovie Smith**, Chicago Bears head coach (Chicago Metro)
- **Rowland "Red" Smith**, former college coach (Sacramento) (Tacoma Pierce County, Wash.) (King County/Seattle)
- **Steve Snapp**, Ohio State associate athletics director (Columbus)
- **Mike Solari**, San Francisco 49ers offensive line coach (Northern California)
- **Eric Sondheimer**, Los Angeles Times sportswriter (John Ferraro/Los Angeles Chapter)
- **Steve Spagnuolo**, St. Louis Rams head coach (Tom Lombardo/St. Louis)
- **Joe Starkey**, Cal football radio play-by-play announcer and the 2010 recipient of the NFF Chris Schenkel Award (Northern California)
- **Tom Starr**, President & CEO, Ticket City Bowl (NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas)
- **Jess Stiles**, former coach and Texas Tech assistant athletics director (Texas Tech)
- **Tim Stratton**, former Purdue standout and John Mackey Award Winner (Chicago Metro)
- **James Street**, former University of Texas quarterback (Greater Austin)
- **John Swofford**, ACC commissioner (NFF Corrigan Faircloth)
- **Joe Tiller**, former head coach at Purdue and Wyoming (Joe Tiller/Northwest Indiana and Wyoming)
- **Amani Toomey**, former Michigan wide receiver and member of the New York Giants Super Bowl team (Westchester, N.Y.)
- **Jim Tressel**, former Ohio State head coach (Wistert/Toledo) (Columbus) (Mike Cleary/NE Ohio)
- **Frank Vascellaro**, WCCO-TV sports director (Minnesota)
- **Mike Wadell**, Towson University athletics director (Greater Baltimore)
- **Dr. Terry Wanless**, Sacramento State athletics director (Sacramento)
- **Bob Weller**, former Lock Haven University head coach and athletics director (Central PA)
- **Craig Wells**, Texas Tech associate athletics director (Texas Tech)
- **Jan White**, Ohio State University All-American (Springfield, Ohio)
- **Brenard Wilson**, former NFL player (Middle Tennessee)
- **David Wolk**, president of Castleton State College (Vermont)
- **Amy Yakola**, associate commissioner of the ACC (Corrigan-Faircloth, N.C.)
- **Alan Young**, Fiesta Bowl chief of staff (Valley of the Sun)
- **Ernie Zampese**, former longtime NFL coach (Walter Zable/San Diego)