

(continued from front page)

**(EFL REWARDED)**

our league was under the legal umbrella of the AFA's 'national' non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt status before issuing our share of the USA Football contest reward," added Burch.

It's just another one of those intangible benefits that comes along with annual membership into the AFA - like being able to participate in the national associations General Liability Insurance program. Just by making sure each of their teams were promoting the USA Football's *Play Football Month* the Empire Football League was awarded more than enough funds to pay for their teams entire liability insurance for the coming 2006 season - if they choose to do so.

EFL teams are looking forward to getting even more involved next season.

**AFA PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF HALL OF FAME LEGENDS**

AFA president, Ron Real, will be the guest speaker of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AFA Hall of Fame Alumni Club on Saturday afternoon April 29th at the Senator John Heinz History and Sports Museum where a display honoring all previously enshrined AFA Hall of Fame inductees from Pennsylvania have a dedicated area for museum visitors to observe Penn. area HOF photos and memorabilia.

Mr. Real will speak about the important roll that local AFA/HOF Alumni Clubs will soon play in the selection of future Hall of Famers on our level of the sport.

Over the past 26 years, since the inception of the AFA/HOF in 1981, the Pittsburgh Tri-State (and Western Pennsylvania) area has been

responsible for providing the American Football Association with 42 quality footballers worthy of enshrinement honors.

In addition to Mr. Real's appearance in Pittsburgh this coming April, the local alumni chapter will honor one of their members, Dan Rains (HOF class of 1987), as the recipient of their 10 year old "Ray Mansfield Memorial Award". The Mansfield Award is given annually to local Pittsburgh area individuals for providing dedication as a volunteer for Youth and Community services. Rains played semi-pro football for the WV Rockets before joining the NFL's Chicago Bears. This AFA Hall of Famer was a member of the Chicago Bears NFL Super Bowl XX Champions.



**Dan Rains to receive 2006 "Ray Mansfield Memorial Award" from Pittsburgh AFA/HOF Alumni Club.**

**Empire League Shares Its Contest Reward With Member Teams**



**Mike Bittton (left) EFL league administrator and Dave Burch (center) EFL league commissioner, presents Ed Mc Callister (right) of the Lake City Stars a \$1,000 check for his teams participation in the USA Football, Inc. "Play Football Month". The EFL teams were awarded \$5,500 for their participation in the NFL/NFL-PA sponsored national youth program.**



In Our 25th Year of Operation

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**"Semi-Pro and Proud"**

**OFFICIAL AFA NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2005**

**AFA'S OLDEST LEAGUE AWARDED FINANCIAL GRANTS FROM USA FOOTBALL, INC. FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAMS**  
**EMPIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE REWARDED**

"Just following instruction from the AFA national office," commented Empire Football League Commissioner, Dave Burch as he looked at the checks his league received from the NFL/NFL-PA sponsored national youth football organization - USA Football, inc. totaling more than \$5000.

Burch had his Empire league teams respond to a request from USA Football, inc. to assist the youth football teams in their local communities during the 2005 season *Play Football Month*.

"It seemed like such a natural thing to do", said Burch. "Our teams have been supporting their local youth football organizations by running clinics and involving themselves with youth fund-raisers for so long that the opportunity to assist the USA Football people in promoting *Play Football Month* was fairly easy - and profitable for our league teams.

Profitable, yes! . . . Easy, well this is still semi-pro football and nothing comes easy on our level. According to the EFL commissioner he simply followed the instructions in an AFA press release regarding the opportunity semi-pro football teams had earlier this season to compete for a financial 'thank you' from the NFL and NFL Players Assn sponsored youth football promotion.

While the AFA national office is excited for the EFL and all its teams that shared in the \$5400 financial grant - more importantly is the fact that for the first time in years an NFL affiliate program recognized a semi-pro football organization as a member of the Adult Amateur Football community in qualifying for the financial award.

"Although our EFL member teams did all that was expected of them in qualifying for this grant, we still needed the AFA to supply us with the proper 'paperwork' proving

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**THANKS AFA . . .**

Says team owners and Empire Football League administrators as they posed for this photo at their annual end of season league meeting. The EFL received checks totaling more than \$5,000 from the NFL/NFL-PA sponsored USA FOOTBALL, Inc. last month for their teams efforts in helping promote that national youth organization's . . . "Play Football Month".

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL EVENTS TO RECOGNIZE AFA PRESIDENT AS THEIR 2006 "MAN OF THE YEAR"**

AFA President Ron Real has accepted an invitation to attend a dinner given in his honor on Friday, March 31st in Las Vegas at the Frontier Hotel. The Man of the Year dinner is hosted annually by the National Football Events company to honor individuals who represent the semi-pro football level of the sport of football. Mr. Real will be recognized for his quarter century of dedication to the semi-pro football level.

Hosting the event will be NFE president Jim Nugent of Chicago. Nugent is a member of the AFA's "Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame" class of 1988 and has supported the efforts of the AFA since the early days of the national association's inception in 1980. Nugent hopes to see other AFA/HOF Alumni in Vegas to help honor Mr. Real's accomplishments. More details are available at [www.nationalfootballevents.com](http://www.nationalfootballevents.com).

## SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME 'CLASS OF 2006' INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED



About this time each year the American Football Association has the dubious honor of recognizing a group of former semi-pro football players, coaches, executives, trainers, equipment managers, officials, historians, media personnel, pioneers as well as a few from additional categories covering youth football, international football, women's football and even super fans.

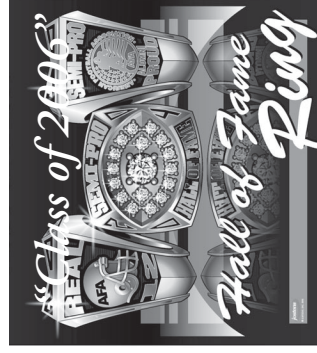
Over the past 25 years the AFA has inducted an even 500 extremely dedicated semi-pro footballers who excelled in their categories and brought recognition to our level of the sport - while at the same time helped create a local legacy in their football community. With the enshrinement of the 26 members of the "Class of 2006" the AFA will see its Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame brotherhood swell to 526 members.

This years selections will be honored at an Induction Dinner in Canton, Ohio on Saturday, June 10th. The new inductees will be joined by family and friends to help celebrate their long awaited reward for their many years of dedication, determination, and devotion to a level of football whose history proceeds the National Football League. Playing, coaching

and/or administering a team or league in the obscurity of the semi-pro football level for as many years as our Hall of Fame 'Legends' have done is a true testimony of their love for the game.

During the HOF enshrinement each year inductees receive engraved plaques and lapel pins in honor of the occasion.

In addition, the new 'Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame Legends' are allowed to have someone sponsor the purchase of a specially designed awards ring to help celebrate the occasion. The AFA/HOF commemorative rings are made of 10k gold, individually handcrafted by Jostens Ring Company with the HOF'ers name, favoriet number, year of induction and manufactured in the size of an NFL Super Bowl ring.



### Congratulations

to the American Football Association  
Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame  
"Class of 2006"



"Where Semi-Pro Football Legends Live Forever"

NAME	CATEGORY	HOMETOWN	SPONSOR
Charles Allen	Player	Lithonia, GA	Hal Lockhart
Mike Bonner	Player	Oak Bridge, NJ	Gary Shaver
Hubie Bryant, Jr.	Player	Lawrenceville, VA	Bob Baker
Mike 'Chico' Cain	Player	Las Vegas, NV	Norm Nissen
Jamie Caleb	Player	Northfield, OH	Dennis McElligott
Bob Cunningham	Player	Boston, MA	Larry DeVoe
Dan Dragan	Player	Willisburg, KY	Phil Micheck
Dave Havern	Player	Pittsburg, PA	Leo Henne
John Hyder	Player	Roosevelt, UT	Larry Rydbom
Clarence Jones, Jr.	Player	Nettleton, MS	Lavert Carr
Bob Kleffman	Player	Tinley Park, IL	Howard Huntington
Pete Quackenbush	Player	Glens Falls, NY	Bill Callahan
Afonso Smith	Player	Gladstone, MI	Dob Drake
Craig Smith	Player	Miramar, FL	Joe Hoffman
Steve Stuter *	Player	Massellon, OH	Ken Long
Jack Boepple	Coach	Lincolnwood, IL	Bob Herman
Alan Dole	Coach	Old Chatham, NY	Dave Burch
Phil Lytle	Coach	Black Mountain, NC	Jim Nugent
Charles 'Bear' Rogers	Coach	Bloomfield, PA	Fred Zangaro
Alan Boeldt	Executive	Manitowoc, WI	Harold Haberman
Richard Jancosko	Executive	Pittsburgh, PA	Jack Brumbaugh
Sue Berg	Trainer	Carperterville, IL	Cheryl Kardas
Fritz Brownell	Official	Johnstown, NY	William Higgins
Gary Suhr	Media	Racine, WI	Bob Milkie
Joseph Natoli	Youth	Morningside, PA	Tom Averell
Catherine Masters	Women's	Nashville, TN	Carole Duffy

\* POSTHUMOUSLY

## AFA CROWNS CALIFORNIA TEAM ITS 26th ANNUAL AAA NATIONAL CHAMPION

In what seemed to be a never-ending semi-pro football season, 2005 has finally come to an end with the Daly City California Renegades capturing the American Football Association's 26th Annual National Championship. The Daly City (San Francisco, California) Renegades concluded its 2005 season by defeating the previously undefeated South Ogdren-Rhino Raiders 41-14.

The game was played at Kezar Stadium (former home of the San Francisco 49ers). The Daly City team finished the year with a 19-1 record and the "number-one-team" in the AFA national season ending "power-ratings". The Renegades collected a league championship (GSAFL), state championship (California), regional championship (Far West), a super-regional championship (MILFA), before being named the AFA's 2005 National Champs. In route to the AFA honor the Renegades clicked off 18 straight wins after losing their opening league game.

### DALY CITY RENEGADE PLAYER NAMES ADDED TO THE ARKUSH CUP

For their efforts during such a successful semi-pro football season the Renegade players will have their names engraved on the AFA Arthur S. Arkush Memorial Cup as the 26th semi-pro football team to win an AFA National Championship. Adding the Daly City player names to the Arkush Cup will bring the AFA quarter century trophy engraving tradition to a total of 1328 names.

The Renegade organization will be presented with a 2005 AFA National AAA Championship banner during the AFA's Summer Semi-pro Football Convention and Tradeshow in Canton, Ohio on June 10th, 2006.

AFA Hall of Fame members representing different AFA Alumni Clubs will gather in Vegas in support of the National Football Events Casino Bowl All-Star Game on April 1st. Several HOF 'Legends' are involved with the game.

### AA and A CHAMPS ALSO CROWNED

The Championship teams in both the 'AA and 'A' semi-pro football level will also receive colorful National Championship banners to help remember their 2005 season accomplishments. The 'AA' Champs were the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Bulldogs. The New York's Finest Captured the 'A' level National Title for the 2005 season.

### AFA Founder and President,

Ron Real, standing next to the nearly 7 foot tall Arkush Cup trophy case.

The Arthur S. Arkush Memorial Cup - "It's our answer to ice hockey's Stanley Cup", says the AFA president after showing off the associations newest trophy case which is home to the Semi-Pro Football National Championship Trophy.



SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL  
2005 TRIPLE A  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



DALY CITY CALIFORNIA RENEGADES

"Semi-Pro and Proud"

SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL  
2005 DOUBLE A  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN BULLDOGS

"Semi-Pro and Proud"

SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL  
2005 SINGLE A  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



NEW YORK FINEST

"Semi-Pro and Proud"