



# FIRST & TEN

The Rutgers Touchdown Club Newsletter  
P.O. Box 75 • New Brunswick • New Jersey 08903  
General Information - 973/334-6051 • [touchdownclub.rutgers.edu](http://touchdownclub.rutgers.edu)

APRIL 2005

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rutgers Football is upon us as Spring Practice has gotten started for the Scarlet Knights. We all eagerly await the Spring Game on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to get an up close look at our 2005 team.

The Touchdown Club has been busy since the season ended in November. We hosted our Annual Football Awards Banquet in early December. The banquet was attended by over 500 loyal friends of Rutgers Football. Ray Pilch 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 Ray!

The Club presented a check to Coach Schiano for \$42,000 at the Banquet which will go to benefit Rutgers football. These dollars were raised via our raffles, auction and banquet. 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 2005 recruiting class. We look forward to the new recruits joining us on the banks in the summer.

We also held our elections in February. It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since our last election, but they have. Our new slate of officers was elected. The new group of officers for the next two years are

myself as President, Joe Lemkin- First Vice President, Ron Green- Second Vice President, Steve Jankoski- Treasurer and Matthew Waters- Secretary. I am excited to work with this dedicated group of Rutgers Football zealots to continue to keep the club growing and having fun.

Stepping down from the board were two long time loyal Touchdown Club officers: Tim Whiteside- outgoing First Vice President and Bill Liddy- outgoing Second Vice President. Both Tim and Bill have been involved with the Club since its re-inception in 1995. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for taking the club to where it is today- from rebirth to now over 1160 active members. Tim and Bill were presented with plaques to commemorate their efforts and dedication.

I also want to thank two outgoing committee chairs for their efforts: Ryan Peene- our Student Liaison and Eric Browne our Banquet Chair. We also welcome aboard new Student Liaison Seth Anagnostis, new Banquet/Auction Chair Bob Connell and Jason Kokoszka- new Membership Chair.

Stop by the Touchdown Club table at the Spring Game on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to check out TD Club Merchandise or

*Continued on page 5*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

February Recruiting .....	2
New Executive Board .....	2
Beyond the Banks .....	3
Player Spotlight .....	4
2005 Schedule .....	5
For Sale .....	5
Extra Points .....	6

## FEBRUARY RECRUITING MEETING

An overcrowded Hale Center was bristling with excitement for the presentation of the 2005 Recruiting Class on February 3rd. Prior to Coach Schiano's arrival, the Crowd was surprised with guest appearances from 2005 recruit Dave McClain and his family. Dave's dad briefly spoke about the warm reception his family received from Coach Schiano – different from any of the other schools that Dave visited. Indeed, Dave and his mom traveled over 4000 miles, visiting over twenty schools. After hearing Mr. McClain speak, it is easy to understand how lucky RU is to have Coach Schiano and the true family environment and atmosphere he has instilled in the program.

Another surprise guest speaker was Dale Berra, who regaled the crowd with a "Yogi" story about streakers at Yankee Stadium. As if on cue, as Dale stepped down, Coach Schiano walked into the room and presented each of the 2005 recruits and answered numerous questions from the crowd.

Elections for new officers also took place at the recruiting meeting. Two prior officers, Bill Liddy (Second Vice-president) and Tim Whiteside (1st Vice-president) stepped down from their positions. Both were presented with plaques recognizing their substantial contributions to the Club. Rutgers Football has benefited from Tim and Bill's enormous contributions over the last several years. Indeed, both have been involved with the Club since its re-formation in 1995 and plan to continue participating as active Club members!

Tom Varga, a prior President of the Club, who restarted the Club in 1995, presented the new slate of officers, each who have served the Club in many ways and have volunteered substantial time and energy to support Coach Schiano's goals. Doug Dolan was again elected President, while Joe Lemkin and Ron Green were elected First and Second Vice-President, respectively. The Club's Treasurer again is Steve Jankoski and Matthew Waters was elected Secretary.

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

Briefly summarizing Club President, Doug Dolan's contributions to the Club would be impossible. An ever-present force planning and executing most Club events, Doug also attends all home and most away games. He has held numerous positions with the Club including Membership Chairman in 1999 and 2000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in 2000 and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in 2001 and 2002 and President for the past two years. Doug has also chaired numerous committees including the Annual Awards Banquet, the Club Raffle and has handled recruitment of volunteers for the Club. As an executive with Quest Diagnostics in Teterboro and the father of twin daughters, Doug's extreme devotion to the football program is well appreciated by all.

Joe Lemkin, our First Vice President, has been a member of the Club since 1996 and over the last two years has made a substantial impact on the Club. Joe has chaired the Newsletter Committee and developed and executed

the Club's first Celebrity Auction. Joe also established a relationship with Shula's 2 in Newark and has coordinated three "tailgate parties" for away games over the last two years, along with Matthew Waters.

Ron Green, our Second Vice President, joined the Touchdown Club in 1998 and immediately became an active member. He was the Committee Chair for the Touchdown Club Meetings and co-chaired the committee for the train trip to BC in 2000. Ron also served as the Treasurer for the raffles in 2002, 2003, and 2004 and most recently was Secretary for the Club for the past two years.

Steve Jankoski, the Club's Treasurer and a member since 1995, co-chaired the membership committee with Doug Dolan for two years and chaired the pre-game Touchdown Club table for six years. He also was Secretary of the Club for four years and for the last two years served as Treasurer. He volunteers in numerous other capacities, while holding a teaching

position in Bridgewater and also pursuing his graduate degree at Rutgers.

Matthew Waters, our new Secretary, has been Membership Chair for the last two years. With his efforts the Club membership has increased by approximately twenty percent, achieving its highest current paid membership which now exceeds 1160! Matthew also has volunteered on many committees including the Auction Committee and has helped coordinate the Tailgate parties at Shula's 2. He is currently endeavoring to upgrade the Club's web-site as the Club's new Web Chair. Matthew and his wife Lisa are also the parents of one of the Club's newest members, AJ, born in the fall of 2004.

The Touchdown Club would also like to welcome our new committee chairmen. Jason Kokoszka is chairing the Membership Committee. Bob Connell will be the new Auction Chair and Rick Puzio will continue

*Continued on page 5*

# BEYOND THE BANKS

By Joseph H. Lemkin, RC '90

Family has always played an important role in the life of Alcides Catanho. Fending off pressure to attend football powers such as the University of Miami, Alcides turned down numerous scholarship offers to play at Rutgers. It "all boiled down to whether I wanted to leave home or not." An Elizabeth native, Alcides quickly realized that he wanted his ten brothers and sisters to watch him play and cancelled all of his other planned college visits.

Alcides decision was made even easier, realizing that he already had "family" at RU. A 1991 all-state football and basketball star from Elizabeth High School, Alcides followed in the footsteps of his close friends, neighbors and fellow Elizabeth High School gridders, Jamil and Malik Jackson. Also playing with Alcides at Elizabeth, were Shawn Devlin and Laquan Harris, both of whom later played on the Banks as well. Indeed the Elizabeth/Rutgers tradition continues unabated today – Ishmael Medley a senior full-back and Keith Taylor, a Freshman Wide Receiver were roster members of the 2004 Scarlet Knights, while former Scarlet Knight and Elizabeth star, Raheem Orr, currently plays for the New York Giants!

Initially recruited to RU as a tight-end, Alcides ended up being a three-year star at linebacker and on special teams. Having many fond memories of RU, Alcides' Sophomore season was particularly gratifying – it was his first season of play and the Knights had a successful 7-4 campaign. However, returning an interception for a game winning touchdown against West Virginia as a junior, was his most thrilling moment as a Scarlet Knight!

Eleven years removed from graduation, Alcides believes that it was RU that "taught me to be a man." "Being on my own for the first time – balancing a schedule including classes on five different campuses as well as football" was no easy feat. Alcides improved with each year and ultimately was awarded the Fan-ees Award as the most improved Senior on the football team.

Strangely, it was Alcides' skill on the high school basketball court that resulted in his signing a free agent contract with the New England Patriots in 1994. Alcides had an outstanding game against Randolph High School as a Senior, scoring over thirty points. Fortuitously, the NY Giants Offensive Coordinator, Al Groh was in the stands watching his son's Randolph squad. Amazed at Alcides athleticism, Groh "followed my career at Rutgers and after the draft contacted me to attend camp with the Patriots." Alcides freshly recalls Bill Parcells admonition - - "you will be ok here as long as you work hard and put in the time." Doing just that, Alcides became very comfortable with the Patriots and particularly enjoyed his rookie class including Ty Law, Curtis Martin, Willie McGinnest and Chris Slade.

Following the season, New England placed Alcides on waivers, intending to immediately re-sign him. However, one hour into the 24 hour waiver period, Alcides was



L-R Ernie Moore, Alcides and Jose DeJesus await customers at Alcide's store Image Mens Wear in Orange New Jersey

picked up by the Redskins, where he joined former Scarlet Knight, James Jenkins. Playing primarily as a third-down linebacker with the Redskins for two years – Alcides also contributed on special teams and on goal line plays before suffering a career ending knee injury.

Family beckoned again. Having watched his brother Alberto open a shoe store in Irvington, Alcides and Alberto decided to open Image Mens Wear, a clothing/shoe store in Elizabeth. They subsequently opened a second store in Orange. Recently, Alcides has branched out into the real-estate business, purchasing multi-unit residential homes and a commercial building at 227 Main Street, where his Orange store is now located.

The skills and lessons learned on the Banks have served Alcides well. The "patience, organization and teamwork" preached by his coaches have enabled Alcides to remain "laid back" in the face of everyday business world stress. Alcides attributes his ability to remain cool under fire to lessons he learned at RU. However, Alcides most important achievement while at RU was meeting Kara Motusesky (Class of '96'). Indeed, on October 8, 2004,

Continued on page 5



Jason C. Grant

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

**NAME:** Jason C. Grant

**NICKNAMES:** J.Greeze

**NUMBER:** 27

**POSITION:** Safety

**CLASS OF :** 2005

**MAJOR:** Psychology

**FAMILY:** father, Ruel; mother, Donna; brothers, Kevin (7)

**HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL:** Bayside Queens, NY/Bayside High School

**FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS:** Famous Dave's (Rte. 1 in New Brunswick)

**FAVORITE CLASS:** Public Speaking

**IN FIVE YEARS I WILL HOPEFULLY BE:** A famous up and coming record producer.

**PROFESSIONAL GOALS:** Music industry

**HOBBIES:** Work out, play basketball, make music, listen to music

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

**THE BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW WAS:** Troy

**MY FAVORITE FOOD IS:** Grilled Cheese

**MY FAVORITE MUSICIAN (BAND) IS:** O-Jays

**FAVORITE ALBUM:** Jay-Z's Reasonable Doubt

**THE TV SHOW I CAN'T MISS:** The Osbornes

**FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Christmas

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Douglass Day Care Center

**MY FAVORITE ATHLETE IS:** Muhammad Ali

**MY DREAM VACATION IS:** An island in the Carribean

**FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM:** The Scarlet Knights (all sports)

**GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES:** Our win over Michigan State to open the 2004 season.

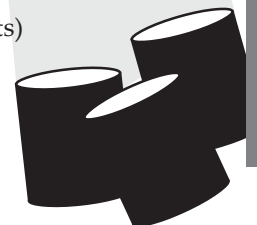
## BEYOND THE BANKS

(continued from page 3)

Alcides and Kara were married. With Kara being East Brunswick High School's all-time leading basketball scorer, there can be no doubt that coaches Schiano, Waters and Stringer will be making recruiting visits to the Catanho household in years to come. Lets keep the Catanhos in the Rutgers family!



Alcides on the Banks



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

renew your membership for the 2005 season. We will be holding our next General Membership Meeting in June at a date TBD.

My challenges to all club members in 2005 are simple:

1. Get one friend to join the Club in 2005 to boost our ranks,
2. Get more involved with the Club and join us in our activities
3. Support Rutgers football to the fullest

I look forward to Spring Ball and the 2005 Season!

*Thank you for entrusting us to lead your Club!*

Go RU!!!

**Doug Dolan**

President

(RC '78, GSM '90)

Joseph Lemkin      Newsletter Coordinator  
Doug Dolan          Editor  
Jill Simonelli        Design & Layout  
Printing & Mailing by  
Rutgers Mail and Document Services

### 2005-2007 Touchdown Club Officers

President / Doug Dolan

[doland@questdiagnostics.com](mailto:doland@questdiagnostics.com)

1st VP / Joseph H. Lemkin

[jhlemkin@duanemorris.com](mailto:jhlemkin@duanemorris.com)

2nd VP / Ron Green

[rr2green@aol.com](mailto:rr2green@aol.com)

Treasurer / Steve Jankoski

[winewizard@worldnet.att.net](mailto:winewizard@worldnet.att.net)

Secretary / Matthew Waters

[mwaters@alumni.rutgers.edu](mailto:mwaters@alumni.rutgers.edu)

Membership Chairperson / Jason Kokoszka

[anj620@aol.com](mailto:anj620@aol.com)

Fan Support / Lou Nordone

[RUFree44@optonline.net](mailto:RUFree44@optonline.net)

(732) 566-1616

Web-Site Chairperson / Matthew Waters

[mwaters@alumni.rutgers.edu](mailto:mwaters@alumni.rutgers.edu)

Newsletter Chairperson / Joseph Lemkin

[jhlemkin@duanemorris.com](mailto:jhlemkin@duanemorris.com)

Merchandise Chair / Rick Puzio

[Rick@gordonstreasures.com](mailto:Rick@gordonstreasures.com)

Letterwinners Liaison / Tommy Wright

[Teewright@aol.com](mailto:Teewright@aol.com)

Student Liaison / Seth Anagnostis

[Eggs4@yahoo.com](mailto:Eggs4@yahoo.com)

Banque Auction Chair / Bob Connell

[ltrjc@comcast.net](mailto:ltrjc@comcast.net)

## Scarlet Knight 2005 Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 3	at Illinois
Saturday, Sept. 10	VILLANOVA at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Sept. 17	at Buffalo
Friday, Sept. 30	PITTSBURGH at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Oct. 8	WEST VIRGINIA at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Oct. 15	at Syracuse
Saturday, Oct. 22	at UConn
Saturday, Oct. 29	NAVY at Rutgers Stadium
Saturday, Nov. 5	SOUTH FLORIDA at Rutgers Stadium
Friday, Nov. 11	at Louisville
Saturday, Nov. 26	CINCINNATI at Rutgers Stadium

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

(continued from page 2)

as the Merchandise Chair. Lou Nordone will continue as Fan Support. Serving as Letterwinners Liaison will again be Tommy Wright, while Seth Anagnostis of New Milford will be our new Student Liaison. Joe Lemkin will once again Chair the Newsletter Committee. Of course, we are also extremely happy to have Lisa Gonzalez, Associate Director of the Scarlet R, as our University liaison.

The Touchdown Club is pleased to have such active and enthusiastic executive board members and looks forward to continued growth under their leadership. Each of the executives and committee chairs is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in being a member of any of the Club's committees please contact Doug Dolan at 973-334-6051.

## FOR SALE !!!

The Touchdown Club will be your sole source for official Rutgers Nike Coaches attire. The Touchdown Club will be selling authentic 2005 golf shirts, jackets and fleece pullovers. These items are only available through the Club and will be sold at all Club events and football games. Club members will receive a \$10.00 discount on each item!! For more information, please contact Rick Puzio, our merchandise chairman at (732) 821-7032. We also have approximately 50 digital reproductions of the limited edition Yogi Berra portrait commissioned by the Club and painted by James Fiorentino for the 2004 auction. These portraits regularly sell for \$100.00 but are available through the Club for \$35.00. Please contact Joe Lemkin at (609) 716-0062 if you want to own this piece of Yankee history.

# EXTRA POINTS

- Congratulations to current Philadelphia Eagle and former Scarlet Knight L.J. Smith, for scoring the first points in Superbowl 39 when he caught a touchdown pass in the first quarter. Both he and former Scarlet Knight walk-on, Gary Brackett, now an Indiannapolis Colt, participated in the NFL playoffs. Congratulations are also in order for Nate Jones (Cowboys); Raheem Orr (Giants) and Brandon Haw (Browns- now a Dolphin) for successful rookie campaigns.
- Congratulations to Club Membership Chair Jason Kokoszka and his wife Amy on the birth of their second son, Kevin Louis, on April 6, 2005.

