

Winter 2012

FIRST & TEN

The Rutgers Touchdown Club Newsletter



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Greetings TD Club members!!

The 2011 Rutgers University Football season exceeded pre-season expectations as the Knights battled for a league championship and ended with another bowl victory. This year we are trying something different for our annual recruiting meeting, an all you can eat and drink Beefsteak dinner with season video highlights, a silent auction featuring unique Rutgers items, and video presentation of all signees presented by head coach Greg Schiano on National Signing Day, Wednesday, February 1st.

Rutgers Football:

Five Consecutive Bowl Championships!!

As in years past, we will be holding our annual auction on Saturday, April 28th during the Scarlet White Spring game. Our membership year will conclude with our June meeting with date and location to follow. The TD Club also had a very successful season in our primary objective, supporting our team both emotionally and financially. Between our game day 50-50's, our season ticket raffle, our season long 50-50, bus trips, the annual banquet, the beefsteak dinner, and annual auction we expect to contribute in excess of \$150,000 to Rutgers Athletics. A special thanks goes out to the winner of this years season long 50-50, Diane Shimanowitz, who donated her winnings back to Rutgers. Thanks to all who worked and supported us this year.

The 2011 season may be over but we are already planning for the 2012 campaign which promises to be very exciting. Expectations are high as the Knights return much talent and are among the favorites to win the Big East crown. Please contact me if you have any ideas or concerns to improve the TD Club and as always, we can use more volunteers.

I can be reached via e-mail at president@rutgerstdclub.com or by phone at 732-248-0897.

GO KNIGHTS!!!

Sincerely,
Aaron Mansbach
President



Touchdown Club members relaxing before the UCONN game

Behind the Facemask with Joe Martinek

NAME: Joe Martinek

NICKNAMES: Jersey Joe

NUMBER: 38

POSITION: Fullback

CLASS OF: 2011 – December Graduate

MAJOR: Criminal Justice

FAMILY: Mother (Roxanne), Father (Joe), Brother (Mike)

HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL: Hopatcong, N.J./Hopatcong High School

FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS: Old Man Rafferty's

FAVORITE CLASS: Juvenile Justice

HOBBIES: Golf

IF COACH SCHIANO GAVE ME A DAY OFF FROM PRACTICE, I WOULD: Go home and hang out with my family

THE BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW WAS: Forrest Gump

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Steak

FAVORITE HOLIDAY: Thanksgiving

MY DREAM VACATION IS: Italy

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Rutgers and New York Knicks

GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES: 2005 High School State Championship



*Pictured Below:
"Jersey Joe" in action
for the Scarlet Knights*



Beyond the Banks: Bill Austin

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving - Albert Einstein

Balance and motion in athletics and life seem to be the themes in the life of Bill Austin. Bill Austin (RC '59) was a New Jersey boy, through and through. He grew up in Fanwood, and attended Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. His father worked at a Singer Sewing Machine factory in Elizabeth. His prowess as a high school athlete led to a scholarship offer from Rutgers, and then to universal recognition as one of the greatest athletes in Rutgers history.

On the Banks

Bill played for Head Coach John Steigman for the '56 – '58 seasons. (In those days freshmen did not play with the varsity team.) A better balance of skills in an athlete would be hard to find. Bill played in the three basic aspects of a football team: defense, offense, and special teams. On defense he played safety; on offense he played tailback in the single-wing; and, on special teams he punted and returned kickoffs.

Bill's banner season was in 1958. He scored 15 touchdowns and gained 747 yards in a nine game season. The Scarlet Knights earned an 8-1 record that year. The only loss coming in a game against the Quantico Marines which Bill missed because of a broken hand. In the final game of the season Rutgers defeated Columbia 61-0, a game in which Bill scored 5 touchdowns. Bill finished his three-year career with the football team with 32 touchdowns and 2,073 yards of offense.

Bill also excelled at lacrosse where he played midfield, and in 1959, he was an honorable mention All-American.

Post Rutgers

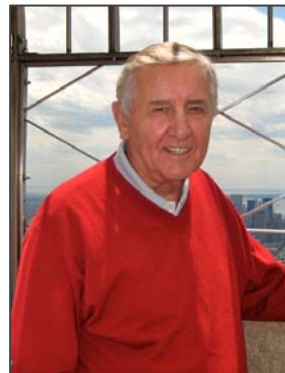
Bill's life has been one of purposeful motion. At the conclusion of the 1958 season, Bill played in the Blue-Gray Football Classic in Montgomery, Alabama, which was usually the first of the all-star games of the year. Bill contributed to the 16-0 victory of the Blues over the Grays. The Washington Redskins drafted Bill in 1959. However, a more important duty arose at the time: Service as an officer in the US Air Force.

After his completion of service to our nation in the USAF, Bill found employment in Connecticut with General Electric. After a number of years at GE, Bill moved on to the bicycle business. He worked for the Giant Bike Company, the world's largest manufacturer of bicycles, as president. He later served as a vice-president at Schwinn, the iconic American bicycle company. Bill's final address in the bicycle business was with Raleigh Bicycles in which he became its president and a part owner. Bill retired from Raleigh Bicycles in 2007, and he continues to serve on its board of directors. (See the historic note at the end of the article.)

Bill and his wife, Jean, recently moved to Oldsmar, Florida. They have four children, Bill, Kent, Cathy, and Kelly, and nine grandchildren.

Historic note: Many musicologists regard July 6, 1957 as one of the most important dates in modern music. On that date Paul McCartney rode his Raleigh bicycle to a church dance to meet a member of the band, The Quarrymen, named John Lennon. The rest, as they say, is history

Pictured below is Bill from his time on the Banks and today.





TD Club in Action

Touchdown Club Road Team Delivers!!!

Congratulations to the Touchdown Club Road Team (TCRT) of 2011! Led by Lou Nordone, the TCRT turned out in record numbers to support our Scarlet Knights on four bus trips this past season. With a record of 3-1 on the road, these members sent a message to the world of college football about the Scarlet Knights and the support they have from the TD Club. A brief recap of each road trip follows...



October 1 – The TCRT took one bus and ventured to the Carrier Dome in Syracuse to see the Scarlet Knights battle back from a deficit to in a thrilling double-overtime victory over the Orange.

November 12 – Three buses of the TCRT crossed the Hudson to travel to the Bronx. In Yankee Stadium the Scarlet Knights outplayed the tough and determined Black Knights of Army.

November 26 – On a second November trip, two busloads of the TCRT headed up the Interstate to UCONN and Rentschler Field. Our road team members shared the heartbreak of defeat as the Scarlet Knights lost to the Huskies. Disappointed, but not dispirited, the greatest achievement of the TCRT was to follow soon.

December 30 – A historic trip for TCRT and the Touchdown Club... FIVE buses with 260 Scarlet Knights fans in tow, departed from the RAC in the morning, and headed up the Turnpike, across the GW Bridge, and into the Bronx to cheer the team to a hard-fought victory over the Iowa State Cyclones at the Pinstripe Bowl.

The TCRT will look to hit the road again during the 2012 season. Check the Summer newsletter to learn what treks "Coach" Nordone plans for the upcoming

Awards, Honors, Accolades, and Memories

Sacrifice, devotion, honor, courage, fortitude, and grace... we often associate these virtues with bygone eras – often with good reason. The hundreds of attendees of the 73rd Touchdown Club Football Awards Banquet held on December 11, 2011 can attest these virtues were in ample supply among the 2011 Scarlet Knights.

That evening at the Hilton in East Brunswick, the Touchdown Club honored the entire team for their accomplishments on the field, in the classroom, and as representatives of Rutgers University. Chris Carlin, Master of Ceremonies, deftly coordinated an array of speakers that included Athletic Director Tim Perneti, Head Coach Greg Schiano and his assistant coaches, and a hilarious monologue by budding stand-up comic Art Forst. Numerous Scarlet Knights received awards for their contributions during the 2011 campaign and their careers. A splendid time was had by all.

73rd Annual Touchdown Club Football Awards Banquet Winners

-  Homer Hazell Trophy – Mohamed Sanu
-  Offensive MVP – Mohamed Sanu
-  Defensive MVP – Khaseem Greene
-  Special Teams MVP – Justin Doerner
-  Scholar-Athlete Award – Scott Vallone
-  Most Improved Scholar – Taj Alexander
-  Loyal Knight Award – Joe Martinek
-  Iron Knight Award – Brandon Jones
-  R Man Courage Award – Eric LeGrand
-  David Bender Trophy – Desmond Wynn, Justin Francis, Steve Beauharnais
-  Paul Robeson Award – Edmond Laryea
-  Swarm and Finish Award – Art Forst

Mark Your Calendar: First Annual Recruiting Night

Do you have a pioneering spirit – and a good appetite? If so, join the Touchdown Club at its First Annual Recruiting Night Beefsteak Dinner on Wednesday, February 1. On that date, also known informally as Letter of Intent Day, Head Coach Greg Schiano will announce the newest members of the Rutgers football family as well as present video highlights of their on-field accomplishments. This day is always the highlight of the off-season.

As this is a new event sponsored by the TD Club, here is a list of Questions and Answers about it.

Where will the Dinner be held?

At the Rutgers Athletic Center.

What exactly is a Beefsteak Dinner?

It is an event at which attendees sit at tables of ten on the floor of the RAC. They are served salad, filet mignon, and French Fries.

Is it “All-You-Can-Eat” style?

Yes. Servers will stop at tables frequently during the dinner. You should head home after the dinner with quite a full stomach!

What is the story with drinks?

Soft drinks, beer, and wine will be available at a bar. The cost of these beverages is included in the price of admission.

How much does it cost, and are reservations required?

The cost is \$55 for TD Club members and \$70 for non-members. Reservations are required. Email beefsteakdinner@rutgerstdclub.com to reserve your seat.

Besides Coach Schiano's presentation, will anything else be going on?

Yes, there will be a silent auction for some special Rutgers gear and memorabilia.

Who benefits from the Dinner?

Rutgers football! All the proceeds that remain after costs are used by the Touchdown

Overtime:

The Summer edition of the Touchdown Club newsletter included an article about long-time Touchdown Club member, John Cummins. A photo of John and his wife, Maurice, was supposed to accompany the article. Here it is. Our apologies to John and Maurice.



Contact Information

Rutgers Touchdown Club
PO Box 75
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Visit Us at:
www.rutgerstdclub.com

Executive Board

President: Aaron Mansbach e-mail: president@rutgerstdclub.com Phone: (732) 248-0897

First Vice President: Bob Connell e-mail: vicepresident1@rutgerstdclub.com

Second Vice President: Lou Nordone e-mail: vicepresident2@rutgerstdclub.com

Treasurer: Tom Miller e-mail: treasurer@rutgerstdclub.com

Secretary: Craig McGovern e-mail: secretary@rutgerstdclub.com

Membership: Erin Greene e-mail: membership@rutgerstdclub.com

Membership Meetings: Jane Luther

Newsletter: Jim O'Kelly

Public Relations: Elliott Sacks

Auction: Joe Lemkin, Wayne Irvine

Website: Matthew Waters

Board Members at Large: Allen Zdroik & Warren Zimmerman

Special Liaisons

Athletic Department Liaison: Doug Dolan e-mail: ddolan@winants.rutgers.edu

Athletic Department Liaison: Dante Carnevale dcarnevale@winants.rutgers.edu

Letterwinners Liaison: Clem Udovich e-mail: clemudo@yahoo.com

Student Liaison: Rachel Gurney e-mail: rgurney@eden.rutgers.edu



For updates on Eric's condition or to find out about ways to donate to Eric's recovery, please visit <http://www.scarletknights.com/Believe/> for the latest information and instructions.