

Local Frisco High Athlete named Dallas Gridiron Club Scholar-Athlete

The National Football Foundation (NFF) Gridiron Club of Dallas honored 50 North Texas high school scholar-athletes – including three from Frisco High Schools - for their accomplishments at the club's Fifth Annual Awards Banquet March 21 at the Marriott Quorum in Addison, Texas.

"We are incredibly proud of this year's scholar-athletes and special honorees," said **Gerald Brence**, president of the NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas and the athletics director for the Plano Independent School District. "We've reached the five-year mark in our chapter and these athletes continue to impress, not only on the field competitively but also as academic scholars and young community leaders."

The event showcased the great stories of North Texas which inspire future student-athletes to excel in the classroom and become more involved in their communities. The event paid tribute to several outstanding individuals for their contributions to the game and the North Texas region.

Selected from a pool of candidates that covers the entire region, 50 high schoolers earned NFF chapter scholar-athlete recognition in 2013, and they will enroll in the fall at a prestigious list of schools, including Air Force, Chicago, Cornell, Davidson, New Mexico, Notre Dame, SMU, TCU and Texas A&M. Included in this group were Frisco High (Derek Deiter), Frisco Liberty (Lamar Jordan II), and Frisco Wakeland (Jonathan Weisheit). The selection committee, comprised of coaches, teachers, administrators and business leaders from North Texas, evaluated the candidates based on their athletic accomplishments, academic performance and leadership in the community.

During the banquet, Derek Deiter was named the club's top scholar-athlete, claiming a \$2,000 scholarship. Deiter will attend the US Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO this fall and will represent the North Texas region at the National Awards level. Deiter was a four year starter for the Frisco Raccoons including All-District honors each of his four years. He is also a 4.0 student and National Honor Society member as well as Eagle Scout.

The event has attracted a sellout crowd of 500-plus people. Founded in 1947 with early leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational organization that runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. With 120 chapters and 12,000 members nationwide, NFF programs include the College Football Hall of Fame, the NFF Scholar-Athlete Award presented by Fidelity Investments, Play It Smart, the NFF Hampshire Honor Society, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Alumni Association, and scholarships of more than \$1.3 million for college and high school scholar-athletes.