

IUP HOSTING FIRST “COAL BOWL” OCT. 3 WITH CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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INDIANA, Pa. – Indiana University of Pennsylvania will host the first “Coal Bowl” football game on Oct. 3, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Coal Association.

The winning team will receive the Lippencott Brothers Coal Miners Pail Trophy, donated by Barry “Buck” Lippencott, a 1967 IUP geography education graduate, and his brother, Bob Lippencott, a 1966 California University of Pennsylvania graduate.

The Lippencotts have each made a donation to their universities to establish a named scholarship for a student-athlete in football at each university.

The Pennsylvania Coal Association donation will be added to the scholarship funds.

Bob, a linebacker, and Buck, an offensive tackle, played against each other in 1963 and 1964 CUP and IUP football games.

“This trophy is to honor the coal miner,” Buck Lippencott said. “Coal miners are a special breed, every day they face danger, routine hardships and difficult work. They work underground in a dangerous environment doing a job that many do not envy.

“In creating these scholarships, my brother and I wanted to recognize and offer a thank you to the universities that have played a major role in the successes we’ve had in our personal and professional lives. Both my brother and I gained a great deal from our universities and our football experience. The work ethic reinforced in the football program, combined with the work ethic we gained working in the coal mining area, certainly carried over into our lives and significantly contributed to the accomplishments in our lives.”

“The Pennsylvania Coal Association, whose members produce over 80 percent of the bituminous coal mined each year in western Pennsylvania that is used to generate affordable and reliable electricity, is honored to sponsor the inaugural Coal Bowl between two of the Commonwealth’s finest universities that are located in the heart of the coalfields,” Pennsylvania Coal Association President George Ellis said.

The Pennsylvania Coal Association is a trade organization representing surface and underground coal operators that produce bituminous coal mined in the commonwealth.

The trophy presentation will take place immediately following the game and will include the Lippencott brothers. Each year, a brass tag will be placed on the bucket with the year, winning team and the score.

The miners wore a brass tag on their pit belts that identified them, Bob Lippencott explained. In the early days they placed a duplicate brass tag on a board when they went into the mine and tags on each wagon of coal that they loaded for pay purposes. The tag also identified them in case of a mine accident.

He noted that the miner's pail was a critical element in the daily life of a miner. The pail consisted of three parts -- the larger bottom part for water; the middle tray for sandwiches or other food and the top for fruit, dessert, chewing tobacco or other items.

"The pail was more than just a lunch pail. It connected the miner with their family during the period that they were deep underground in the dangerous environment of the mine.

"Every time the miner drank water or ate from the pail they would be reminded of their family, waiting for their safe return. On the walk home from the mine the miner would often be greeted by their children and share a small treat in the pail that had been saved for this time.

"This was more than a treat as it reassured the family that the miner was safely home from another dangerous day in the mines.

"The pail sometimes meant survival if the miner was trapped by a mining disaster, as the food and water available in the pail could possibly allow him to survive until rescued.

"This trophy with the miner's lunch pail is a tribute to the men and women of the coal mining industry both past and present for their strong work ethic and dedication to family."

The four Lippencott brothers -- Ken, Bob, Buck and Tom -- grew up in the Pittsburgh coal seam in Brownsville.

“A strong work ethic and family values of the coal miner were instilled in us at an early age, because our family roots were tied to the coal industry,” Buck Lippencott said.

“Our grandfathers and uncles all worked in the coal mines or coal related industries. Our mother, Ruth Seese Lippencott, was one of nine siblings who grew up in a mining family in Alicia. My wife, Pattie, was raised in the mining community of Isabella, where her father Walter Hedges worked in the mine for more than 40 years.”

The Lippencotts’ father, Chauncey H. Lippencott Jr., was employed by Roberts and Schaefer Company of Chicago. He built coal processing facilities and worked in the coal industry for more than 40 years.

During high school and college, the four Lippencott brothers spent their summer and holiday vacations working in the coal fields with their father.

Their father built coal processing plants and worked in the mines at Mather, Crucible, Cokeburg, Ellsworth, Fredericktown, Marianna, Windber, Nanty Glo, Ebensburg, Mineral Point and other Pennsylvania coal communities.

Tom, a 1973 and 1976 IUP bachelor’s and master’s degree graduate, and Ken, a Penn State graduate, both worked in the coal industry after graduating from college. Tom continues to work in the mineral processing field with Metso Minerals of Canonsburg.

Bob Lippencott attended West Virginia University in 1960 and played freshman football. In his sophomore year, he left West Virginia to work in the coal fields.

In 1963 at CUP, Bob was named to the NAIA District 30 All Star team and received honorable mention honors on the NAIA All American team.

After college, Bob played two years of semi-professional football with the Pennsylvania Mustangs and the Atlantic City New Jersey Senators.

In 1969, after teaching and coaching for three years, Bob began his career with the United States Secret Service in Philadelphia, and subsequently worked in the Secret Service Protective Support Division and the Vice Presidential Protective Detail.

He also worked in the Protective Intelligence Division and the Inspection Division. In 1984, he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Office, where he retired in 1994.

For 10 consecutive years, from 1984-1994, Bob was the recipient of the United States Government Outstanding Achievement Award.

From 1994 until 2000, Bob was the assistant director of Investigations for the United States General Accounting Office in Chicago.

In 2001, he obtained a Master's Degree in Criminal Social Justice from Lewis University and subsequently accepted a position as an adjunct instructor at the university.

In 2002, Bob was inducted into the California University Athletic Hall of Fame and in 2006 he was named to University Foundation Board. Bob also has served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Former Agents of the United States Secret Service.

In 2008, Bob received the CUP Pavalak/Shutsy Special Service Award for his dedication and service to the University.

Bob and his wife, Suzanne Howison Lippencott, reside in Naperville, IL and have three adult children: Grif, Aimee and Ray and eight grandchildren.

Buck Lippencott was recruited to IUP by the late Coach Owen Dougherty, and played on the varsity team all four years at IUP, one of six freshmen selected to be on the varsity team. He was a member of the first IUP team to be invited to the Boardwalk Bowl in 1963. His 1964 team was the first team to capture a PSAC West title, and repeated that win in 1965.

While at IUP, Buck was a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps and was offered and accepted a Regular Army commission. After graduation, he served 22 years in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He served tours overseas in Vietnam and Germany. As an aviator, he earned his Master Aviator wings by flying more than 2,000 accident free hours. He was qualified to fly both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.

His military awards include the RANGER Tab, Master Aviator Wings, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

He served in the Field Artillery, Transportation and Aviation branches.

In 1979, Buck received his Master's Degree from the Florida Institute of Technology in Contracting and Acquisition Management. In 1980 he graduated from the

Command and General Staff College. In 1983 he completed the Program Managers Course at the Defense Acquisition University.

His assignments included tours with the Army Security Agency, Airfield Commander, and Aviation Maintenance Officer for more than 1,100 aircraft in the U.S. Army Europe and as a program manager for several classified programs in the aviation field.

Retiring from the military in 1989, Buck worked for Lockheed Martin in Syracuse, N.Y. until November 2003. During his time with Lockheed Martin, he was a subcontracts program manager and a program manager for an international radar program. After five years of retirement, Buck returned to work as a contract administrator for the Defense Contract Management Area in Syracuse.

He is still active as a football official. He is starting his 36th year of officiating high school football and officiated college football for 15 years, including several years at the Division 1AA level. He is also a vice president in the Central New York Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Buck and his wife, Pattie Hedges Lippencott, a 1968 graduate of IUP, reside in Syracuse. They have two children, Lance and Jil; daughter-in-law Teresa and a grandson, Rufus Isaac.

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IUP is a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.