

June 2009

FIRST & TEN

The Rutgers Touchdown Club Newsletter



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Next General Membership Meeting Details:

June 23, 2009

Cook Campus Center

Doors Open 6:00PM

Meeting Starts 6:30PM

Letter from the President

Greetings TD Club Members. I am sorry for the very long delay in getting out this newsletter. We are endeavoring to go "green" and are transitioning to an email based newsletter. For those members that we do not have e-mail addresses for, we will be sending hard copies to you. However, we request that anyone receiving this newsletter by hard copy, provide us with an email address in order that we can save on newsletter costs (savings that will directly benefit the football team!!) You can send your email address directly to me at president@rutgerstdclub.com.

Getting back to football, Great Adventure would be proud of the roller coaster that was 2008. Going into the season with high expectations, many were concerned about bowl opportunities given the lows during the first six games. However, the 2008 Scarlet Knights had incredible character and determination in staging a historical mid-season turnaround in order to garner a fourth straight bowl bid, with one final victory over NC State in the Papajohns.com Bowl in Birmingham!

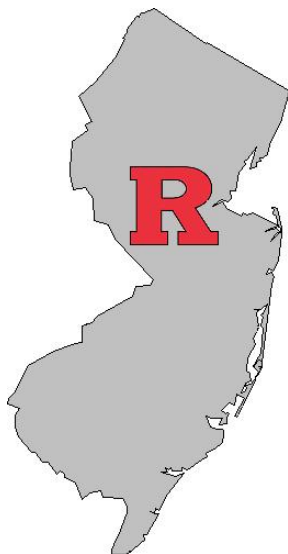
In addition to their exploits on the gridiron with numerous conference, regional and national awards, the 2008 Scarlet Knights continued the tradition of success off the field and in the NFL Draft. Following in the footsteps of Nate Jones, Brian Leonard and Brandon Renkart, this year Jason McCourty was named a semi-finalist for the Draddy Award -more commonly known as the Academic Heisman. Jason was also awarded a SMART grant scholarship. Another senior, Courtney Greene was one of 30 players nationwide named as a candidate for the Lowes Senior CLASS award for his excellence in the classroom, character, community and competition. As noted by Dr. Richard Lapchick, Director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports at the University of Central Florida: "If there were a national championship for APR scores Navy and Rutgers would contend for the National Championship." We are also proud of our five NFL draftees, including first round choice Kenny Britt (#30, Tennessee Titans) and several other Scarlet Knights who have signed free agent contracts with NFL teams, including Jamaal Westerman who is featured in this newsletter spotlight as our final member of the Class of 2009.

While the team ended the year on a high note – on behalf of the entire Board, I can share our collective disappointment when we heard about the departure of Bob Mulcahy. As the architect of our athletic department, his leadership has been critical in turning around the football program and greatly enhancing the image of the football program and the university nationwide. It is up to the team, coaches and us as fans to make sure Bob's legacy continues into the future by pursuing excellence on the field and off the field. With additional bowl championships, conference championships and ultimately, a national championship, we know Bob will be proud of his Scarlet Knights!! *.continued on page 2*



Bob Mulcahy poses with TD Club Board at Football Banquet in December

Letter from the President (continued)



I also note the Club's collective excitement when we learned that former Scarlet Knight, Tim Perneti had accepted the position as Athletic Director. As a Rutgers letter winner, and longtime Touchdown Club supporter, we look forward to the continued success of the Rutgers Athletic department, especially the football team, under Tim's guidance! We are also very proud of the new 2009 Scarlet Knight recruiting class who are just now arriving on campus!!

The club is continuing with numerous efforts to help support the program. In another cost-saving effort, we streamlined our auction, which was held in conjunction with a private Scarlet R function in the loge area during the spring game, where we raised over \$13,000, with limited costs to the Club. In addition, we held a 50/50 during the Spring Game and have already started selling our "loge box" raffle tickets. Finally, we are planning two bus trips for

the fall (UCONN and Maryland) and will be holding a TD Club night this summer on July 21st at On the Border Restaurant New Brunswick (near the junction of Routes 1 and 18), where 10% of the proceeds will go to support the TD Club.

Most importantly, as our membership ranks grow, we can use more support on the volunteer front. If you are able to support the club in any manner, please email me and we will get you involved.

*Pictured Below:
Jamaal Westerman in
action during the 2006
Texas Bowl.*



Behind the Facemask with Jamaal Westerman

NAME: Jamaal Westerman

NICKNAMES: "West" "Westy" "Who Needs Superman When You Have Westerman"

NUMBER: 90

POSITION: Defensive End

CLASS OF: 2008

MAJOR: Completed an undergraduate degree in Labor Studies with a Minor Sociology and is pursuing a masters degree in Labor & Employment Relations

FAMILY: Parents Angela and Peter are from the island of Barbados... also has two brothers, Rutgers DB Jawann (22), and Jabar (19)

HOMETOWN: Brampton, Ontario

FAVORITE RESTAURANT AT RUTGERS: Delta's in New Brunswick

FAVORITE CLASS: Labor Relations in Sports

IN FIVE YEARS I WILL HOPEFULLY BE: Continuing a successful career in professional football in the National Football League

HOBBIES: Hanging out with friends and checking out comedy clubs

IF COACH SCHIANO GAVE ME A DAY OFF FROM PRACTICE, I WOULD: Probably not believe him and go and train

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS: Flying Fish which are found in Barbados

MY FAVORITE MUSICIAN (BAND) IS: All sorts of musicians

THE TV SHOW I CAN'T MISS: Heroes and Lost

FAVORITE HOLIDAY: Thanksgiving and Rutgers Bowl Games

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Basketball, Paint Ball, Ice Skating and Cricket

MY DREAM VACATION IS: A couple weeks in Barbados on Paradise Beach with the white sands, crystal water and catching some flying fish

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: The Rutgers Scarlet Knights and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

GREATEST SPORTS MEMORIES: The Texas Bowl because it was the first bowl victory in school history and I had two sacks in the game. We capped one of the best seasons in Rutgers history and I was part of that.



SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY.
SERIOUS FOOTBALL.

Bob in Birmingham – Report from the PapaJohns.com Bowl

By Jan Dash, Esq. (Rutgers College 1989)

I decided to fly to Atlanta and then drive to Alabama for the Bowl since it's a whole lot cheaper than flying to Birmingham. I was nervous to go, because there are many negative historical connotations about the State of Alabama, particularly for a Black man. However, I can say that the only going back in time, was due to Birmingham's location in the Central Time Zone. Despite my reservations, I knew that it was going to be a good time when I was pulling out of the car rental agency and I turned on the radio and the first song that I heard was "Sweet Home Alabama." All along Interstate 20, I kept passing cars with red flags fluttering in the wind and I would proceed to honk my horn, alright!!!, I'm not the only Rutgers grad going to this game, until I realized that many red flags did not have Block Rs. The entire drive, I was thinking that we may be outnumbered. I knew that my hunch was correct when just before kickoff, a certain line in the Star-Spangled Banner was sung, and more than half of the stadium, yelled out, "...and the rockets RED!! glare..." in southern accents.

Aside from the terrific game and victory, the thrills for me happened before the game. My fellow alum and attorney, Eduardo, his wife Cristy and I went to The Original Pancake House on 11TH Avenue in the Five Points section. While the food may be high in calories, the great taste made it worthwhile! The second thrill happened when the three of us were walking around the parking lot looking for someone wearing scarlet, white and black, not red, black and white. We saw a great commotion and wondered what it was as we got closer. Was the sponsor giving away free pizza? Was it Bear Bryant? Was it Ray Rice checking out his old squad? No, it was none other than the now-former Athletic Director of the State University, Robert Mulcahy. He was looking quite dapper in his bowl day attire, beaming as the proud architect of the Scarlet Knight football program. Like a presidential candidate, he was soaking up the adoration and posed for pictures and shook hands with the throngs that approached him.

The game was exciting, probably the best Rutgers win in our short bowl history. Most memorable were the loud cheers every time Jersey Joe ran the ball in his bruising initial bowl appearance. After the game, the Man of Teel, the greatest receiver in Big East history and the rest of the Scarlet Knights came over to celebrate with the fans, I yelled out, "Bob, your head". I guess Mr. Mulcahy didn't hear since it seemed that he was surprised by the ensuing Gatorade shower, although, he did seem to enjoy it. The next morning I dropped Eduardo and Cristy off at the Airport - - following a second delicious meal at The Original Pancake House, and told them that I'd see them again next year at the Orange Bowl!



Pictured Above: Jan Dash and Eduardo Roman enjoying bowl day festivities with Bob Mulcahy

Did You Know?

Rutgers junior left tackle Anthony Davis (Piscataway, N.J.) has been named a Preseason Second Team All-American by Athlon Sports.



Phil Steele's College Football Preview, which hits newsstands June 9, has ranked Rutgers No. 16 in its preseason rankings.

On the Road Again!!!

BUS TRIPS

For the 2009 Season, the Club will be sponsoring two bus trips – one to UCONN and one to Maryland. The price will be \$35.00 per person. Please contact Lou Nordone at RUFree44@optonline.net if you are interested in attending or are interested in volunteering and helping plan the 2009 bus trips!

Classifieds: Two Loge Box Tickets for Sale \$20

The Club's second annual Season Ticket Raffle is just starting up with a drawing to take place on August 16, 2009. For a \$20 ticket, three lucky winners will win amazing tickets packages for the upcoming season. The prizes are as follows: First Prize: 2 Seasons tickets in the Club's Luxury Loge Box with a season parking pass (last year the pass was in the White Lot); Second Prize: 2 Seasons tickets in Luxury Loge Box (no parking pass); and Third Prize: 2 Seasons tickets in lower level near the 50 yard line (no parking pass). Please email raffle@rutgerstdclub.com for more information or to have a raffle entry ticket mailed to you. If you have not had an opportunity to enjoy the amenities of the loge box area, this is an incredible opportunity which you do not want to miss!!! Congratulations again to our 2008 winners and good luck to our 2009 participants!!

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. 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.

Congratulations to our Board Members!

We extend hearty congratulations to two of our board-members, Vice-President, Lou Nordone and Secretary, Aaron Mansbach who recently became grandparents – adding two more Scarlet Knights to the fold!! Also congratulations to Dawn Kanaan (RC' 97) who was recently engaged to Rick Hans and will be getting married on August 29, 2009. Also, we congratulate our Student Liaison, Andrew Butler who graduated this year and will be attending UMDNJ in New Brunswick this Fall!!!

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

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

About Our Organization... The Touchdown Club is an all volunteer organization focused on supporting and promoting Rutgers Football twelve months a year.

Rutgers 2009 Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TV	TIME/RESULT
Monday, Sept. 7	CINCINNATI <i>BIG EAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	4:00 PM
Saturday, Sept. 12	HOWARD	Rutgers Stadium		TBA
Saturday, Sept. 19	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	Rutgers Stadium		TBA
Saturday, Sept. 26	Maryland	College Park, Md.		TBA
Saturday, Oct. 3	TEXAS SOUTHERN Homecoming	Rutgers Stadium		TBA
Friday, Oct. 16	PITTSBURGH <i>BIG EAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	8:00 PM
Friday, Oct. 23	Army	West Point, N.Y.	ESPN2	8:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 31	Connecticut <i>BIG EAST</i>	East Hartford, Conn.		TBA
Thursday, Nov. 12	USF <i>BIG EAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ESPN	7:30 PM
Saturday, Nov. 21	Syracuse <i>BIG EAST</i>	Syracuse, N.Y.		TBA
Friday, Nov. 27	Louisville <i>BIG EAST</i>	Louisville, Ky.	ABC/ESPN/ESPN2	TBA
Saturday, Dec. 5	WEST VIRGINIA <i>BIG EAST</i>	Rutgers Stadium	ABC/ESPN/ESPN2	TBA

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