



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Adina Ellis, NFL, (212) 450-2435

FINALISTS NAMED FOR 2005 NFL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

NFL PLAYERS NOMINATE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

Five finalists have been named for the 2005 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year Award, the NFL announced today.

The 2005 finalists and the NFL players who nominated them are:

Coach	School	City	NFL Players
Ed Thomas	Aplington-Parkersburg HS	Parkersburg, IA	Jared DeVries, Detroit Aaron Kampman, Green Bay Brad Meester, Jacksonville Casey Wiegmann, Kansas City
Kerry Coombs	Colerain HS	Cincinnati, OH	B.J. Askew, New York Jets
Joseph Montana	Coral Gables Senior HS	Miami, FL	Frank Gore, San Francisco Jonathan Vilma, New York Jets
John Iurato	Passaic County Technical Institute	Wayne, NJ	Marcel Shipp, Arizona
David Meske	Webb School of Knoxville	Knoxville, TN	Chad Pennington, New York Jets

The **NFL High School Football Coach of the Year Award** was created in 1995 by NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** and the NFL teams to honor coaches who profoundly affected the athletic and personal development of NFL players.

"We have more than 1,600 players on our NFL rosters," said Commissioner Tagliabue. "The one thing they all have in common is that they received guidance from high school coaches. These men have dedicated their lives to teaching young players how to become leaders both on and off the field. I congratulate our finalists and all high school coaches for the integral roles they play in developing the game of football and guiding the youngsters who play the game."

Each finalist receives a \$2,500 cash award and a \$5,000 grant from the NFL Youth Football Fund (YFF) is presented to his high school football program. The YFF is a \$150 million fund established by the NFL and NFL Players Association to support youth football initiatives.

The 2005 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year will be announced the week of January 2. The winner will be invited to attend Super Bowl XL in Detroit, MI as a guest of the NFL and will receive a \$5,000 grant from the NFL YFF as well as a \$10,000 grant for his designated high school football program.

A blue-ribbon committee of sports leaders appointed by the NFL selects winners. The panel is comprised of ~~XX~~.

The NFL High School Coach of the Year award is one of many NFL Youth Football Fund youth/high school football support initiatives.

To see a complete list of this year's nominees and semifinalists or for more information on NFL Youth Football Fund initiatives, visit www.nflhs.com

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