

FIRST & TEN

The Rutgers Touchdown Club Newsletter



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Next General Membership Save the Date:

October 29, 2009

Location and Time TBD

Letter from the President

TD Club Members, Welcome to the 2009 season!! After a summer of watching re-runs of the PapaJohns.com Bowl at 3 a.m. on ESPNU and incessantly checking ScarletKnights.com and other Rutgers fan web-sites, I can safely say that I am excited about the upcoming season! With many players that we will sorely miss moving on to the NFL, excitement abounds about new players making their impact on the gridiron at RU. While the defense and our offensive-line have substantial experience, it will be interesting to watch the competitive battles for other positions develop over the course of the upcoming season. In addition to changes on the field, the stadium expansion, new scoreboard and the new Welcome Center, will all result in a new Game Day experience at RU. Also, through the generous contributions of alumni donors, it is great to hear that the planned recruiting lounge inside Rutgers Stadium will be coming to fruition.

On behalf of the TD Club Board and Members, congratulations to Anthony Davis on being named to the Outland Trophy watch list and to Ryan D’Imperio who was named to the Charles Bednarik Award watch list. Senior Scarlet Knight, Billy Anderson also deserves special recognition for being nominated to the Allstate/AFCA Good Works Team, for his community service off the field. Billy is following in the footsteps of former Scarlet Knight and current Indianapolis Colt, Gary Brackett, who was awarded the NFL’s 11th Annual Arthur S. Arkish Humanitarian Award. Among Gary’s many great humanitarian endeavors, Gary founded the IMPACT foundation in 2007, which helps children afflicted by cancer. What a great impact our Scarlet Knights are having on our community!

As you will see peppered throughout this newsletter, this upcoming season will be another eventful one for the TD Club. With 50/50s each game-day, bus trips to UCONN and Maryland, discounts to numerous retailers, the annual auction, sponsorship of the senior awards banquet and our regular meetings, we can definitely use whatever help we can get. Feel free to email me at president@rutgerstdclub.com if you can pitch in!

Just to note a couple of our successes, already in 2009 our annual auction held in the Rutgers Club during the Spring Game raised over \$13,000. (Please let us know if you have donations for our auction this upcoming year.) In addition through the leadership of Bob Connell one of our Club Vice Presidents, and the able help of many volunteers including his wife Jeanne, the season ticket raffle was a huge success and wrapped up on August 16th, when Coach Schiano pulled the three winning tickets at Fan-Fest. The raffle raised over \$32,000 - a 50% increase from last year!.*continued on page 2*



Coach Schiano poses with TD Club Board member Bob Connell



Letter from the President (continued)

I want to welcome three new members to our board. First, I am excited to have Jim O'Kelly join our board, after seven years of writing the newsletter I was personally ecstatic to hear that Jim wanted to lead the newsletter over the next few years!

Also, welcome back to Elliott Sacks who has re-joined our board after a hiatus. Elliott will be leading the Club's public relations efforts.

Finally, welcome to Ben Heller our new Student Liaison. Ben is a senior from RU and hopes to continue the Club's efforts at involving current RU students and keeping them involved after graduation!

Once again, we welcome all of our members to get more involved. Feel free to contact any member of the board for information about volunteering for the club. Our contact information can be found in this newsletter and as always on our website.

On behalf of the executive board and committee chairs, we hope to see you at the games and at our next meeting.

Sincerely,
Joseph H. Lemkin,
President

*Pictured Below:
Ryan Blaszczyk Leads
the Way*



Behind the Facemask with Ryan Blaszczyk

NAME: Ryan Blaszczyk

NICKNAMES: "Blaz"

NUMBER: 61

POSITION: Center

CLASS OF: 2010

MAJOR: Criminal Justice

FAMILY: Mother (JoAnne), Father (Michael) and Sister (Brittany)

HOMETOWN: Medford Lakes, NJ / Shawnee HS

FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS: Outback

FAVORITE CLASS: Approaches to Leadership

HOBBIES: Golf, video games, hanging out with family and friends

IF COACH SCHIANO GAVE ME A DAY OFF FROM PRACTICE, I WOULD: Study Film

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Chicken Wings

THE BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW WAS: Predator

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Chicken Wings

THE TV SHOW I CAN'T MISS: Lost

FAVORITE SONG: The theme song from "Lost"

FAVORITE HOLIDAY: Fourth of July

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM, BESIDES RUTGERS: New England Patriots

GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES: Watching the Philadelphia Phillies win the 2008 World Series

15% OFF ALL RUTGERS CLOTHING
ENTER CODE "RUALUMS" AT CHECKOUT
EXPIRES OCTOBER 12TH @ MIDNIGHT PST

MARC ECKO
Cut it Clean



SHOP NOW ►

It's a Family Affair – The Udovich's

For many players Rutgers football is a family affair. Among the many family ties that Rutgers die-hards will recall are Malik and Jamil Jackson, the Pickel brothers, Marty and Greg Pyszczyk, the Rudanovic brothers, the brothers Kurdyla, the Dumonts, Nate and Brian Leonard, the McCourty twins. Current Scarlet Knights Jawan Westerman and Desmond Stapleton can watch their brothers Jamal and Darnell play on Sundays in the NFL. Nate Leonard watches younger brother, Brian, play on Sundays. Incoming recruits Jamal and Jamil Merrell and Antwan Lowery (brother of current Scarlet Knight Antonio) will continue the family legacy.

Among the kith and kin who have stayed close to the football program is the Udovich clan. In the 1980s Clem and Pat Udovich each starred on the gridiron, and served as team captains. Presently, Clem Jr., is vying for the long snapper position.

A Conversation with Clem Udovich

How did it turn out that a second generation of Udoviches ended up on a Scarlet Knights roster?

Clem, Jr. had several offers from Division 1-AA teams, but based on what he knew about the excitement happening here, he decided that Rutgers was the place for him, and that the Scarlet Knights were his team. He made the team as a walk-on.

What is the most noticeable thing between your days with the Scarlet Knights and things today?

It is like night and day! It's such a richer experience for the members of the football team. The support that Greg gives the team is wonderful.

How so?

In every way.

An example?

He models success for the guys, and he exposes them to models of success such as NFL players, and speakers from different walks of life.

Share with us a little about your athletic background.

Before college, I attended Archmere Academy in Delaware. On the football team I played center, defensive end, kicker, and punter. I was also involved in track, doing the shot-put, discus, and some running.

Who was interested in you as a football player?

I received offers from Villanova, Temple, Delaware, in addition to Rutgers.

Do any of the coaches stand out in your memory?

Frank Burns, of course... I got along well with him. Ted Cottrell was here at the time, too – just before he began his long coaching career in the NFL.

Any thoughts when you see your son and the rest of the team?

I know all the guys, and I want them to do well. I try to be helpful and supportive in whatever ways I can.

What keeps you busy now?

I have been working as a printing salesman since my days at Rutgers. I am in my sixth year on the Rutgers Letter Winners board, and my first year on the TD Club board.

In addition to your son, Clem, tell us something about your family.

My wife Dee Dee, who graduated from Cook College, works as a kindergarten aide, and she is studying to be a teacher. My daughter, Nicole, is a first year student at Rutgers.
(And we have a dog, Scarlet!)

Being a former player, you must watch the game a bit differently than the typical fan.

I don't get too analytical, but I like to watch the line, and how things play out there.



Clem and Dee Dee Udovich at the TD Club General Membership meeting



The Wheels on the Bus Go 'Round and 'Round...!!!

If you are making plans to see our Scarlet Knights play any away games this season, think about taking the bus with the Touchdown Club for a trip to Hartford, Connecticut on October 31. Tickets for the bus are \$35.00 each. Game tickets are not included.



For game tickets, contact the RU Ticket Office at 1-866-445-4678 or UConn Ticket Office at 1-877-288-2666. There will be door prizes, games, a raffle, entertainment, and a surprise treat. Friends and family are welcome (but should be fans of the Scarlet Knights, of course)! Please contact Lou Nordone by telephone at 908-507-4534 or by email at rufree44@optonline.net if you are interested.

Additional bus trip information:

- No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the bus.
- Each bus trip is open to non-TD Club members.
- Parking will be available at the Yellow Lot at the RAC.
- The bus will depart from the RAC parking lot six and half hours prior to the official scheduled kickoff.
- The bus will depart for the return trip to the RAC exactly a half-hour after the conclusion of the game.
- If you would like to tailgate, there are compartments under the bus for coolers and chairs.
- The TD Club will provide a light snack and drink on the way to the game and on the way home.
- The bus will stop briefly at a rest area on the way to the game and on the way home.

Don't Forget the 50/50

As a reminder, the Club has other terrific fundraising opportunities. The TD Club will be holding 50/50s all 2009 home games. Fans must purchase 50/50 chances prior to entering the stadium. 50/50s will not be sold inside the Stadium. Student-Athletes will be selling tickets in the parking lots as well as directly outside the stadium gates prior to kickoff. The winning 50/50 ticket will be announced during the first time out of the 3rd quarter. All proceeds go to benefit the Rutgers Football Program via the Rutgers University Foundation. If you have questions for any of our board-members or would like to volunteer in any way, please visit our web-site at www.rutgerstdclub.com for contact information for all of our board-members.

Rutgers Touchdown Club Night at On the Border

Tacos, fajitas, guacamole, and other delicious Mexican fare were on the plates of TD Club members on July 21 at On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina. Patrons of the restaurant on Route 1 in New Brunswick witnessed scores of scarlet-clad Rutgers football fans sate their appetites, and show their pride in RU Football. Ten-percent of the proceeds from purchases by members were returned to the TD Club to support Rutgers Football. A special thanks to On the Border, and please support those who support the Scarlet Knights!



Discount Updates

Show your Rutgers Pride in Style!

Mark Ecko, a Rutgers alumnus, has created a limited edition clothing line that pays homage to our Scarlet Knights. His 2009 collection of new Rutgers-inspired clothes are available at ShopEcko.com. Take an extra 15% off all Rutgers gear when you use coupon code "RUALUMS" at checkout. This offer expires on October 12th at midnight PST. Plus, spend \$100 or more and get FREE SHIPPING! Go to <http://www.shopeco.com>

UCONN Hotel Discount for Touchdown Club Members

If you would rather stay overnight for the UCONN Game, the Rutgers Touchdown Club has secured a discount for members at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. Rooms are \$89/night for the period of Oct 30th - Nov 1st. The rate will be valid based on room availability, up to and including 30-Sep-2009. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact:

Tammy Strong
Crowne Plaza (CMLCT)
(860) 807-2458 Ext: 0
tstrong@shanercorp.com

Recent General Membership Meetings

Many thanks to TD Club members who attended the June 23rd general membership meeting, showing that Rutgers football is a year-round activity for members as well as the coaching staff. Not only did members have the opportunity to meet friends and mix with the Scarlet Knights' most supportive fans, but you heard Jeremy Ito and Coach Joe Susan speak about the program. Here is one revelation: the Scarlet Knights are twentieth in the number of players who are presently with the NFL!

On September 1st, TD Club members turned out by the hundreds at the Recruiting Tent across from the stadium for the first meeting of the 2009 season. Coach Schiano spoke about the impressive efforts that the team made during summer practice. TD Club members asked a wide array of question which Coach answered with his characteristic wit and humor. Always insightful in his remarks, perhaps the key point that he made during the presentation was the role of Trust in building and maintaining a top-notch football program. More than a few members took the opportunity to take a peek at the stunning enhancements that have been made to the stadium since the final home game of the 2008 season. We welcome the many new members who joined our club that evening!



Coach Susan Speaking at the June 23rd Meeting

Mr. Inside and Outside

The Rutgers Touchdown Club has its own version of Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside rolled in one: Lou Nordone. On game days Lou sprints *inside* the stadium along the sidelines as a “ball boy” with his partner, Elliott Sacks.

Lou is just as familiar a sight *outside* the stadium on game days as he scampers through the parking lots selling 50/50 tickets for the Touchdown Club drawing during the third quarter. Typically, Lou arrives at White Lot about four hours prior to kickoff to sell tickets. After he covers White Lot, he turns his attention to adjacent lots, covering as much ground as he can. For many fans, Lou’s trademark announcement, “Fifty-fifties... five dollars a ticket, five tickets for twenty dollars!” is as much a part of tailgating as burgers on the grill.

As persistent as he is in selling the tickets, he always takes a friendly, easy going approach to the ticket sales. He feels the good will he generates will pay off in the long term. This persistence has paid off for the Touchdown Club. Winners of the drawings in recent seasons are consistently collecting more than ten thousand dollars, with one drawing over eighteen thousand dollars! This pleasant persistence has had its humorous effects. Last October on the Pennsylvania Turnpike headed toward the Pittsburgh game, Lou pulled into a rest area next to a motor home that displayed Rutgers license plate holders. The owner took a look at Lou, and queried, “Did you follow us here to sell a 50/50?”

Keep your eyes open this season for Lou as well as the many student volunteers who will roam the parking lots calling “Fifty-fifties... five dollars a ticket, five tickets for twenty dollars!”

To learn more about our Ball Boys Go to www.chopchamps.com/Red_Up.aspx

R Stadium (and Theirs)

The increased seating capacity, enhanced amenities, and improved facilities Rutgers Stadium makes it one of the jewels of college football. Here is a look at other stadiums that Touchdown Club members will encounter when they hit the road to cheer the Scarlet Knights this season.

September 26 – University of Maryland/Byrd Stadium/College Park, Maryland.

Named for H.C. Byrd, a football coach and university president.

Seating capacity = 51,500. First game: September 30, 1950/Maryland defeated Navy (35-21).

Tidbit: Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip saw their first American football game in Byrd Stadium in the 1950s. On a clear evening, the lights of the Washington Monument can be seen from the stadium.

October 20 – Army/Michie Stadium/West Point, New York.

Named for Dennis Michie, who was the first Army football coach. Michie died in the Spanish-American War.

Seating capacity = 40,000. First game: October 4, 1924/Army defeated St. Louis University (17-0).

Tidbit: The stadium is in one of the most beautiful settings in the country. The playing field is named Blaik Field in honor of Earl Blaik. Blaik coached three Heisman Trophy winners.

10/31 – Rentschler Field/University of Connecticut/East Hartford, Connecticut

Named for Frederick Rentschler, a founder of Pratt & Whitney.

Seating capacity = 40,000. First game: August 30, 2004/UConn defeated Indiana (34-10).

Tidbit: The stadium is on the site of a Pratt & Whitney airfield. Much of the game day parking is on old airstrips.

11/21 – Carrier Dome/Syracuse University/ Syracuse, New York

Named for the Carrier Corporation which made a donation to the university.

Seating capacity = 49,262. First game: September 20, 1980/Syracuse defeated Miami of Ohio (36-24).

Tidbit: Although named for an air-conditioning manufacturer, the Carrier Dome is not air-conditioned.

11/27 – Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium/University of Louisville/ Louisville, Kentucky

Named for Papa John’s Pizza chain which made a donation to the university.

Seating capacity = 42,000 (and will expand to about 63,000). First game: September 5, 1998/Louisville lost to Kentucky (68-34).

Tidbit: There is no bleacher-style seating. All seats are “chairback” style. Churchill Downs is nearby.

Contact Information

Rutgers Touchdown Club
 PO Box 75
 New Brunswick, NJ 08903

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.rutgerstdclub.com

Executive Board

President: Joseph Lemkin e-mail: president@rutgerstdclub.com Phone: (609) 716-0062

First Vice President: Wayne Irvine e-mail: vicepresident1@rutgerstdclub.com

Co-Second Vice President: Lou Nordone e-mail: RUFree44@optonline.net

Co-Second Vice President: Bob Connell e-mail: ltrjc@verizon.net

Treasurer: Jason Kokoszka e-mail: treasurer@rutgerstdclub.com

Secretary: Aaron Mansbach e-mail: secretary@rutgerstdclub.com

Membership: Dawn Kannan e-mail: membership@rutgerstdclub.com Phone: (732) 644-4615

Membership Meetings: Jane Luther

Newsletter: Jim O'Kelly

Special Liaisons

Athletic Department Liaison: Lisa Gonzalez e-mail: lgonzalez@winants.rutgers.edu

Letterwinners Liaison: Clem Udovich e-mail: cudovich@berlinjones.com

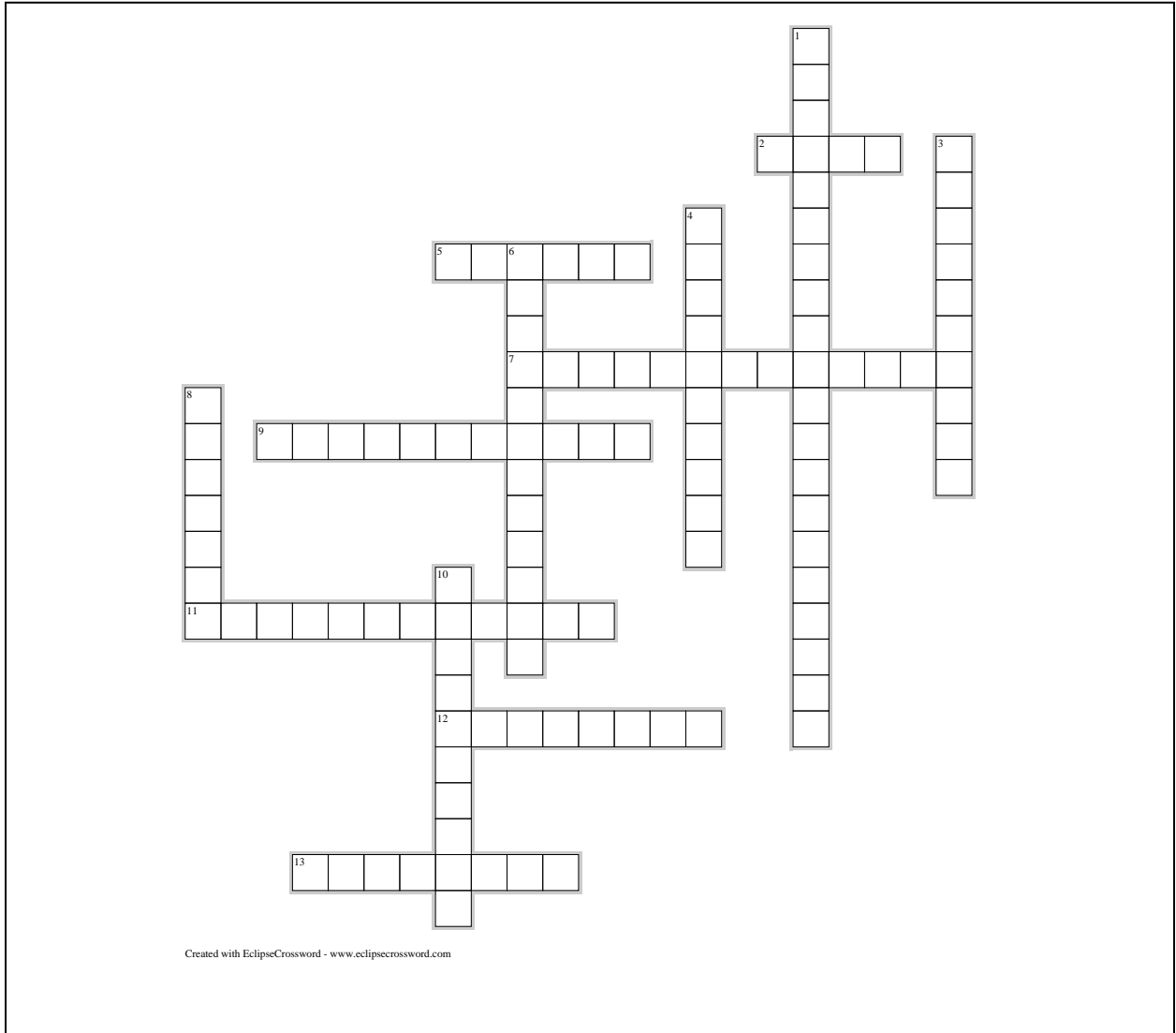
Student Liaison: Ben Heller e-mail: brheller@eden.rutgers.edu

Rutgers 2009 Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TV	TIME/RESULT
Monday, Sept. 7	CINCINNATI <i>BIGEAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	L 15 – 47
Saturday, Sept. 12	HOWARD	Rutgers Stadium		W 45 – 7
Saturday, Sept. 19	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	Rutgers Stadium		W 23 – 15
Saturday, Sept. 26	Maryland	College Park, Md.	ESPN360	3.30PM
Saturday, Oct. 3	TEXAS SOUTHERN Homecoming	Rutgers Stadium		TBA
Friday, Oct. 16	PITTSBURGH <i>BIGEAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	8:00 PM
Friday, Oct. 23	Army	West Point, N.Y.	ESPN2	8:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 31	Connecticut <i>BIGEAST</i>	East Hartford, Conn.		TBA
Thursday, Nov. 12	USF <i>BIGEAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	7:30 PM
Saturday, Nov. 21	Syracuse <i>BIGEAST</i>	Syracuse, N.Y.		TBA
Friday, Nov. 27	Louisville <i>BIGEAST</i>	Louisville, Ky.	ABC/ESPN/ESPN2	TBA
Saturday, Dec. 5	WEST VIRGINIA <i>BIGEAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ABC/ESPN/ESPN2	TBA

Home games in CAPS **Dates and times subject to change

Overtime: Crossword Kickoff



Across

- Ike tackled Jim Thorpe for this team in 1912.
- Before he was Puff Daddy, Sean Combs attended this university in our nation's capital.
- Michael Strahan sacked quarterbacks here before he did it for the Giants.
- Meg Ryan studied journalism for a time at this Big East university.
- It opened its doors as a university on September 26, 1960.
- Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, and Larry Csonka wore #44 for this team.
- The mastermind of the Muppets matriculated at this university.

Down

- This university shares a city with the Hurricanes.
- Roy Rogers' hometown.
- Gene Kelly's nimble feet trod the halls of this university.
- John Denver sung about the state in which you will find this university.
- The birthplace of college football.
- Johnny Unitas threw a few passes in this town.