



REMEMBERING OTHO DAVIS

9TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON SET FOR SEPT. 24

On Monday, September 24th, current and former players, coaches and trainers will descend upon the Center City Marriott to honor one of the great figures in Philadelphia sports history. During his unprecedented run as head trainer of the Eagles from 1973 to 1995, Otho Davis was a fixture at Veterans Stadium. Otho touched the lives of many and his wisdom, whimsy, and caring nature created friendships too numerous to count.

Otho was a five-time recipient of the National Athletic Trainers Association's prestigious "Professional Trainer of the Year" award. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame, the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame, the Kent University Hall of Fame and the Philadelphia Eagles Honor Roll. Spreading the seeds of his noble profession was a passion of Otho's and the sporting landscape is filled with respected trainers who have learned at his feet.

Shortly before he passed away, a group of his closest friends created the Otho Davis Scholarship Foundation and held its inaugural event with Otho in attendance on November 29, 1999. Since its creation, the foundation has raised over \$100,000 for the annual scholarships it awards in Otho's name to deserving college students from the Delaware Valley.

This year, two scholarships will be awarded to students majoring in sports medicine. In addition to the scholarship presentations, there will be a silent auction, video tribute, and an opportunity to reunite with former teammates, coaches and trainers whose lives were touched by Otho Davis.

If you would like more information about the Scholarship Awards Luncheon or would be interested in making a charitable contribution to the foundation, please contact **Marie Solano** at 1-800-949-4452.



2007 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 9	@ Green Bay	1 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 17	Washington	8:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 23	Detroit	1 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 30	@ Giants	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14	@ Jets	1 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21	Chicago	4:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28	@ Minnesota	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 4	Dallas	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 11	@ Washington	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 18	Miami	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 25	@ New England	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 2	Seattle	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9	Giants	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16	@ Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23	@ New Orleans	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 30	Buffalo	1 p.m.

ALUMNI PHOTO FLASHBACK



Can you identify these Vermeil era Eagles? Identities will be revealed in the next issue.

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HEALTH & FINANCES

NFL RETIREES TAKE THEIR CASE TO CAPITOL HILL

WASHINGTON - On June 26th, ex-players joined representatives from the NFL and its union before Congress with hopes of improving benefits for retired and disabled players.

Harry Carson, Brent Boyd and Curt Marsh joined ex-Eagle and Super Bowl-winning coach Mike Ditka with an impassioned plea for help. Members of the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law were clearly moved by the accounts of the four men and implored the league to step up.

Despite the grim picture painted by the retired stars, representatives from the NFL offered some reasons for optimism.

According to the NFL and the NFL Players Association, pensions for older players are improving. The most recent collective bargaining agreement raised pension payments by 25 percent for players who retired prior to 1982 and 10 percent for those who retired after 1982.

Another big development was the decision to allow former players who qualify as disabled under the Social Security system to be considered disabled under the NFL-NFLPA system.

This change in philosophy should have a huge impact on the number of players who are accepted into the disability program as well as the time it takes to qualify for these important benefits. Subcommittee chairwoman Linda Sanchez, expressed guarded optimism about the policy change but also stated: "I am reserving judgment as to whether retired players will actually benefit until I have an opportunity to carefully review this change."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CATCHING UP WITH LEO CARLIN

When the Eagles are on the road, game day for Ticket Client Services Director Leo Carlin looks a lot like it does for most of the other fans throughout the Delaware Valley. Comfortable couch, remote control in hand, high hopes and great expectations. Home games are a different story. "It's easier now, but even still, I rarely see one live snap during the game," Carlin shared. It has been that way for almost forty-eight years. It is his gift, it is his curse... and he wouldn't have it any other way. "When people ask me how much longer I want to do this, I tell them another fifty years... I'm addicted!"

Carlin's career with the Eagles began in 1960, just in time for him to experience the franchise's last NFL championship. In the decades since, Leo has seen scores of players, coaches, and even owners come and go, but Carlin has been the one constant. Over the years, other NFL teams approached him with opportunities to leave the nest, but none were successful in coaxing him away from the team and the town that he loves. "The closest I ever came to leaving was when the Lions were moving into the Silverdome, but when I realized how close to Canada they were, I thought better of it," Carlin remembered. The Dolphins, Jets, Patriots and Saints all came calling at one time or another, but to no avail. "I'm just such a Philly kid and such an Eagle."

One of the things that made Leo Carlin so attractive to other teams was his unparalleled experience in the realm of stadium transfers. When Carlin first joined the team, the Eagles called Franklin Field home. Ten years later, the Eagles were ready to move into their brand new state-of-the-art facility on the corner of Broad and Pattison. With the start of the pre-season just weeks away, Carlin and his crew completed the arduous move to Veterans Stadium in July of 1970. Before they even had the chance to catch their breath, the city managing director contacted Carlin with some disturbing news: The new stadium was behind schedule and would not be ready for the 1970 season. "We had to move everything back to Franklin Field in time for the start of the season and then do it all over again the following year."

Despite the nightmare scenario that played out during the move to the Vet, moving across the street 32 years later would prove even more difficult. The addition of SBLs (Stadium Builder Licenses) to the equation complicated matters and drew the ire of some season ticket holders. In the end, Lincoln Financial Field opened on schedule for the 2003 season. *(continued on back page)*





TURN BACK THE CLOCK 1958: EAGLES LAND LOMBARDI?

In the May issue of the alumni newsletter, we found out just how close the Eagles came to selecting Jim Brown in the 1957 NFL draft. This month, we'll focus on a near miss in the coaching ranks that centers around the very man whose name graces the Super Bowl trophy... Vince Lombardi.

One year after narrowly missing out on Jim Brown, the Eagles floundered to a 4-8 record and were in need of a new head coach. Their first choice was former 49ers boss Buck Shaw. After leaving San Francisco in 1955, Lawrence Timothy Shaw beat out a young Giants assistant named Vince Lombardi for the head football post at the Air Force Academy. In 1958, Shaw was ready to accept the Eagles offer, but with one caveat; he would only be in the office from June to December and would spend the rest of the year with his family in Northern California. Dissatisfied with the prospects of a part-time head coach, the Eagles brass turned their attention to the same man Shaw had beaten out for the Air Force Academy position three years earlier... Vince Lombardi.

On a frigid day in January 1958, Eagles General Manager Vince McNally met Lombardi at a train station in Philadelphia and offered him a \$22,500 contract. Excited about the prospect of becoming an NFL head coach, Lombardi returned to his North Jersey home to mull things over. The presence of Norm Van Brocklin in Philadelphia was just about enough to make the decision a slam-dunk for the Giants offensive coordinator, but a phone call from league commissioner Bert Bell sealed the deal. Bell, the founder and former coach of the Eagles phoned Lombardi on a Saturday morning and when the conversation ended, Lombardi told the commissioner that he would take the job.

Within minutes, Lombardi's phone started ringing off the hook. First, Giants owner Wellington Mara called imploring the New York assistant to stay. "You'll never get along with them (Eagles ownership)," Mara insisted. "They'll never let you run the team the way you want to do it." After Mara promised to match the Eagles salary offer, Wellington's wife Ann called to urge Marie Lombardi to talk her husband out of leaving. One phone call after another had the football coach completely baffled.

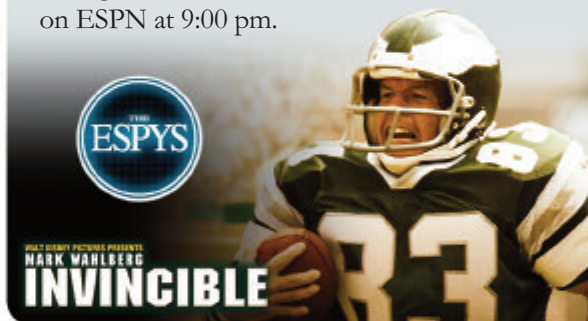
Finally, Lombardi retreated to his church in Red Bank, New Jersey, settled into a pew, and spent the next few hours pondering his future. As he sat there in the solitude of Saint James Roman Catholic Church, the forty-four

INVINCIBLE NOMINATED FOR 2007 ESPY AWARD

The hit movie 'INVINCIBLE,' starring Mark Wahlberg and Greg Kinnear, has been nominated for the 2007 ESPY award for "Best Sports Movie." Inspired by former Eagle Vince Papale's journey from season ticket holder to Special Teams captain, the film is pitted against three other movies for the annual award.

In addition to Wahlberg's portrayal of the 30-year-old rookie, Greg Kinnear takes on the role of first-year head coach Dick Vermeil. Other former Eagles who are portrayed in the film include Dennis Franks, Harold Carmichael, Frank LeMaster, and Bill Bergey (among others).

ESPY voting concluded on Saturday, July 7th. Winners will be announced on Sunday, July 15th during the awards telecast on ESPN at 9:00 pm.



year old Brooklyn native weighed the pros and cons of the choices that were before him. Despite their recent struggles, the Eagles were loaded with talent. In addition to established veterans like Chuck Bednarik, Tommy Brookshier and Pete Retzlaff, the 1957 draft had yielded up-and-comers like Tommy McDonald, Sonny Jurgenson and Clarence Peaks. And then there was the Dutchman. Oh what Lombardi could do with Van Brocklin at the helm of his offense.

Maybe it was the presence of his two children who had already moved so many times. Perhaps the promise of succeeding Jim Lee Howell as head coach of the Giants was at the heart of his decision. Whatever the reasons, when he rose from the pew to go home, Lombardi's mind was made up...

(continued on the next page)





TURN BACK THE CLOCK...

EAGLES LAND LOMBARDI? *(continued from page 3)*

He was staying with the Giants. The next morning, Lombardi broke the news to McNally and informed Mara that he was staying put. The decision set in motion a chain of events that would alter the destinies of the Eagles, Giants, Packers, and the NFL.

Lombardi's tenure with the Giants would last just one more year, culminating with the 1958 championship game loss to the Baltimore Colts. Widely considered the greatest game in NFL history, the sudden death overtime thriller put the league on the map, ushering in the golden age of professional football. One month later, the Green Bay Packers successfully pried Lombardi away from the Giants and the rest, as they say, is history.

After losing Lombardi, the Eagles renewed their interest in Buck Shaw, inking him to a deal after conceding to his off-season stipulations. Ironically, the paths of Shaw and Lombardi converged one more time on December 26, 1960 at Franklin Field. Five years after beating him out for the Air Force Academy job, Shaw bested Lombardi again in the NFL title game. It would be the last time Lombardi's Packers would lose to anyone in a playoff game.

Nine-straight post-season victories and five NFL championships elevated Lombardi to icon status and engraved his name on the Super Bowl trophy for all time. Would he have enjoyed the same success in Philadelphia? We'll never know, but for a few moments in January 1958, we were about to find out.

The accounts in this article are a composite drawn from biographies about Vince Lombardi and Ray Nitschke and conversations with Eagles historian Jim Gallagher.

JULY TRIVIA QUESTION

Who immediately preceded Buck Shaw as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles?

1. Hugh Devore
2. Jim Trimble
3. Nick Skorich
4. Bert Bell

(Answer from last month: JAY BERWANGER)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CATCHING UP WITH LEO CARLIN

(continued from page 2) While the stadium transfers were the hardest part of his job over the years, there are some other challenging aspects to his position with the team. "Multiple Monday night games during a season can be tough," Carlin lamented. Super Bowls and Championship games bring everyone out of the woodwork and since the opening of Lincoln Financial Field, regular season games have become the hottest ticket in town. For evidence, look no further than the online sale the team conducts each summer. "Joe Banner wants the public to have equal access to tickets so about 2,500 seats per game are reserved for the online sale," Carlin shared. And how long does it take for those tickets to sell out? "Ten to fifteen minutes, max!"



When he looks back on nearly half a century of service to his hometown team, so many names, moments and memories stand out. Helicopter rides with Leonard Tose, racquetball wars with favorite playing partners like John Bunting and Buddy Ryan; Big wins, tough losses, great coaches and special players like Stan Walters, William Fuller, Chad Lewis and Mike Bartrum - Harold Carmichael, Mike Evans, Ron Jaworski, and Mike Quick - Bill Bergey, Mike Golic, and the list goes on and on...

Along the way, seven children and 20 grandchildren have joined he and his wife Kay for the ride of a lifetime. Leo Jr. made it to the final round of cuts with the Eagles in 1986 and is now part of the ownership group of the Philadelphia Soul. As for Leo Sr., here's to another 50 years in Eagles Green!

UPCOMING EVENTS



2007 ALUMNI DAY AT TRAINING CAMP

Alumni Day at Lehigh will be held on Saturday, August 4th. For more information, call Marie Solano at **856.939.1743**.



13th ANNUAL EAGLES CARNIVAL & AUCTION

The 2007 Eagles Carnival & Auction will be held on Sunday, August 19th, from 3 to 8 p.m., at Lincoln Financial Field.



75TH ANNIVERSARY THROWBACK GAME

Retro uniforms will be worn during the September 23rd home game.



2007 OTHO DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Reunite with old teammates in honor of Otho Davis on Monday, September 24th. For details, call Marie Solano at **856.939.1743**.

THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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