

The Touchdown Club of Houston
sponsors

The 11th annual
**Greater Houston High School
Football Scholar-Athlete Luncheon**

Sponsored by DeeDee and Wallis Marsh
with special guest speaker Dr. Rod Paige,
seventh U.S. Secretary of Education (2001-05)



Noon, Wed., Nov. 11, 2009
JW Marriott Ballroom, 5150 Westheimer
www.touchdownclub.org

Touchdown Club of Houston Future Events

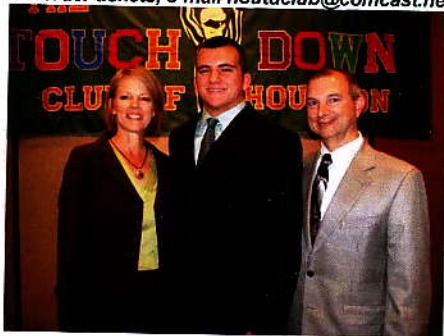
*Nov. 24, Tues., noon, **Texas-Texas A&M Luncheon**. Speaking on football recruiting will be the Aggie Yell's Brian Perroni, the Orangeblood's Jason Howell, and VYPE magazine/Rivals.com recruiting guru Matt Malatesta. Costs are TBA.

*Nov. 25, Wed., noon, **Rice-UH Bayou Bucket Luncheon**. Come and hear UH's Kevin Sumlin talk about Cougar football, as well as Rice head football coach David Bailiff discuss the Owls. The TD Club created the Bayou Bucket Trophy, which is given by Club members on the field to the winning team, immediately after the annual contest. Cost is \$45 per ticket. Tables are \$450 (regular), \$500 (bronze table sponsorship), \$1,000 (silver table sponsorship), \$1,500 (gold table sponsorship) and \$5,000 (platinum table sponsorship). All tables are 10 seats each. Premium table sponsors get their names in the event's paper program. For tickets or more information, call TD Club executive director Neal Farmer at 713-849-9860, or e-mail houtdclub@comcast.net.

*Dec. 9, Wed., 7 p.m., **High School Awards Dinner, presented by Capital One, Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine Institute and SportsRadio 610** – We select 10 finalists for high school Players of the Year on offense, 10 finalists for Defensive Player of the Year, and 10 Coach of the Year finalists, and then give one award for each category. The selections are made by a blue-ribbon panel of area football coaches for the players and a blue-ribbon panel of high school athletic directors for the coaches. It is the largest event of its kind in the country. All seats are \$45, and regular tables \$450. All tables are 10 seats each. Premium tables are \$5,000 (platinum table sponsor), \$1,500 (gold table sponsor), \$1,000 (silver table sponsor) and \$500 (bronze table sponsor). Premium table sponsors will get their names in the event's paper program. (JW Marriott, 5150 Westheimer)

*Jan. 20, Wed., noon, **Sterling Bank High School Sportsmanship Luncheon, presented by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes** – We will recognize the top area high school football teams for sportsmanship. The voting is done by the Houston chapter of the Texas Association of Sports Officials – the zebras who referee area high school games. Criteria were 1) conduct of football players and coaches, 2) conduct of parents, drill teams and others, and 3) respect for the American flag. There will be 12 finalists, with trophies given for first, second and third places. All seats are \$45, and regular tables \$450. All tables are 10 seats each. Premium tables are \$5,000 (platinum table sponsor), \$1,500 (gold table sponsor), \$1,000 (silver table sponsor) and \$500 (bronze table sponsor). Premium table sponsors will get their names in the event's paper program. (JW Marriott, 5150 Westheimer)

Please view our website at www.touchdownclub.org for updates on our events, to download a membership form, to see the names of past winners, and to view photos from previous events. To order tickets, e-mail houtdclub@comcast.net, or call the TD Club's hotline at 281-754-4867.



Last year's top scholar-athlete winner, Strake Jesuit's Brett Provenzano, with his parents, Peggy, left, and Charles. Brett is enrolled at Cornell this year.

Luncheon Order of Events

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Opening remarks..... | Chad Clay <i>TD Club president</i> |
| Prayer..... | Jeff Eslick <i>Fellowship of Christian Athletes</i> |
| National Anthem..... | Darryl Luckett <i>Gallery Furniture</i> |
| Acknowledgements..... | Keith Kilgore <i>TD Club Board and Fort Bend ISD athletic director</i> |
| Emcee..... | Gifford Nielsen <i>Member of the NFF College Football Hall of Fame</i> |
| Lunch | |
| Weight Rooms..... | Daryl Wade <i>Houston ISD athletic director</i> |
| Guest Speaker..... | Dr. Rod Paige <i>Seventh U.S. Secretary of Education, 2001-2005</i> |
| Scholar-Athlete explanation..... | Chris Vaughan <i>TD Club Board</i> |
| Awards Ceremony..... | Chris Vaughan and Keith Kilgore |
| Closing Remarks..... | Giff Nielsen |
| God Bless America..... | Darrell Luckett |

Sponsorships: Please be sure to say a special "thank you" to our sponsors.

Title sponsor: DeeDee and Wallis Marsh

Bronze sponsors: Strake Jesuit High School, Texas City High School and Westbury High School

Flower sponsor: ABC Flowers

2009 TD Club Board of Directors

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& COLLEGE HALL OF FAME, INC.

Special Guest Speaker

ROD PAIGE

On January 21, 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Dr. Rod Paige as the 7th U.S. Secretary of Education. For Paige, the son of a principal and a librarian in public schools, that day was the crowning achievement of a long career in education. Born in 1933 in segregated Monticello, Mississippi, Paige's accomplishments speak of his commitment to education. He earned a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University in his home state. He then earned both a master's and a doctoral degree from Indiana University.

Paige began working with students early in his career as a teacher and a coach. He then served for a decade as dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University (TSU). In this position, Paige worked to ensure that future educators would receive the training and expertise necessary to succeed in the classroom. He also established the university's Center for Excellence in Urban Education, a research facility that concentrates on issues related to instruction and management in urban school systems.

Elected in 1989, Paige was sworn in as a trustee and an officer of the Board of Education of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) in January 1990, in which capacities he served until 1994. In 1994, Paige left TSU to become superintendent of HISD, the nation's seventh largest school district. Inside Houston Magazine named Paige one of "Houston's 25 most powerful people" in guiding the city's growth and prosperity. In 2001, he was named National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

During his tenure as Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education from 2001 to 2005, Paige was a fierce and innovative champion of education reform who led the way in setting new standards of achievement for all students in our education system. He spearheaded the implementation of the historic *No Child Left Behind Act*, with its goal of reinvigorating America's education system.

Paige is also an active member of several highly respected boards, including the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, The Broad Foundation, the American College of Education, the New England College of Finance and Business, the National Council on Economic Education's Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, and is a former board member of News Corporation. After he left the administration in 2005, Paige served as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. There he was able to explore a more global perspective of education. As he said: "Civilizations rise and fall depending upon the quality of education."



2009 TD Club Football Scholar-Athlete finalists, listed alphabetically

1) **Michael Abounada**, Westbury – LB – Coach Stephen Hill

GPA: 3.9/4.0 Scale Class Rank: 7 of 402 SAT: 1420

Team Captain, 2 Year Letterman, National Football Foundation Athlete of the Month, National Honor Society, English Honor Society, President of the Engineer Club, Future Engineer Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Academic Scholar, Latin Club Vice President, Student Council, Homecoming Court, Westbury Gentlemen's Club, Varsity Baseball, Varsity Track

2) **Mark Alvarez**, MacArthur – Slot Back – Coach Bernie Mulvaney

GPA: 3.5/4.0 scale Class Rank: 26 of 693 SAT: 1570

Team Captain, Academic All District, 2 Year Letterman, National Honor Society, UH Talent Search Program, Varsity Track, Peer Tutor, Volunteer at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Boys & Girls Club, Homecoming Court

3) **Xavion Brown**, Worthing – WR/DB/RB/PR/KR – Coach Brandon Ellis

GPA: 3.9/4.0 scale Class Rank: 4 of 240 ACT: 21

2 Year Team Captain, 2 Year First Team All District, Defensive Player of the Year, 4 Year Varsity Letterman in Football, Soccer, Baseball & Track, National Honor Society, 2006 – 2009 Perfect Attendance, 3 Year winner Most Outstanding Math Student, Gentlemen Phi Gentlemen community service group, University Outreach – youth speaker, Volunteer at Houston Fire Station #28,

4) **Preston Burkett**, Memorial – CB/QB – Coach Gary Koch

GPA: 6.6/6.0 Scale Class Rank: 1 of 569 SAT: 2200

2 Year Team Captain, Academic All District, Harvard University Book Award, National Merit Semi-finalist, Academy of Finance President, National Honor Society, Dance Club Board, Memorial Mustang Outreach, Young Life, Angels Of Light outreach, National Young Leader Conference

5) **Tanner Campbell**, Mayde Creek – DB –, Coach Lance Carter

GPA: 4.6/4.0 Scale Class Rank: 2 of 630 SAT: 2020

Team Captain, 2008 Special Teams Player of the Year, National Honor Society, Student Council, Huddle Leader – FCA, Homecoming King, Varsity Basketball & Track, Hosts a weekly youth group in his home, Mentors youth basketball players

6) **Ryan Efaw**, Cy-Fair – Safety – Coach Ed Pustejovsky

GPA: 6.7/7.0 Scale Class Rank: 14 of 667 SAT: 1910

Team Captain, 2nd Team All District, 2 Year Varsity Golf, Student Council, FCA Officer, Peer Assistance, National Honor Society, Skim 2 Live President, Homecoming Court, Catholic Heart Work Camp

7) **Jonathon Fisher**, Katy – LB – Coach Gary Joseph

GPA: 4.6/5 Scale Class Rank: 6 of 620 SAT: 2020

Team Captain, 1st Team All District, 2008 Division II State Champions, Academic All District, Reliant/Houston Texans Scholarship Finalist, Elks Lodge Junior Teen of the Year, National Honor Society, Student Council, DARE Member, Peer Mentors Leadership Team, Peer Assistance League, UM Army Work Camp, Brookwood Community Center – Home for the Mentally Challenged

8) **Jerry Florence**, Scarborough – RB/LB -- Coach Chris Babin

GPA: 3.5/4.0 scale Class Rank: 8 of 180 SAT: n/a

2 Year Letterman, First Year Media Technology President, Speech & Debate 3 Time NCFL competitor, 3 Year Architecture Magnet Student, Williams Temple COGIC Youth Choir, Member Scholastic Motivation Ministries, 2008 AIM Convention 1st Place Oratorical Speaker, 2 Year UH Upward Bound Student, Wonder Works Architectural Summer Camp at UH, Houston Food Bank Volunteer

9) **Garrett Granier**, Jersey Village – Tackle – Coach David Snokhous

GPA: 6.7/6.7 Scale Class Rank: 16 SAT: 2070

2 Year Letterman, Dave Campbell's Texas Football "Player to Watch", National Merit Scholar Commended, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Eagle Scout, Boy Scout Pope Pius XII & Ad Altare Dei Religious Awards, 2 Year participant in American Mathematics Contest, A Tac Kwon Do Black Belt, Founding Treasurer of Team Falcon Spirit Club, Key Club

10) **Chris Hensley**, Bellaire – RB/WR – Coach Trey Herrmann

GPA: 3.7/4.0 Scale Class Rank: n/a SAT: 1600 ACT:

2 Year Team Captain, 2nd Team All District, 3 Year Letterman, 3 Year Track Letterman, President of Bellaire Men's Club, Member of Leaders of Tomorrow, Member of African-American Association, Varsity Track (2 years), President of Youth Ministry at Crossroads Community Church

11) **Daniel Hilton II**, The Woodlands College Park – LB – Coach Richard Carson

GPA: 4.9 Scale:5.0 Class Rank: 15 of 603 SAT: 1940 ACT: 30

Team Captain, 2 Year Starter, 2nd Team All District, Varsity Baseball, 2nd Place District Science Fair, 7th Place at Engineering Design Competition, Enrolled in the Academy of Science & Technology, Member of the Orchestra (Violin), 80 Hour Internship with Nuclear Engineers for the South Texas Nuclear Project, Eagle Scout, Volunteer Coach for the Challenger Baseball League for Mentally/Physically handicapped players

12) **Clay Honeycutt**, Dickinson – QB – Coach Warren Trahan

GPA: 4.0/4.0 Class Rank: 20 of 452 SAT: 1240

Team Captain, TD Club Preseason All Greater Houston Team, 1st Team All District, All-Galveston County, 2007 Newcomer of the Year, Varsity Baseball, National Honor Society, National Honor Roll, PALS, Homecoming Court, Committed to Texas A&M to play football.

13) **Trey Hopkins**, North Shore – Offensive Line – Coach David Aymond

GPA: 4.6/5.0 Scale Class Rank: 6 of 940 SAT: 1690

Team Captain, 3 Year All District, 1st Team All Greater Houston, Selected to 2010 US Army All-American Bowl, TD Club Preseason All Greater Houston Team, Principal Student Advisory Board, Superintendent Student advisory Board, National Honor Society, Chess Club, Junior Deacon at Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plays Clarinet/Saxophone and sings in the Choir

14) **Alex James**, Deer Park – DB – Coach Chris Massey

GPA: 4.8/6.0 Scale Class Rank: 52 of 875 SAT: 1520

Team Captain, All District 2nd Team, Academic All District, 2 Year Leadership Council, National Honor Society, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, FCA, InterAct, Best Buddies, Tech Theater, Boys & Girls Harbor tutor, Active in youth ministry at Central Baptist Church

15) **Matt Kegg**, Strake Jesuit – Offensive Line – Coach Ron Counter

GPA: 3.9/4.0 Scale Class Rank: N/A SAT: 1870

Team Captain, National Honor Society, Student Council Secretary, Algebra 1 Award, Red Cross Award for water rescue, Eagle Scout, Varsity Track, Crusader Guard, Mission Trip to Nicaragua, Teaches Guitar to students, Takes the maximum number of AP Classes the school allows

16) **Trent Langley**, Oak Ridge – S/WR – Coach Bob Barrett

GPA: 3.7/4.6 scale Class Rank: 12 of 570 SAT: 1880

Team Captain, 1st Team All District, All Montgomery County, Under Armour All American Nominee, Team Unity Council, Rotary Club Junior Student of the Year, National Honor Society, Varsity Track, Varsity Power Lifting, Young Life. Congressional Student Leadership Conference, National Society of High School Scholars

17) **Dustin Lauck**, Cy Ridge – Center – Coach Gary Thiebaud

GPA: 6.4/7.0 Scale Class Rank: 40 of 646 SAT: 1590

Team Captain, 2 Year Letterman, Silver Ram Award – Outstanding Junior, National Honor Society, Eagle Scout with Palms, Member of the Band, Plays Piano, BCIS Department Award, Member of his church's Youth Group

18) **Chris Martinez**, Humble – Offensive Line – Coach Walt Beasley

GPA: 4.7/5.0 Scale Class Rank: 5 of 592 SAT: n/a

2 Year Letterman, All District Academic Team, National Honor Society, National Honor Roll, International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, Humble High Recycling Coordinator, Humble Area Assistance Ministries Volunteer, Hurricane Ike Relief Pod Volunteer, Ross Sterling MS Math Camp Counselor, Invisible Children Donation Coordinator

19) **Hayden McNeill**, Texas City – LB – Coach Tim Finn

GPA: 4.0/4.0 Scale Class Rank: 1 of 359 SAT: 1680

Team Captain, 1st Team All District, All County Honorable Mention, Greater Houston Football Say No to Drugs Poster, Dave Campbell's Texas Football Preseason District Defensive MVP, Graduation Honor Guard, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Rocket Competition – BP Physics Challenge Honorable Mention, Varsity Track, Interact Member, Works at Schlitterbahn, Baypoint Community Church Volunteer

20) **Taylor Morris**, Katy Seven Lakes – WR – Coach Kevin O'Keefe

GPA: 4.7/4.0 Scale Class Rank: 17 of 646 ACT: 30

Academic All District, National Honor Society, HFW National Select Soccer Team, Spanish Club, FCA, PALS, Spartans Out Serving, Grace Fellowship Church Mission Trips to Mexico and Galveston after Ike, Meals on Wheels, Youth Soccer Referee

21) **Zach Myers**, Cinco Ranch – QB – Coach Don Clayton

GPA: 4.6/5.0 Scale Class Rank: 18 of 708 SAT: 2040 ACT: 34

Team Captain, All District Honorable Mention, 1st Team Academic All District, 3 Varsity Letterman, 3 Year Varsity Baseball, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, AP Scholar Award, Men's Choir, FCA Huddle Leader, Cougars Achieving Through Service, Little League Umpire, Grace Fellowship UMC Youth Group Leader

22) **Jonathan Puffer**, Katy Taylor – Offensive Tackle – Coach Flint Risien

GPA: 4.0/4.0 Scale Class Rank: 107 of 580 ACT: 27

2 Year Letterman, Football Leadership Council, National Honor Society, Varsity Chorale, Spanish Club, PALS, Young Life Student Leader, FCA Study Leader, Kingsland Student Ministries Mission Trips to Philadelphia & Nicaragua, Katy Christian Ministries, Go Beyond Ministries helping families with cancer victims

23) **Robert Tolle, Clements** – LB – Coach Keith Knowles

GPA: 4.0/4.0 scale Class Rank: 38 of 587 SAT: 2340

2 Year Letterman, Academic All District, National Merit Semifinalist, National Honor Society, Varsity Track, Eagle Scout, Coaches Youth Basketball, Habitat for Humanity, Annual Senior Citizen Dance Volunteer,

24) **Darius Wilborn, Kashmere** – CB – Coach Garry Dunham

GPA: 4.1/4.0 scale Class Rank: 2 of 100 SAT: 1330

Team Captain, 2 year letterman, 1st Team All District, Varsity Basketball Team Captain, 2nd Team All District in Basketball, Science Fair Winner, Chess Club President, Positive Trendsetterz President, Gents Social and Community Service Organization, National Honor Society, Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, Fifth Ward Church of Christ

25) **Ryan Williams, La Porte** – QB – Coach Jeff La Reau

GPA: 4.9/5.0 scale Class Rank: 33 of 516 SAT: 1630 ACT: 26

All District, 2 year Starter, 3 Year Varsity Baseball, All District Baseball, 2nd Team All Greater Houston Baseball, FCA, National Honor Society, FCA, Selected for Texas Rangers Area Code Try Outs, 1st Baptist Church of Pasadena Youth Ministry, La Porte Little League Volunteer and Coach

TD Club's Scholar-Athlete Program

We like brains with our brawn. The idea of the dumb jock is repugnant to us, and we wanted to dissuade that stereotype. So, the Touchdown Club began the Football Scholar-Athlete Luncheon in 1999 with the idea of rewarding the starters on Greater Houston high school football teams with the best grades and citizenship. We think class and character should count.

Voters who selected this year's finalists were the presidents of Texas Southern University and the University of Houston. All candidates were judged on athletics (stats, honors), academics (GPA) and citizenship (as embodied in extra-curricular activities.)

Each nominee and finalist will receive a certificate from the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame, and the student-athletes' names will be entered into the database at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

Seven years ago, we upped the number of finalists from 20 to 25, and six years ago we upped the amount of the minimum scholarship that finalists receive from \$250 to \$500.

The overall winner – we feel that everyone here is a true winner – will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, second place lands a \$1,250 scholarship and the person judged third-place will get a \$1,000 scholarship. The winner of the \$1,500 scholarship will be entered in the National Football Foundation Regional Competition. If he is selected as the regional winner, he will be honored at the Waldorf Astoria in New York during the College Football Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Dec., 2010.

If any of the players signs a college football scholarship, then they are ineligible for our grant-in-aid. However, the player can give the money he won to the principal of the winning school and let him/her decide what to do with those funds, or the winner can return the funds to the TD Club's Scholarship Fund.

We want to do more, but that will require some assistance (hint). Here is how you can help.

***Tell all you know about the TD Club and what we are doing for Greater Houston youths. Create a positive atmosphere surrounding the TD Club.

***Buy tickets to our events.

***Donate to our community-service projects.

We hope that you will join the Club and assist us in our community-service projects, and help create a local voice that will influence the College Football Hall of Fame nomination process.

How? Read on.

***Join the TD Club for \$95 and you also are a member of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame.

***You will vote for who will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

***You will be a part of the TD Club's two community-service projects:

- 1) We have put \$150,000 worth of weights and weight equipment into 31 Greater Houston high schools in three years. They are Booker T. Washington, Forest Brook, Reagan, Smiley and Houston Sterling (2002), Kashmere, Madison, Scarborough, Wheatley and Worthing (2003); Milby, Northbrook and Westbury (2004); Houston Austin, Furr and Sharpstown (2005); Aldine, Sam Houston, Jones, Sam Houston, Willowridge and Yates in 2006; Eisenhower, Houston Lamar, Pasadena and Scarborough (again) in 2007; in 2008, Dulles, Furr (again), South Houston and Spring Woods; and in 2009, Booker T. Washington (again), Hightower, Spring and Waltrip.
- 2) We awarded about \$140,000 in scholarships the past 10 years before today's program.
- 3) We have teamed with the Houston Texans to distribute the team's excess cleats and tennis shoes to needy area high schools.

***The Club helped bring Play It Smart to HISD, where academic coaches are placed on the campuses with athletics. Nationally, the graduation rate at the almost 160 schools with Play It Smart was about 30 percent, and it is now 90 percent. Of those 90 percent who graduated high school, 80 percent have gone to college.

***Receive the best tables at Touchdown Club events, if you RSVP to each program in advance, and receive in-season monthly e-mails about upcoming events.

***You will receive magazines from the College Football Hall of Fame.

If you have further questions, please call executive director Neal Farmer at his home office at 713-849-9860, or e-mail (the preferred way of communication) at houtdclub@comcast.net.