



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL SPORTSCASTERS & SPORTSWRITERS ASSOCIATION (NSSA) AND
USA FOOTBALL TO AGAIN HONOR FOOTBALL HEROES IN EVERY STATE**

VIENNA, Va. – For the second straight year, the National Sportscasters & Sportswriters Association (NSSA) and USA Football will honor community heroes with the NSSA-USA Football Champions Award, which recognizes the efforts of those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the sport of football at the youth, middle school, or high school level as an administrator, coach, volunteer, or supporter.

The NSSA-USA Football Champions Award recognizes winners from each of the 50 states and also reaches U.S. military bases worldwide. In addition to 50 state winners, two Grand Champion award winners will be selected to attend the annual NSSA Hall of Fame event from May 6-8, 2006, in Salisbury, N.C., where they will be highlighted during the awards banquet.

“We at NSSA are excited to partner with USA Football again this year,” said **MITCH HOLTHUS**, voice of the Kansas City Chiefs and President of the NSSA National Board of Directors. “The sport of football is a strong part of our nation’s culture, and we need to recognize those who contribute to the game at football’s beginning levels—this program does that. Moreover, this is an opportunity for sportscasters and sportswriters from across the United States to give something back to the sport of football in their respective areas.”

Last year, **JOHN FREDERICK** (Hawaii) and **LINDA BREWSTER** (Maine) were honored as Grand Champion award winners for their efforts in their respective communities.

Known as the “Pigskin Padre,” Frederick, a Catholic priest, founded the Ma’ili Hawaiian Warriors Youth Football Club in Waipahu on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. In addition to managing the five-team league, Frederick also coaches a youth team and a semi-pro team on the island. He has been coaching for 22 years at the youth, high school and semi-pro levels and serves as priest and pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waipahu.

In 1996, there was no football in Brewster’s small rural town of Cumberland/North Yarmouth, Maine. Brewster, a family practice nurse and mother of two, led the charge to bring football to the area. With no funding from the town, Brewster led a group of families in growing the league one age group at a time, and later led the battle to convince the school board to approve football as a varsity sport. Under the agreement, the boosters are required to fund the program completely, and the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Football program has now grown to 130 players.

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“The NSSA-USA Football Champions Award is a meaningful way to highlight the important role football plays in the lives of many young Americans by recognizing the hard work and dedication of those who make it happen,” said **SCOTT HALLENBECK**, USA Football Executive Director. “USA Football is honored to give a voice to these compelling stories of volunteerism in communities across the country.”

Nominations for the NSSA-USA Football Champions Award can be made directly to the NSSA or USA Football. Forms will be available online at www.usafootball.com beginning December 7, 2005. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2006. A 10-person committee will select the 50 state winners and two Grand Champions, which will be announced in late March.

-USA FOOTBALL-

USA Football (www.usafootball.com) is an independent, non-profit organization that was created by the NFL and NFL Players Association in December 2002 with the mission to support, promote and expand all levels of amateur football. USA Football offers in-depth youth football resources focusing on league enhancement, coaching development, officiating, and health & safety information for parents. USA Football is the first national advocacy group for youth football.

The National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association (NSSA) was formed in 1959. Its purpose is to recognize the sportscasters and sportswriters of the United States for their leadership, devotion, contributions in developing character, integrity, sportsmanship, and physical fitness among both youth and adults. The NSSA is unique in that it is the only national organization which brings together the two crafts of sportscasting and sportswriting.



NSSA-USA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS AWARD

The NSSA-USA Football Champions Award recognizes the efforts of those who have made a significant contribution to football at the youth, middle school, or high school level as an administrator, coach, volunteer, or supporter.

Please fill out this form and submit no later than March 1, 2006 (postmark) to:

NSSA-USAF Champions Award
USA Football
8300 Boone Boulevard, Suite 870
Vienna, VA 22182

NOMINATION—Candidate Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

(use additional pages if necessary)

Candidate's Football Resume (*Please be very detailed about specific roles, years of involvement, names of leagues/organizations/schools associated with*):

Candidate's Professional Position (*The individual's "day job," if currently employed*):

Other information about the candidate that you would like the review committee to know:

Nominator's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____