

Lamar's Nolen wins Coach of the Year Award

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine

Wednesday, 19 December 2012 00:00



The Lamar Redskins head football coach Tom Nolen became the 25th annual recipient of the Touchdown Club of Houston John Kelley Coach of the Year Award at the 33rd Annual High School Awards Dinner held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel near the Galleria.

Nolen, a longtime head coach who picked up his 250th career win this year in his team's regular-season finale, was selected from a field that combined for 117 victories to 17 losses.

His Redskins, who are undefeated at 14-0 are led by junior quarterback Darrell Colbert and defensive back Cedric Lancaster. Lamar will play in the Class 5A Division I semifinals Saturday against San Antonio O'Connor(12-2) at the Austin Berger Center in Austin, Texas.

Nolen is just the second Houston Independent School District high school coach to earn the honor of winning this prestigious award. Former Houston Madison Marlins head football coach Ray Seals, whose team won 10 games and reached the second round of the playoffs in 1998, is the other.

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In addition to Coach Nolen, there were two other individual awards handed out last Wednesday night. They were given to the Defensive and Offensive High School Player of the Year.

Manvel senior quarterback Shane McCarley captured the Dick Peebles Offensive Player of the Year Award.

McCarley helped lead the Mavericks to the Class 4A Division I title game last season. And he completed 65 percent of his passes (227-of-349), throwing for 4,101 yards and 55 touchdowns. He rushed for five scores and averaged more than 7 yards a carry.

He led the Mavericks to 25 wins in two seasons and is verbally committed to Old Dominion.

Fort Bend Marshall's Deon Hollins won the Clark Nealon Defensive Player of the Year Award. Hollins led the Buffalos to a 13-1 record and an appearance in the Class 4A Division II regional finals.

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He is verbally committed to attend the UCLA Bruins. He finished the season with 66 total tackles, 56 solo and 36 for a loss. He had 15 sacks, 23 hurries and forced a pair of fumbles.

Several college coaches and representatives were in attendance during the banquet including: Texas A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin and his assistant Clarence McKinney; J.C. Harper-head coach at SFA; Willie Fritz-head coach at Sam Houston State; Tony Levine-head coach at the University of Houston; Van Malone-Asst. Coach at Oklahoma State; Jason Phillips-Asst. Coach at Southern Methodist University; Tony Jeffery-Asst. Coach at UTSA; and Theron Aych-Asst. Head Coach at Angelo State University just to name a few.

Former Houston Chronicle high school sports writer Bill McMurray earned the fourth annual Ron Stone Award for media excellence, while singer Darrell Luckett was given a Community Service Award for his singing contributions at the Touchdown Club events.

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