

2008 FBS College Football Hall of Fame Class Announced

13 PLAYERS AND TWO COACHES TO ENTER COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S ULTIMATE SHRINE

NEW YORK, May 1, 2008 - From the national ballot of 75 candidates and a pool of hundreds of eligible nominees, **Archie Manning**, chairman of The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, announced the 2008 College Football Hall of Fame Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) Class, which includes the names of 13 First Team All- America players and two legendary coaches.

2008 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

PLAYERS

- **TROY AIKMAN**- QB, UCLA (1987- 88)
- **BILLY CANNON** - HB, LSU (1957- 59)
- **JIM DOMBROWSKI**- OT, Virginia (1982- 85)
- **PAT FITZGERALD**- LB, Northwestern (1994- 96)
- **WILBER MARSHALL**- LB, Florida (1980- 83)
- **RUEBEN MAYES**- RB, Washington State (1982-85)
- **RANDALL McDANIEL**- OG, Arizona State (1984-87)
- **DON McPHERSON**- QB, Syracuse (1984- 87)
- **JAY NOVACEK** - TE, Wyoming (1982- 84)
- **DAVE PARKS**- SE, Texas Tech (1961- 63)
- **RON SIMMONS**- NG, Florida State (1977- 80)
- **THURMAN THOMAS**- RB, Oklahoma State (1984- 87)
- **ARNOLD TUCKER**- QB, Army (1944- 46)

COACHES

- **JOHN COOPER**- 192-84-6 (.691) -- Tulsa (1977-84), Arizona State (1985-87), Ohio State (1988- 2000)
- **LOU HOLTZ**- 249-132-7 (.651) -- William & Mary (1969-71), North Carolina State (1972-75), Arkansas (1977-83), Minnesota (1984-85), Notre Dame (1986-96), South Carolina (1999-2004)

"I want to commend the NFF Honors Court and its Chairman Gene Corrigan for their hard work," said Manning. "The 2008 class represents six decades of football's finest athletes, and they are all exceptionally worthy of having their accomplishments preserved forever in the College Football Hall of Fame."

The 2008 College Football Hall of Fame Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) Class will be inducted at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner on December 9, 2008, at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City. They will be officially enshrined at the Hall in South Bend, Ind., during ceremonies in the summer of 2009.

2008 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION CLASS NOTES

PLAYERS

- **One** Heisman Trophy winner (Cannon)
- **Three** players who placed in the Top Three in Heisman Trophy voting (Cannon - 1st and 3rd, McPherson - 2nd, Aikman - 3rd)
- **Nine** consensus First Team All-Americans (Aikman, Cannon, Fitzgerald, Marshall, Mayes, McDaniel, Novacek, Simmons, Thomas)
- **Three** unanimous First Team All- Americas (Cannon, Dombrowski, McPherson)
- **Four** multiple-year First Team All-America honorees (Cannon - 2, Fitzgerald - 2, Marshall - 2, Simmons - 2)

- **One** Maxwell Award winners (McPherson)
- **One** Walter Camp Player of the Year (Cannon)
- **One** Sullivan Award winner (Tucker)
- **Two** Davey O'Brien Award winners (Aikman, McPherson)
- **One** Nagurski Award winner (Fitzgerald - Two-time recipient)
- **One** Bednarik Award winner (Fitzgerald - Two-time recipient)
- **Two** members of National Championship teams (Cannon, Tucker)
- **Five** conference Players of the Year (Aikman, Cannon, Fitzgerald, Mayes, Thomas)
- **Eight** multiple-year First Team All- Conference selections
(Cannon - 3, Dombrowski - 2, Fitzgerald - 2, Marshall - 3, Mayes - 2, McDaniel - 2, Parks - 2, Thomas - 3)
- **Six** first round NFL Draft picks
(Aikman - 1st Overall, Cannon, Dombrowski, Marshall, McDaniel, Parks - 1st Overall)
- **Six** Decades Represented: 1990s (1) - Fitzgerald; 1980s (8) - Aikman, Dombrowski, Marshall, Mayes, McDaniel, McPherson, Novacek, Thomas; 1970s (1) - Simmons; 1960s (1) - Parks; 1950s (1) - Cannon; 1940s (1) - Tucker

COACHES

- **One** National Championship (Holtz)
- **12** Conference Championships (Cooper - 9, Holtz - 3)
- **36** Bowl Berths (Cooper - 14, Holtz - 22)
- **46** First Team All-Americans Coached (Cooper - 20, Holtz - 26)
- **10** NFF National Scholar-Athletes Coaches (Cooper - 7, Holtz - 3)

CRITERIA

1. First and Foremost, a player must have received First Team All-America recognition by a selector organization that is recognized by the NCAA and utilized to comprise their consensus All-America teams.
2. A player becomes eligible for consideration by the Foundation's Honors Courts ten years after his final year of intercollegiate football played.
3. While each nominee's football achievements in college are of prime consideration, his post football record as a citizen is also weighed. He must have proven himself worthy as a citizen, carrying the ideals of football forward into his relations with his community and his fellow man with love of his country. Consideration may also be given for academic honors and whether or not the candidate earned a college degree.
4. Players must have played their last year of intercollegiate football within the last 50 years*. For example, to be eligible for the 2008 ballot, the player must have played his last year in 1958 or thereafter. In addition, players who are playing professionally and coaches who are coaching on the professional level are not eligible until after they retire.
5. A coach becomes eligible three years after retirement or immediately following retirement provided he is at least 70 years of age. Active coaches become eligible at 75 years of age. He must have been a head coach for a minimum of 10 years and coached at least 100 games with a .600 winning percentage*.

** Players that do not comply with the 50-year rule and coaches that have not won 60% of their games may still be eligible for consideration by the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) and Divisional Honors Review Committees, which examine unique cases.*

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Did You Know?

- Only **829 players** and **178 coaches** have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame from the more than 4.8 million who have played the game over the past 140 years.

- **Founded in 1947**, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame inducted its first class of inductees in 1951. The first class included 32 players and 19 coaches, including Illinois' **Red Grange**, Notre Dame's **Knute Rockne**, **Amos Alonzo Stagg** and Carlisle's **Jim Thorpe**.
- **275 schools** are represented with at least one College Football Hall of Famer.
- In South Bend, Ind., the current building was **built in 1995** as a \$17 million state-of-the-art interactive facility for fans of all ages. It attracts over **60,000 people each year** to more than 200 events.
- Induction for this class of Hall of Famers will take place **December 9, 2008** in New York City.

BIOGRAPHIES

TROY AIKMAN **University of California-Los Angeles** **Quarterback, 1987-88**

After transferring from the University of Oklahoma, Troy Aikman made an immediate and indelible impact on UCLA football in only two seasons with the Bruins.

A consensus First Team All-America pick in 1988, Aikman finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting and led UCLA to a No. 1 ranking during the season. The Davey O'Brien Award winner passed for 5,363 yards during his career and still holds school records for most completions in a single season (228) and completion percentage (64.8). He led the Bruins to victories in the 1987 Aloha Bowl and the 1989 Cotton Bowl and was named Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year following his junior campaign.

A native of West Covina, Calif., Aikman was chosen as the first overall pick in the 1989 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys. He went on to become one of the NFL's most prolific passers, winning three Super Bowls and garnering Pro Bowl laurels six times. Spending his entire career with the Cowboys, Aikman was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006.

As the founder and president of the Troy Aikman Foundation, he is committed to helping disadvantaged children fulfill their physical, psychological, social and economical needs. He also serves as a pro football analyst on Fox and resides in Dallas, where he is a successful businessman.

BILLY CANNON **Louisiana State University** **Halfback, 1957-59**

The only player in LSU's storied football history to have his number retired, Billy Cannon clinched the 1959 Heisman Trophy with a punt return against Ole Miss on Halloween night that has simply become known as "The Run".

The leader of the Tigers' 1958 National Championship team, Cannon rushed for 1,867 yards and 19 touchdowns and amassed 965 yards in punt/kick returns during his career. He received unanimous First Team All-America honors and placed third in Heisman voting in 1958 en route to earning consensus First Team All-America laurels and winning both the Heisman and the Walter Camp Player of the Year Award the following season.

Drafted in the first round of the 1960 AFL Draft, he played 11 professional seasons with the Houston Oilers, Oakland Raiders and Kansas City Chiefs. He returned to school during each off-season to further his education, eventually receiving his D.D.S. from the Tennessee School of Dentistry in 1969 and a Master's in Oral Biology from Loyola (Ill.) in 1971.

A member of the LSU Athletics Hall of Fame, he is currently Head of Dentistry at Angola Federal Penitentiary and resides in Baton Rouge.

JIM DOMBROWSKI
University of Virginia
Offensive Tackle, 1982-85

A consummate leader on and off the football field, Jim Dombrowski won numerous accolades as one of the finest student-athletes in the history of the University of Virginia.

The recipient of the NCAA Today's Top Six Award for his combined athletic ability, academic achievement, leadership characteristics and campus involvement, Dombrowski was a unanimous First Team All- America pick in 1984 and was a two-time First Team All-ACC selection. He also received the Jacobs Blocking Trophy in back-to-back years (1984-85) as the ACC's best offensive lineman. Equally impressive in the classroom, he earned First Team Academic All- Conference honors in 1985.

The New Orleans Saints chose Dombrowski sixth overall in the 1986 NFL Draft. He spent 11 seasons with the Saints and was named to the franchise's 30th and 35th Anniversary Teams. He also received his Master's of Education in 1991.

A former Toyota Leadership Award winner for his contributions to the Virginia football program, Dombroski's jersey has been retired by the university. He resides in Mandeville, La., and works as a certified financial planner.

PAT FITZGERALD
Northwestern University
Linebacker, 1994-96

The only two-time winner of both the Chuck Bednarik and Bronco Nagurski Awards, Pat Fitzgerald was the heart of the Northwestern defense that led the Wildcats to their first Rose Bowl in 47 years.

A two-time consensus First Team All-America selection, he recorded 299 career tackles, including 20 for a loss, en route to being named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year in 1995 and '96. Fitzgerald's athletic prowess ignited an NU defense that led the nation in scoring in 1995, generating back- to-back Big Ten titles. The Orland Park, Ill., native was named both Chevrolet's and *Sports Illustrated's* Defensive Player of the Year in 1995.

Fitzgerald signed with the Dallas Cowboys as a free agent following his Northwestern career only to discover that coaching was his true passion. He served as an assistant at several universities before returning to his alma mater in 2001. Fitzgerald spent the next five years as an NU assistant coach before taking the head coaching reigns in 2006. He is the youngest head football coach among Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) schools.

A 2003 Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, Fitzgerald is active in local charities and speaks to Chicago-area schools about drug prevention. He resides in Evanston, Ill.

WILBER MARSHALL
University of Florida
Linebacker, 1980-83

A record-breaking tackler and a member of Florida's first senior class to play in four bowl games, Wilber Marshall punished opposing offenses during his prolific career.

Twice a consensus First Team All-America pick, Marshall broke the Gators' single-season records for sacks (11) and tackles for loss (16) as a sophomore. By career's end, he finished with a then school-record 23 sacks and remains UF's record holder in career tackles for loss (58). The Titusville, Fla., native was only the third player in school history to be named a three-time First Team All-SEC pick. *The Gainesville Sun* named him Defensive Player of the Century in 1999.

Selected in the first round of the 1984 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, Marshall played for five teams in 12 seasons on the professional level. He was named All-Pro three times and earned Super Bowl rings with Chicago and the Washington Redskins.

One of only five players in Florida's Ring of Honor, Marshall assists with National Kidney Foundation and Organ Donor Awareness. He lives in Sterling, Va.

RUEBEN MAYES
Washington State University
Running Back, 1982-85

Washington State's Rueben Mayes rewrote every Cougar rushing record during his career, firmly establishing himself as one of the finest running backs in Pac-10 annals.

By career's end, the 1984 consensus First Team All-America set 15 school records, including single-season (1,632) and career rushing yards (3,519), rushing touchdowns (23), rushing average (5.53) and 100-yard games (13). Additionally, he established an NCAA Division I single-game record with a 357-yard rushing performance against Oregon in 1984. Twice named the Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year, the North Battleford, Saskatchewan, native was the first Cougar in history to boast two 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

A third round selection in the 1986 NFL Draft, Mayes played six seasons in the league with the New Orleans Saints and the Seattle Seahawks. He received Offensive Rookie of the Year honors in 1986 and earned two trips to the Pro Bowl. He later returned to school, obtaining his M.B.A. in 2000.

Mayes was named to the WSU All-Time Team in 1995 and was inducted into the university's Hall of Fame in 1993. He currently serves as the Senior Director of Development at his alma mater.

RANDALL McDANIEL
Arizona State University
Offensive Guard, 1984-87

A four-year starter and born leader at Arizona State, Randall McDaniel created an unparalleled collegiate and professional record that few can match.

Twice named a First Team All-America (1986, '87- consensus), McDaniel led the Sun Devils to three bowl berths during his career, including ASU's first-ever trip to the Rose Bowl in 1987. The native Arizonan was a two-time First Team All-Conference pick, earning the Morris Trophy as the Pac-10's best offensive lineman and leading Arizona State to a conference title in 1986. He started 39 consecutive games for the Sun Devils after moving from tight end.

McDaniels was selected in the first round of the 1988 NFL Draft by Minnesota. He played 15 seasons in the league with the Vikings and Tampa Bay and secured 12 trips to the Pro Bowl. Named NFL/True Value Man of the Year for his charity work in 1996, he is a current nominee for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Active in the community, McDaniels created and facilitated "Hands On," an after school program for disadvantaged children. He additionally developed the R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out to Challenge Kids)

Foundation, which serves as an umbrella organization for community initiatives. A member of ASU's All-Century Team, he resides in Shorewood, Minn.

DON McPHERSON
Syracuse University
Quarterback, 1984-87

Cultivating one of the most highly decorated careers in Syracuse football history, Don McPherson won over 18 national Player of the Year honors during his collegiate career.

McPherson's many honors included the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, the Maxwell Player of the Year and the inaugural Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award. Garnering unanimous First Team All-America laurels and finishing second in the 1987 Heisman balloting, the West Hempstead, N.Y., native holds or shares 11 Syracuse football records. He claimed MVP honors in the Sugar Bowl, capping an undefeated 1987 regular season and a No. 4 final ranking for the Orange.

Professionally, McPherson played four years in the NFL and three seasons in the Canadian Football League. He later founded the Sports Leadership Institute at Adelphi University and created the John Mackey Award, which annually recognizes college football's most outstanding tight end.

Honored with numerous humanitarian awards, including the Frederick Douglas Men of Strength Award and Lifetime's Champions for Change Award, McPherson has become one of the nation's leading educators and advocates for the prevention of men's violence against women and has been featured on *Nightline* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. He currently serves as the vice president of The Hopewell Group Inc., a philanthropic consulting firm in New York City.

JAY NOVACEK
University of Wyoming
Tight End, 1982-84

One of Wyoming's greatest athletes and a national record-setter, Jay Novacek becomes the second Cowboy inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

A consensus First Team All-America selection, Novacek amassed 83 receptions for 1,536 yards and 10 touchdowns in his three-year career. As captain of the 1984 UW team, he set an NCAA record for average yards per reception by a tight end (22.6). Revered for his tremendous blocking ability, the Martin, S.D., native was a First Team All-WAC pick in 1984. The two-sport standout also broke school decathlon records in track and field.

Selected in the sixth round of the 1985 NFL Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals, Novacek played 12 seasons in the NFL. He helped the Dallas Cowboys to three Super Bowl wins in four years and made five Pro Bowl appearances.

Novacek was a member of Wyoming's inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame class in 1993. He owns and operates the "Upper 84 Ranch," a 3,500-acre private hunting ranch he created in 1997 in Brady, Neb.

DAVE PARKS
Texas Tech University
Split End, 1961-63

A pioneer of Texas Tech football, Dave Parks brought national acclaim to the university as the first Red Raider to ever make the Associated Press' All-America First Team and to receive All-Southwest Conference honors twice.

Parks established nearly every Texas Tech receiving record, including receiving yards in a game (132), season reception yardage (499), career receptions (80) and career receiving yardage (1,090). He also started on defense and recorded the longest pass interception in school history (98 yards), a record that still stands today. The native Texan also punted and was honored as one of the nation's best blockers.

The first and only Texas Tech player selected as the first overall pick in the NFL Draft, Parks led the league in receiving as a rookie with 643 yards - 150 yards more than any other player. He played 10 seasons with San Francisco, New Orleans and Houston.

Parks has served as the associate director of the Texas Ranger Law Enforcement Association and on the executive board of Dallas' NFL Retired Players Association. He also invented the "Speedy Weedy," a lawn and garden tool that he manufactures and sells. He resides in Dallas.

RON SIMMONS
Florida State University
Nose Guard, 1977-80

One of Florida State's most terrifying tacklers, Ron Simmons was twice named a consensus First Team All-America en route to leading the Seminoles to three bowl berths.

The fourth FSU player to be enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame, Simmons was a three-time First Team All-South pick and led the Seminoles to a 39-8-0 record during his career. He holds school records for career tackles for loss (44) and forced fumbles (17); ranks second all-time in career tackles (483); and owns a spot in the top five of nearly every other FSU defensive category. Simmons also finished ninth in the 1979 Heisman Trophy voting.

The 235-pound nose guard played two seasons in the United States Football League (USFL) before becoming a fixture in the professional wrestling world for more than 20 years. As part of "Doom," he and partner Butch Reed became the first WCW World Tag Team title holders. He later became the first-ever African American WCW World Heavyweight Champion.

Currently a semi-retired professional wrestler for the WWE named "Faarooq," Simmons was the first FSU defender to have his jersey number retired by the university. He resides in Marietta, Ga.

THURMAN THOMAS
Oklahoma State University
Running Back, 1984-87

Twice named a First Team All-America pick (1985- consensus, '87), Thurman Thomas amassed 4,595 rushing yards and 44 touchdowns at Oklahoma State, catapulting him into school and conference record books.

Thomas led the Big Eight in rushing and scoring in 1985 and '87 and was voted the conference's Offensive Player of the Year both seasons. His career rushing yardage is second best all-time in the conference, trailing only 2006 College Football Hall of Famer Mike Rozier of Nebraska. The Missouri City, Texas, native earned MVP honors in the 1984 Gator Bowl and the 1987 Sun Bowl and ran for 100-plus yards 21 times at OSU.

Buffalo selected Thomas in the second round of the 1988 NFL Draft. He played in the NFL for 13 seasons, appearing in four Super Bowls with the Bills. He was named to the league's All-Decade Team of the 1990s and inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last year.

Residing in East Aurora, N.Y., he owns and operates "Thurman Thomas Sports," a training center dedicated to helping athletes of all ages and skill levels reach their maximum potential.

ARNOLD TUCKER
United State Military Academy
Quarterback, 1944-46

Few quarterbacks in college football history can match the unprecedented success of the 1946 Sullivan Award winner, Army's Arnold Tucker, a selection from the NFF Honors Review Committee*.

A member of three National Championship teams (1944-46), Tucker was undefeated at Army, leading his fellow cadets to an unparalleled 27-0-1 record during his prolific career. He was one-fourth of the 1946 Army backfield, coached by West Point legend Earl "Red" Blaik and considered by many as the greatest of all time - Tucker, Tom McWilliams and Heisman Trophy winners Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis. The 1946 All-American led Army to three Lambert Trophies, passing for 1,127 yards and 10 touchdowns in his three-year campaign and trouncing perennial powerhouses Michigan, Oklahoma and Notre Dame. He played for the University of Miami in 1943.

After graduation from the USMA and flying training, Tucker returned to West Point as an assistant backfield coach. He later served in numerous capacities for both the Army and Air Force, including Deputy Chief of Operations for the 5th AF in Japan from 1968-1970 and Commanding Officer of the 16th Special Operations Squadron in Thailand in 1970.

From 1971-74, Tucker acted as Commanding Officer of the Army ROTC program at the University of Miami. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and presently lives in the Miami area.

** The Honors Review Committee examines unique cases, including players that do not comply with the 50-year rule and coaches that have not won 60% of their games, for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. These candidates are not listed on the NFF's National Ballot.*

COACH JOHN COOPER
Tulsa (1977-84), Arizona State (1985-87), Ohio State (1988-2000)
Head Coach, 192-84-6

The first coach in history to lead both a Big Ten and a Pac-10 team to victories in the Rose Bowl, Coach John Cooper ranks second only to the legendary Woody Hayes in all-time wins at Ohio State.

Under Cooper's watch, Ohio State teams finished the regular season ranked in the Top 25 in 12 of his 13 seasons with the Buckeyes. He tallied at least a share of nine conference championships, including five at Tulsa, one at Arizona State and three at OSU. A four-time American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Regional Coach of the Year, Cooper led his teams to 14 bowl games in 24 seasons.

A Tennessee native and former MVP on the Iowa State football team, Cooper coached Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George and two-time Lombardi winner Orlando Pace as well as 20 First Team All-Americans, seven NFF National Scholar-Athletes and one NFF Draddy Trophy recipient during his career.

Cooper formerly served as the president of the American Football Coaches Association and as a professional scout in the NFL. He currently acts as a college football analyst for ESPN and resides in Columbus, Ohio.

COACH LOU HOLTZ
William & Mary (1969-71), North Carolina State (1972- 75), Arkansas (1977-83),
Minnesota (1984-85), Notre Dame (1986-96), South Carolina (1999-2004)
Head Coach, 249-132-7

The only coach in NCAA history to lead six different programs to bowl games, Coach Lou Holtz was a fixture in the college football coaching landscape for more than three decades.

Best known for his tenure at Notre Dame, Holtz led the Fighting Irish to the 1988 National Championship and 100 wins. He won conference championships at William & Mary, North Carolina State and Arkansas and is the only coach to guide four different programs to final Top 20 rankings. The Follansbee, W.V., native produced the best four-year win-loss record in NC State history and led Arkansas to six straight bowl games and four Top Ten finishes.

Holtz received Man of the Year laurels from the Walter Camp Foundation in 1997 and twice earned the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Academic Achievement Award, which annually honors the school with the highest graduation rate among members of its football team. He also coached Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown and College Football Hall of Fame inductees Chris Zorich and Billy Ray Smith.

Currently a motivational speaker and a studio analyst for college football on ESPN, Holtz resides in Orlando, Fla.

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