



FIRST & TEN

The Rutgers Touchdown Club Newsletter
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APRIL 2006

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, fellow Touchdown Club members and welcome to 2006 for Rutgers Football! The upcoming season is as highly anticipated as any as we look to build on our 2005 accomplishments and see Rutgers take further steps up the Conference and Bowl Ladders. (It would be great to play on New Years Day!)

We all eagerly anticipate the 2006 season and are excited about Spring Practice and the Spring Game on April 22nd. **Our annual Touchdown Club Day at Spring Practice will be Saturday April 15th at 10 am at Rutgers Stadium. This practice is only open to active TD Club Members.**

Our next TD Club Sports and Celebrity Auction to benefit Rutgers football will be on Saturday nite, April 22nd at 4:30PM after the Spring Game in the Recruiting tent by the Practice Fields. Mark this date down. We need both your emotional and financial support for Rutgers football!!! (Who knows what past and present Scarlet Knights may be there.)

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened. Led by Banquet Chair, Bob Connell, we hosted our Annual Football Awards Banquet in early December. The banquet was attended by a record crowd of close to 700 loyal supporters of Rutgers Football. Will Gilkison was awarded the Paul Robeson Award presented by the Touchdown Club which goes to the outstanding senior for dedication and leadership on and off the field.

Congratulations to Will!

The Club donated \$5000 to the Student Fund to help students attend the Insight Bowl in Phoenix. We also anticipate donating over \$20,000 to Rutgers football from Club funds. These dollars were raised via our raffles, and banquet ad sales. Thanks to all who helped or contributed.

February saw our annual recruiting tailgate meeting held at the Hale Center. Coach Schiano spoke to us about the 2006 recruiting class. We look forward to the new recruits joining us on the banks in the summer.

Stop by the Touchdown Club table at the Spring Game on April 22nd to check out TD Club Merchandise or renew you membership for the 2006 season.

The Club and our loyal board continue to work hard to bring fun and excitement for TD Club Members. As always, we appreciate the trust you place in us. Personally, this will be my final year as President and I look forward to working with our board and loyal volunteers to do all

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R-L TD Club President, Doug Dolan, Coach Schiano and Executive Board member, Bob Connell

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BEYOND THE BANKS

By Joseph H. Lemkin, RC 90'



Executive Board members, (l-r) Wayne Irvine, Bob Connell and Joe Lemkin, enjoying the festivities at Jackson's On Third

When asked to write an article on a fans perspective of the trip to Arizona for the Insight Bowl, I did not know where to begin. For me, the journey started in the Fall of 1986, as a Freshman at RU, watching my first Rutgers game on a 12 inch black and white TV. Rutgers beat Boston College that day, 12 – 9. Indeed, for the four years I attended RU, we beat BC four times! Never did I think it would take 20 years before we reached a bowl! Although, I can't complain, my forefathers only reached the promised land after 40 years of wandering in the desert. It took me half that time to reach the Phoenix desert.

Leaving NJ on December 25th, it seemed like divine intervention would prevent me from getting to Phoenix. Torrential rain made it almost impossible to drive on the New Jersey Turnpike. However, a beacon of hope appeared when my four year old daughter noticed the digital "Good Luck at the Insight Bowl" sign shining through the haze!

Flying through Cincinnati, I finally arrived at Phoenix airport on December 26th at 10:00 am. Upon getting off the airplane, I wondered if it was really RU that had made it to a

bowl – the only welcome table was for Ohio State football players, some who were on my flight arriving for the Fiesta Bowl. Had RU really made it to a bowl? Maybe it was all a mirage!

I finally realized there was no mirage when I boarded the shuttle to the hotel – I recognized the only other person as a Rutgers fan and the many others boarding at the ensuing terminals

were all dressed in Rutgers garb! After a twenty minute ride, passing Sun Devil Stadium, we finally arrived at our Scarlet oasis in the desert, the Chapparal Suites in Scottsdale. The hotel was besieged with Scarlet Knight fans thanks to the efforts of internet posters from the Rutgers Rivals web-site who coordinated a terrific package with the hotel.

Sitting by the pool hours before the pep rally, it was great meeting RU fans of all ages from all over the United States. Over my two days in Arizona, it felt like I met the entire Rutgers Club from Southern California; I hung out with undergrads traveling with the Touchdown Club's student liaison, Seth Anagnostis; spoke with a Staten Island firefighter - also a member of Rutgers College Class of 90', and almost the entire TD Club executive board - - and of course I met the usual cadre of Rutgers lawyers – the corporate lawyer from Florida, the Patent guy from DC and the real-estate lawyer from Brooklyn. Nonetheless, it was still a great trip!

The 24 hours starting with the Pep Rally in Scottsdale, was nothing less than surreal for a Scarlet Knight fan – exceeding the Atlantic 10 Championship game in 1989, and the

NIT Finals in 2004. Listening to Carlin and Perneti, Doug Dolan, Marco Battaglia, President McComick and Bob Mulcahy fire up the 3,000 Scarlet fanatics at the Scottsdale Civic Center and then witnessing the convoy of buses bring in the 2005 Scarlet Knights was inspiring to say the least. Thereafter, Scottsdale was truly painted Scarlet. It was hard to find an ASU fan in Arizona that night – the bars were brimming with fans hurling "R's" and "U's. In one bar, a rowdy group of alumni greeted each new RU fan with high-fives and chest bumps, all while the cheesehead guy led R-U-T-G-E-R-S chants, with other fans singing the alma mater. It's hard to believe, but these festivities paled in comparison to game day.

The pre-game tailgate at Jackson's on Third was Scarlet heaven. I heard one person describe the event as a fraternity party for the ages. Having met seven of my own fraternity brothers there, I would have to agree. This indoor/outdoor sports bar a couple blocks away from Chase Field was packed with thousands of RU fans – sprawling throughout the many indoor rooms and outdoor patios. The staff wore scarlet and the band appeased the crowd with Bruce's "Born to Run." Followed by spontaneous RU chants and renditions of the alma mater, the entertainment was only outdone by the passing marching band that serenaded the crowd.

Oh that's right, there was the game too. Upon entering Chase Field, I realized that everything except the actual Raritan River had been transported from New Jersey to Phoenix – the numerous RU signs, the inflatable Rutgers Helmet... even James Gandolfini - all made the trip west. Starting with the Air Force

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ITS AUCTION TIME AGAIN

Calling all Rutgers, Sopranos, Yankees and local sports fans. Mark April 22, 2006 on your calendars for a very exciting event. The Touchdown Club's Second Sports and Celebrity Auction to benefit the football Program is set to take place adjacent to Rutgers Stadium following the Spring Game. There will be one-time opportunities to bid on unique memorabilia, original artwork and to meet our Scarlet heroes. The Auction is set to open at 4:00 p.m. with bidding on silent auction items will start at 4:30 p.m. Upon conclusion of the silent auction, the live auction will promptly commence at 5:30 p.m.

A few highlighted live auction items include: A cast autographed script from the pilot episode of the "Sopranos"; original artwork of All-American Brian Leonard, by world-famous sports artist, James Fiorentino; A travel Package to the Borgata Casino in Atlantic City; Travel Package to the Seaview Marriott; tickets to Regis & Kelly, The Tony Danza Show and The David Letterman Show and an opportunity to guest host a game day radio broadcast of Rutgers Football with WFAN's Chris Carlin and former Scarlet Knight Tim Perneti.

In addition, numerous silent auction items will be available allowing participants to bid on items ranging from tickets to sporting events; unique Rutgers memorabilia; to items signed by Bernie Williams, Scott Stevens, Derek Jeter and members of the Giants, Eagles, Flyers, Mets and much more!!!

Admission to the auction is free. Tailgate style food and beverage will be available for purchase. For more information please contact Joe Lemkin at 609-716-0062 or Doug Dolan at 973-334-6051. Volunteers are needed and donations for the auction are also welcome!!

Updates on the auction will shortly be available on the TD Club's web-site www.rutgerstdclub.com



James Fiorentino's original painting of a Leonard Leap is one item which will be up for auction on April 22nd after the Spring Game

Letter from the President

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we can to make this season the best one yet for all of you.

To all of our club members for 2006— Get the word out and build support for Rutgers football. Bring friends to the meetings and get them to join. Do your part to help Rutgers football continue to rise to become the Beast of the Big East!!

Go Rutgers!! Looking forward to a great 2006 season!!!!

Beyond the Banks

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cadet parachuting in the Rutgers Flag, until the final tick on the game-clock elapsed, one could not be more proud of the Scarlet Knights and the fans. Although outnumbered by the ASU fans, the RU cheers seemed to dominate the game – “and that’s another Rutgers first down” resonated in my section. Although not satisfied with the final score – it is clear that the Scarlet Knights and their fans are prepared for and expect annual bowl pilgrimages!



Sameeh McDonald

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Sameeh McDonald
NICKNAMES: Sah
NUMBER: #79
POSITION: OT
CLASS OF : 2006
MAJOR: Criminal Justice
FAMILY: father, Eric McDonald; mother, Loretta Bryant; brother, Tyrone McDonald

HOMETOWN/ HIGH SCHOOL: Newark NJ/West Side HS

FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS: RU Grille

FAVORITE CLASS: Criminal Justice

IN FIVE YEARS I WILL HOPEFULLY BE: Starting my fifth year in the NFL

PROFESSIONAL GOALS: Play pro football; pursue career in criminal justice

HOBBIES: drawing, video games

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

THE BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW WAS: Training Day

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Chicken parm

MY FAVORITE MUSICIAN (BAND) IS: Jay Z

THE TV SHOW I CAN'T MISS: The Sopranos; The Simpsons

FAVORITE HOLIDAY: Christmas

MY FAVORITE ATHLETES ARE: Chris Samuels (OT, Washington Redskins)

MY DREAM VACATION IS: On a beach in Jamaica

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Rutgers Football; NFL – Washington Redskins; NBA – New York Knicks

GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES: Post-game celebration on the field when we beat Navy for our sixth win in 2005 season

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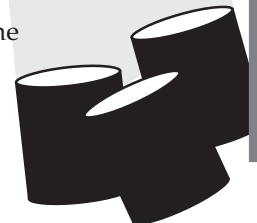
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Ishmael Medley

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Ishmael Medley

NICKNAMES: Noodles

NUMBER: #34

POSITION: Fullback

CLASS OF : 2006

MAJOR: Africana Studies

FAMILY: father, Larry Nolton; mother, Linda Medley; sisters, 5 — Taiesha Nolton, Lisa Nolton, Kin Nolton, Renea Nolton, Michelle Nolton

HOMETOWN/ HIGH SCHOOL: Elizabeth, NJ/Elizabeth HS

FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS: Delta's

FAVORITE CLASS: Health Issues in the African American Community

IN FIVE YEARS I WILL HOPEFULLY BE: have a business or work in a corporation

PROFESSIONAL GOALS: Own my own business

HOBBIES: Spend time with family

IF COACH SCHIANO GAVE ME A DAY OFF FROM PRACTICE, I WOULD: probably just relax

THE BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW WAS: Crash

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Pasta and soul food

MY FAVORITE MUSICIAN (BAND) IS: Stevie Wonder

FAVORITE SONG: Higher Ground

THE TV SHOW I CAN'T MISS: America's Most Wanted

FAVORITE HOLIDAY: New Year's

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Work with Elizabeth HS wrestling team

MY FAVORITE ATHLETES ARE: Bo Jackson

MY DREAM VACATION IS: Hawaii

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Rutgers Football Team, Chicago White Sox

GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES: Victory over Michigan State to open 2004 season, and post-game celebration when we beat Navy in 2005

FEBRUARY RECRUITING MEETING

The RAC was bristling with excitement as an overflow crowd awaited coach Schiano's arrival to introduce the 2006 recruiting class. While waiting for Coach Schiano to arrive Bob Mulcahy fielded numerous questions about the football program and the athletic department in general. It was then Coach Schiano's turn to introduce Rutgers future bowl participants! With one of the top recruiting classes in the Big East, and many starters returning, we can all expect a successful and exciting 2006 season!!



SCARLET KNIGHTS 2006 SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 2 at UNC
Saturday, Sept. 9 ILLINOIS at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Sept. 16 BUFFALO at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Sept. 23 HOWARD at Rutgers Stadium
Friday, Sept 29 at South Florida
Saturday, Oct. 14 at Navy
Saturday, Oct. 21 at Pittsburgh
Saturday, Oct. 28 UCONN at Rutgers Stadium
Thursday, Nov. 9 LOUISVILLE at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Nov. 18 at Cincinnati
Saturday, Nov. 25 Syracuse at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Dec. 2 at WVU

EXTRA POINTS

- Congratulations to Clark Harris who was recently named one of 44 candidates to the 37th Rotary Lombardi Award Watch list for the 2006 season. It is the second consecutive year that Harris has been named to the Lombardi Watch List.

