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### For Immediate Release

## **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR SECOND ANNUAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL RUDY AWARD, HONORING DIVISION I PLAYERS WHO DEMONSTRATE EXEMPLARY CHARACTER, COURAGE, CONTRIBUTION AND COMMITMENT AS MEMBERS OF THEIR TEAM**

LAS VEGAS, NV (November 3, 2008) – Nominations are now open for the **SECOND ANNUAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL RUDY AWARD**, it was announced today by The Rudy Foundation 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Award honors NCAA Division I student-athletes who demonstrate exemplary **CHARACTER, COURAGE, CONTRIBUTION** and **COMMITMENT** as members of their collegiate football teams. These same traits were immortalized in the blockbuster film “**RUDY**” in 27 seconds and against all odds on a gridiron in South Bend, Indiana, enabling Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger to carve his name into college football lore.

Three RUDY AWARD finalists will be chosen by the Selection Committee and honored at a breakfast to be held in conjunction with the American Football Coaches Convention on January 12, 2009, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. **Rudy Ruettiger** will serve as the Master of Ceremonies and personally present the awards.

Each finalist will be presented with a beautiful award and an academic scholarship, as well as have their travel expenses paid to the event. An overall winner will be chosen and presented with the top scholarship and sculpture award trophy.



*The Rudy Award*

“We established this award as a special way to honor and recognize college football players for the size of their hearts instead of the enormity of their stats,” said Rudy Ruettiger. “Last year’s Inaugural Award was a big success and we are excited to continue to build the RUDY AWARD into one of the top collegiate honors. Our society looks to athletes as role models... and I cannot think of a better role model than one who demonstrates great character, courage, contribution and commitment.”

The recipient of the 2007 INAUGURAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL RUDY AWARD was **Terry Clayton**, then a senior linebacker at the **University of Kentucky**, who, despite losing his hearing at the age of five, persevered as a walk-on for the Kentucky football team for five seasons and twice was named to the Southeast Conference Academic Honor Roll. **Keegan Herring** (Arizona State University), **Robenson Jean** (University of Central Florida) and **Joey Stutson** (Louisiana State University) were the other Award finalists.

The 2008 Award Selection Committee has been expanded to 11 members and includes football coaches **David Bailiff, Gary Barnett, Fisher DeBerry, Dennis Franchione, June Jones, Chuck Knox, Gary Patterson, Buddy Pough** and **Dick Tomey**. Former Washington Redskins Quarterback and Super Bowl XXII MVP **Doug Williams**, who presently is a player personnel executive for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, also joins the committee for 2008. Prominent businessman **Peter Murphy, Jr.**, will again serve as Chairman.

A nomination form is available at [www.RudyAwards.com](http://www.RudyAwards.com) and can be submitted on behalf of a Division I collegiate player of any age or year in school (Freshman through Senior) who is a member of the 2008 football team. If a finalist presently is receiving a full scholarship, or graduates prior to the award presentation, the award will be made in the player's name to the general scholarship fund of the college or university.

Deadline for nominations is December 8, 2008.

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***"You're five foot nothin', a hundred and nothin', and you have nearly a speck of athletic ability. And you hung in there with the best college football team in the land for two years. And you're getting a degree from the University of Notre Dame. In this life, you don't have to prove nothin' to nobody but yourself."***

-- Fortune (as played by Charles S. Dutton) in the film "RUDY."

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### **About The Rudy Foundation**



The Rudy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the support and recognition of those who aspire to fulfill their dreams through character, courage, contribution and commitment. Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger and his wife Cheryl founded The Rudy Foundation in 1997. Members of the board of directors include Jerome Bettis, Ross Browner, Rick Mirer and Aaron Taylor.

The son of an oil refinery worker and third of 14 children, Rudy Ruettiger rose from valleys of discouragement to the pinnacles of success. Today, he is one of the most popular motivational speakers in the U.S. It took years of fierce determination, yet Rudy achieved his first dream -- to attend Notre Dame and play football for the Fighting Irish. As fans cheered RU-DY, RU-DY, he sacked the quarterback in the only play in the only game of his college football career. Rudy Ruettiger remains the only player in the school's history ever to be carried off the field on his teammates' shoulders.



In 1993, TRISTAR Productions immortalized his life story with the blockbuster film, "RUDY." Written and produced by Angelo Pizzo and David Anspaugh, the critically acclaimed movie continues to inspire millions worldwide.

In addition to his motivational speaking, Rudy Ruettiger has co-authored several books, including: "Rudy's Insights for Winning in Life," "Rudy's Lessons for Young Champions," and "Rudy & Friends," and has produced the Dream Power tape series. For more information, or to make a donation visit: [www.RudyAwards.com](http://www.RudyAwards.com).