

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION'S

SCHOLAR ATHLETE  
AWARDS



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER  
MARCH 28, 2024  
SOFI STADIUM  
INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

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RECOGNIZING YOUNG ATHLETES FROM THE LOS ANGELES AREA  
FOR THEIR SACRIFICE AND DEDICATION TO THE  
GAME OF FOOTBALL, EDUCATION, FAMILY, COMMUNITY  
AND AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR SCHOOLS

“FAR BETTER IT IS TO DARE MIGHTY THINGS, TO WIN GLORIOUS TRIUMPHS,  
EVEN THOUGH CHECKERED WITH FAILURE, THAN TO TAKE RANK WITH THOSE  
POOR SPIRITS WHO NEITHER ENJOY MUCH OR SUFFER MUCH, BECAUSE THEY LIVE  
IN THE GREY TWILIGHT THAT KNOWS NOT VICTORY OR DEFEAT”

-PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT



# WELCOME

## THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION CHARTER

THE FOUNDATION'S CORNERSTONE, THE RECOGNITION OF THE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE, WHO STRIVES TO EXCEL IN THE CLASSROOM, COMMUNITY AND FOOTBALL FIELD, MAKES US PROUD OF THESE YOUNG MEN WITH US TONIGHT. THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THE VAST LOS ANGELES AREA, WHERE THERE ARE MANY ACTIVITIES AND DISTRACTIONS THAT COULD HAVE LED THEM TO PROCRASTINATE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE OFFERED TO ACHIEVERS AND LEADERS. THESE ATHLETES CHOSE TO COMPETE IN HONORS COURSES IN MATH, ENGLISH, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND BIOLOGY.

WE ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO JOIN OUR CHAPTER AND CONTRIBUTE TO ENCOURAGING OUR YOUTH TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS IN THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS. GREAT LEADERS HAVE LEFT US WITH WORDS OF WISDOM AND ONE OF FOOTBALL'S FAVORITE WARRIORS, VINCE LOMBARDI, SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR CHARACTER AND ATTITUDE.

HIS PARABLE THAT IS OFTEN REFERRED:

"IT IS A REALITY THAT MEN ARE COMPETITIVE AND THE MOST COMPETITIVE GAMES DRAW THE MOST COMPETITIVE MEN. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE THERE; TO COMPETE. TO KNOW THE RULES AND OBJECTIVES WHEN THEY GET IN THE GAME. THE OBJECT IS TO WIN FAIRLY, SQUARELY, BY THE RULES; BUT TO WIN. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IN MAN'S FINEST HOUR, THE MOMENT WHEN HE HAS WORKED HIS HEART OUT IN A GOOD CAUSE AND AT THE GAMES END, HE LAYS EXHAUSTED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE - VICTORIOUS."



# TONIGHT'S GAME PLAN

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES - *Christian Gasco*

BUFFET DINNER

INVOCATION

INTRODUCTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

GUEST SPEAKER - *Larry English*

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

LT AWARD

CLOSING REMARKS

CHARGERS LOCKER ROOM TOUR



NATIONAL FOOTBALL  
FOUNDATION

2023 SCHOLAR ATHLETES  
*Los Angeles Chapter*

NAME	SCHOOL	NAME	SCHOOL
Grace Shary	Millikan High School	Griffin Seals	Santa Monica High School
Jayla De Armas Osborne	Wish Academy High School	Guillermo Vaquez	Theodore Roosevelt HS
Jessica Rose	Birmingham Charter	Hugo Wayner	Palos Verdes High School
Kathie Santa Cruz-Lopez	Fairfax High School	Jake Arellano	Loyola High School
Kayla Roe	Redondo Union High School	Jakob Martinez	Bishop Montgomery HS
Maria Murillo	Saint Joseph High School	Javaun Lewis Jr.	Dorsey High School
Isabella Sanchez	Santa Monica High School	Jordan Lockhart	St. John Bosco
Michelle Gonzalez	Warren High School	Joseph Gutierrez	Bishop Montgomery HS
Raychel Watts	Redondo Union High School	King Large	St. John Bosco
Samantha Soria	Millikan High School	Kyngstonn Viliamu-Asa	St. John Bosco High School
Abel Juarez	Gardena Senior High School	Lenny Hernandez	Hawthorn High School
Adrian Aldama	San Pedro HS	Lucas Sun	El Segundo High
Alex Reis	El Segundo High	Luka Mardesich	San Pedro HS
Anthony Bushmeyer	Torrance High School	Luke Gayton	Palos Verdes High School
Anthony Rosales	Linda Marquez High School	Marcelles Williams	St John Bosco High School
Caden Ezawa	Torrance High School	Marcus Lee	St John Bosco High School
Caden McCallum	Santa Monica High School	Max Ibarra	Roybal Learning Center
Caleb Sanchez	St. John Bosco	Michael Sultemeier	Mira Costa High School
Charlie O'Connor	Mira Costa High School	Michael Wilson Jr	Crenshaw Stemm HS
Chauncey Sylvester	St. John Bosco	Michael Wilson	El Segundo High
Connor Shelburne	Bishop Montgomery HS	Nate Bennett	Oaks Christian School
Darian Medlock	Westchester High	Nikolas Tsangaris	Palos Verdes High School
Donce' Lewis	Crenshaw Stemm HS	Peyton Woodyard	St John Bosco High School
Drew Dalton	Bishop Montgomery HS	Quran Turner	Dorsey High School
Emiliano Diaz	Bishop Montgomery HS	Reese Leonard	Mira Costa High School
Gabriel Blanco	El Segundo High	Ryan Turk	Loyola High School
		Santiago Rivera	San Pedro HS
		Tommy Maher	St John Bosco High School
		Ulysses Villagomez	Huntington Park High School



NATIONAL FOOTBALL  
FOUNDATION

## WHO WE ARE

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, Inc. (NFF) is a member-supported, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the future of amateur football at the local, state and national levels. Since its beginnings in 1947, the Foundation has relied upon the support of volunteers to bring its mission and goals to communities all across the nation. Today, thanks to the more than 100,000 volunteers who generously became members over the past 59 years, the National Football Foundation has grown to 120 chapters with a presence in 47 states.

There is no prerequisite football experience required to become a member; in fact, many of our members never even played organized football. Our membership base includes nearly every profession, race, religion and creed. Our members are men and women, fans, parents, players, coaches, referees and administrators. They work as educators, business people, doctors, lawyers, sales people, laborers, policeman, firefighters, politicians, engineers, etc. Our members have served our country's highest office, walked on the moon, led our soldiers into battle, won the Heisman Trophy, ruled on the U.S. Supreme Court, coached in Super Bowls and National Championship games, built financial empires, made movies, saved lives and imparted wisdom. Our members share one common bond: their love for amateur football.

Today, our current membership base tops 12,000 - and we are growing. As membership increases, so does the overall strength of the Foundation. Your support helps widen our span of influence, allowing the Foundation to expand its positive effects on the game, our communities and our young people.

The mission of the Foundation and our members, simply stated, is to ensure and promote the future of amateur football. If you are not already a member, or if you have been a member in the past, we hope you will join in our effort to see this mission through.

For more information on how to become a member of the  
National Football Foundation &  
College Hall of Fame Los Angeles Chapter  
Visit Our Web Site At:  
**WWW.NFFLOSANGELES.COM**

For more information on how to become a member of the  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME**  
**LOS ANGELES CHAPTER**

Visit our website at: **WWW.NFFLOSANGELES.COM**

# JOHN FERRARO

John Ferraro was born May 14, 1924 in the working class suburb of Cudahy, California, south of Los Angeles. While attending the local high school Bell, Ferraro performed well enough in the classroom and on the football field to attract a scholarship from the University of Southern California.

Ferraro started his studies at USC in 1942, and after having an All-American football season in 1944, his time at USC was interrupted by service in the United States naval Reserve during World War II. When he returned from the battlefield to the football field, he again earned the honor of All-American in 1947, and graduated from USC in the spring of 1948 with a degree in Business Administration.

Ferraro's success on the football field quickly transformed into success in the business world. Using the skills from his business degree, discipline from the Navy, and the persistence of a two-time All-American, Ferraro ran a lucrative insurance company on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. His football accomplishments did not go unnoticed, either—he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974.

Yet John Ferraro's greatest successes came in the volatile realm of Los Angeles politics. Ferraro holds the longest tenure of a City Council member, a span of 35 years during which he was re-elected nine times. As a member of the City Council, Ferraro gained a reputation as a skilled conciliator who knew just when to wield his considerable influence. Ferraro was instrumental in bringing both the 1984 Olympics to Los Angeles and the 2000 Democratic National Convention. He worked to bring a peaceful end to the tenure of police chief Daryl F. Gates as racial tensions lingered in the wake of the Rodney King incident. And in 1999, the Staples Center opened its doors to patrons, largely because of Ferraro's work behind the scenes with the center's frustrated developers. While serving as President in the last 18 years of his career, Ferraro was widely praised for holding together a divided council, and was described by associates as a "leader" and conciliator."

Ferraro's legacy will live on not only in the memories of Angelenos, but also in a more tangible sense: the Department of Water and Power's general office building is now called the John Ferraro Building, in commemoration of the man who gave so much of his energy and talent to the Los Angeles community.



## HALL OF FAME

Troy Aikman	John Cappelletti	Frank Gifford	Ollie Matson	Bill Redell	Al Sparlis
Marcus Allen	Anthony Davis	Tom Harmon	Dr. Bill McColl	Bob Reynolds	Lynn Swann
Jon Arnett	Glenn David	Les Horvath	John McKay	Jerry Robinson	Kenny Washington
Pervis Atkins	Terry Donahue	John Huarte	Mike McKeever	John Robinson	Adam Walsh
Johnny Baker	Fred Dryer	Howard Jones	Robert McLeod	Aaron Rosenberg	Al Wisert
Gary Beban	Kenny Easley	Mort Kaer	Donn Moomaw	Red Sanders	Charles White
Ricky Bell	John Elway	Alex Karras	Christopher Mort	O.J. Simpson	Richard Wood
Brad Budde	Tom Fears	Ronnie Lott	Ken O'Brien	Billy Ray Smith	Ron Yary
Jim Brown	Jon Ferraro	Johnny Lujack	Erny Pinckert	Ernie Smith	Charles Young
Dick Butkus	Mike Garrett	Ed Marinaro	Marvin Powell	Harry Smith	

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We would like to provide special recognition to our sponsors who along with our volunteers, make this program a tremendous success in honoring these young men this evening. Their generosity to this worthy event is greatly appreciated and we invite each and every one of you to join us in extending our gratitude.

## LaDainian Tomlinson: NFL Star and Philanthropist

LaDainian Tomlinson carved a path as a dominant running back in the NFL. Here's a look at his gridiron achievements and his dedication to giving back:

### Athletic Career:

- College Standout: Tomlinson excelled at Texas Christian University (TCU), earning accolades like the Doak Walker Award and Jim Brown Trophy. He finished his college career high in the NCAA Division I rushing yards at the time.
- NFL Success: Drafted by the San Diego Chargers (now Los Angeles Chargers) in 2001, Tomlinson spent nine seasons with the team. He racked up numerous achievements:
- Five Pro Bowl appearances
- Three First-team All-Pro selections
- Two NFL rushing titles
- 2006 NFL Most Valuable Player (MVP), breaking the record for touchdowns in a single season.

**Later Career:** Tomlinson played for the New York Jets for one season before retiring in 2011. He's enshrined in both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame

**Philanthropy:** Beyond the field, Tomlinson is dedicated to helping others through his foundation:

**LT Foundation:** Founded to support children and families in San Diego, the LT Foundation focuses on education, health, and youth development programs.

**Leadership:** Tomlinson actively champions his foundation and encourages other athletes to get involved in philanthropy. LaDainian Tomlinson's legacy extends beyond his impressive touchdowns and rushing yards. He's a role model both on and off the field.



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*Los Angeles Chapter*

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