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53 North Texas High School Scholar-Athletes Named 2010 NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas Honorees

Club's top scholar-athlete will claim a \$2,500 scholarship at the April 20 event.

DALLAS, April 1, 2010 - The National Football Foundation (NFF) Gridiron Club of Dallas announced today the 53 North Texas scholar-athletes who will be honored for their accomplishments on and off the field at the club's second annual awards banquet. The event will be held April 20 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"We are proud to announce our second scholar-athlete class for the North Texas region," said **Gerald Brence**, the president of the NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas and the athletics director for the Plano Independent School District. "These players symbolize everything right about our game, and they serve as a powerful example to their peers about what it means to bring the same competitive spirit to the classroom that we teach them to use on the field."

The 53 scholar-athletes were selected from a pool of candidates from the entire region. The criteria used to evaluate the honorees included athletic accomplishments, performance in the classroom and commitment to the community. The selection committee included coaches, teachers, administrators and business leaders from the North Texas area. During the banquet, one individual will be named the club's top scholar-athlete, claiming a \$2,500 scholarship to continue his education.

The 2010 NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas Scholar-Athletes

Listed alphabetically by high school

Aledo - **Cy Wilson**
Allen - **Taylor Pearson**
Arlington Bowie - **Curt Copeland**
Arlington Lamar - **Blake Mayberry**
Arlington Martin - **Joe Lavilla**
Arlington Sam Houston - **Jose Martinez**
Arlington Seguin - **Ciante Evans**

Carrollton Newman Smith - **Randall Joyner**
Cedar Hill - **Rickey Gonzalez**
Colleyville Heritage - **Nick Young**
Coppell - **Hayden Hawk**
Denison - **Corbin Boettger**
Denton Ryan - **Scotty Young**
DeSoto - **Zachary Orr**
Eules Trinty - **Sione Moeakiola**
Fort Worth Western Hills - **Casey Amick**
Frisco Centennial - **Joe Kopidlansky**
Frisco Wakeland - **Thomas Craig**
Granbury - **Joe Wallace**
Grand Prairie - **Justin Ontiveros**
Hebron - **Steve Owens**
Highland Park - **James Mills**
Irving - **Alex Oswald**
Irving MacArthur - **Daniel Vinson**
Justin Northwest - **Chris Bain**
Keller - **Dillon Farley**
Keller Central - **Matthew Gibson**
Keller Fossil Ridge - **Matthew Fudge**
Lake Highlands - **Ricky Zorn**
Mansfield - **Garrett Graham**
Mansfield Legacy - **Taylor Cockrell**
McKinney - **Nate Leonard**
McKinney Boyd - **Derek Branson**
McKinney North - **Josh Matthews**
Mesquite - **Chase Johnson**
Mesquite Poteet - **Landry Finch**
Midlothian - **Eddie Johnson**
North Mesquite - **Michael Reed**
Plano - **Kevin Smith**
Plano East - **Brandon Lewis**
Plano West - **Richard Peabody**
Richardson - **William Smith**
Richardson Berkner - **Brennan DiChiara**
Rockwall - **Kyle Cotner**
Rockwall Heath - **Kevin Rodgers**
Rowlett - **Thomas O'Chea**
Sachse - **Austin Hayes**
South Grand Prairie - **Orlando Eureste**
Southlake Carroll - **Justin Agnew**
Van Alstyne - **Shane Jones**
Weatherford - **Gabe Garner**
Wichita Falls - **Eddie Aboussie**
Wylie - **Chad Cole**

"The National Football Foundation is excited to recognize these young student-athletes," said NFF President & CEO **Steven J. Hatchell**. "They truly embody the scholar-athlete ideal, and they stand as a testament to football's ability to build our next generation of great leaders."

The event, starting at 6 p.m., will showcase the great stories in North Texas that will inspire future student-athletes to excel in the classroom and become more involved in their communities. The event will also pay tribute to several outstanding individuals for their contributions to the game and the North Texas region. Dallas Cowboys Owner **Jerry Jones** will accept the Distinguished Texan Award, the group's most prestigious award. Other awards remaining to be announced include the college scholar-athletes, the Legends Award, the Athletics Director of the Year, the Steve Storie Official of the Year, and the coaches and assistant coaches of the year.

SMU head coach **June Jones**, who led the Mustangs to their first bowl game in 25 years in only his second year at the helm, will deliver the keynote speech while award-winning sportscaster **Scott Murray** will serve as the evening's emcee for the second consecutive year. The 2009 inaugural event attracted a sellout crowd of 500 people. For more information on 2010 tickets and/or banquet sponsorship opportunities, please contact club president Gerald Brence at 469-878- 5370 or via email at Gerald.Brence@pisd.edu.



53 North Texas high school scholar-athletes will be honored at an event also recognizing Jerry Jones with

the NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas Distinguished Texan Award. Jones (right) is pictured here with Nike Chairman Phil Knight at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner in New York City this past December.

About The National Football Foundation: *Founded in 1947 with leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, a non-profit educational organization, runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. With 121 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, NFF programs include the College Football Hall of Fame, the NFF Hampshire Honor Society, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Alumni Association, Play It Smart, and scholarships of over \$1 million for college and high school scholar-athletes. The NFF presents the MacArthur Bowl, the Campbell Trophy, endowed by HealthSouth, and releases the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Standings.*

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