

Thank You!!

From The Salvation Army

We recently received a Thank You Note from the Area Commander of The Salvation Army thanking us for our donation of toys and cash for this past Christmas' Toys for Tots program. Thanks to all of you who provided toys to make Christmas special for underprivileged youth.

Holgorsen Named Head Coach

33rd Head Coach in the History of the Program



West Virginia University Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Oliver Luck has announced, tonight, that Dana Holgorsen, offensive coordinator and head coach-designate, will be elevated to head football coach at West Virginia University.

"As I said when I introduced Dana as our offensive coordinator and head coach-designate, he is ready for this challenge and undoubtedly the huge responsibility that goes along with it," Luck said.

"I have complete confidence in his ability to coach this team and lead us into the next chapter of Mountaineer football. I firmly believe our fans will see an exciting brand of football and will be pleased with the product on the field."

Holgorsen, who came from Oklahoma State after serving as the Cowboys' offensive coordinator in 2010, will be the University's 33rd head coach. It originally was announced on December 15, 2010, that he would serve as WVU's offensive coordinator and head coach-designate for a season, and then become the head coach. He has been on staff since the beginning of January and coached the offense throughout spring drills.

"I am excited about the opportunity and I am honored to become the new head coach at West Virginia," Holgorsen said. "I appreciate the confidence that Oliver Luck, the University and the Mountaineer supporters have shown in me, and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence at West Virginia.

"We will move forward, united as coaches, players and administrators and work hard to bring championships to this great state.

"All of West Virginia owes a debt of gratitude to Bill Stewart for his unwavering commitment to this University and to this state, and he is always welcome here as a Mountaineer."

Holgorsen, a finalist for the 2010 Broyles Award, given to the nation's top assistant football coach, and the rivals.com Offensive Coordinator of the Year, served as the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State during the 2010 season.

Annual "Summer Fest" Picnic

Mark Your Calendars

Our annual picnic has been scheduled for **Saturday, August 13th** at Deep Run Park in Henrico County. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to enjoy good food, raffle & prizes, and fellowship with other Mountaineers.

This year's picnic will be held at Shelters 1 & 2, on the right hand side just as you enter the park. You can register to attend by visiting our web site at www.cvcwvuuaa.org and clicking on the "PICNIC" link. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the event, please email us at cvcwvuuaa@yahoo.com.

Talley Inducted Into College Football Hall of Fame Becomes 12th Mountaineer Elected to Hall



During his senior year of high school, linebacker Darryl Talley wrote letters and made phone calls to all of the big Midwestern schools looking for a football scholarship.

None of them were returned.

Well, 33 years later, Talley is one of 14 players and two coaches being inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. He is just the sixth player from West Virginia University to be elected as a player, and the 12th overall.

"I think it's a tremendous honor," said Talley, who now resides in Orlando, Fla.

"To have that feather in your cap is really a wonderful, wonderful thing to have. Think about how many guys play college football. How many kids have come to West Virginia? To be honored is something really special."

Talley's class will be officially introduced at the National Football Foundation Awards Dinner on Dec. 6, 2011 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, and the official enshrinement is tentatively scheduled to take place during the summer of 2012.

Talley became a consensus All-American at West Virginia University in 1982 before embarking upon a long and successful career in the NFL, spending 12 seasons in Buffalo and two more in Atlanta and Minnesota before retiring in 1996.

Let's Dance

Bears Rookie J.T. Thomas Helps Girl with Spina Bifida

By Steve Wyche NFL.com

Updated: May 23, 2011 at 12:23 p.m.



Joslyn Levell couldn't wait to get to school Monday. The eighth-grader became the most talked-about kid at Suncrest Middle School in Morgantown, W.Va., after scoring a date with [Chicago Bears](#) rookie [J.T. Thomas](#) for her end-of-school-year formal dance Friday.

"I'm not used to the attention, but I like it," Levell said. "It's been amazing. I can't wait to hear what everybody has to say."

In one of the true feel-good stories of this uncharted offseason, Thomas, a player most NFL fans have never heard of unless they followed the University of West Virginia, showed how being genuine and decent can change somebody's life.

Levell has spina bifida, a condition in which the spine doesn't properly develop. She is confined to a wheelchair most of the time. Thomas is a hulking 240-pound linebacker with a soft heart and a shot to join the Bears' vaunted defense after being drafted in the sixth round last month. It was Chicago's final pick.

Their union, as awkward as it might seem -- he's 22, she's 14; he lives in West Virginia, she ironically grew up in Chicago and moved to Morgantown two years ago -- seemingly was destined.

Thomas' 7-year-old brother, Jared, has autism and rides the same bus as Levell. Knowing Levell was a Bears fan, bus driver Jake Tennant planned to introduce Jared's older brother to her. Nearly three weeks ago, J.T. was invited on the bus while kids were being dropped off at home.

What timing. As J.T. met a Bears fan in his hometown, Joslyn explained to him that she'd had a rough week because all of the boys she asked to the dance declined. Thomas melted.

"I hugged her and signed a few things and we talked for awhile and she cried a bit," Thomas recounted. "I gave her a hug and told her everything would work itself out."

Thomas' stepmother, Rochelle, contacted the school and Joslyn's parents to make sure it would be OK for J.T. to escort Joslyn to the dance. Once they received the all-clear, J.T. made the call.

"I was nervous that by the time I reached out, she might have had a date and would have to turn me down," he said.

Joslyn gladly accepted the invitation.

"After so many people turned me down, this was so big especially, because he asked me instead of me asking him," she said.

Levell said she knew that Thomas played for the Mountaineers, which is a much bigger deal in Morgantown than being drafted by the Bears. When she told her friends about the development, some doubted her. Let 'em doubt. She knew the deal.

She also knew she had to look good. So she spent hours finding the right dress for what she later would say was the best night of her life.

Thomas, meanwhile, knew what he was doing was nice, but he also knew it was the right thing. He has an affinity toward those who can't do the things he's able to do -- like run, lift weights, dance or behave the way society always wants. His brother is his constant example.

For years, Thomas has been involved in autism awareness functions and received honors for his leadership. In fact, one day after taking Levell to her dance, he attended a gala involving the local children's hospital, invited because of his efforts to help give all kids a chance at a better life.

Thomas was the unintended star of the event at the children's hospital because his evening with Joslyn the night before had been front-page news.

"J.T. did this on his own accord; this wasn't a publicity stunt," said Thomas' agent, Michael Giorgio of National Sports Management. "He didn't do this to score points with anybody or with the Bears or to get any attention. This is just who he is. He's got a big heart."

Thomas didn't spare any expense to make sure Levell had a special time. He rented a black Chrysler and arrived with a bouquet of roses and a corsage. When he showed up at the school, he humbly escorted her through a pubescent crowd of onlookers who found out that she was telling the truth about her coming to the dance with the big football player.

This was Joslyn's night," Thomas said. "It wasn't about me."

She introduced Thomas to all of her friends and took particular joy in taking him to all the boys who opted not to be in his place.

"The first thing one of the boys who was mean to me came up to me and said, 'I'm sorry I didn't believe you,' " Thomas said. "It was soooo exciting. I'm just so excited to go to school and see what everyone has to say."

Levell took Thomas on the dance floor, and they boogied a few times before things wound down -- at least for Thomas. After the dance was over, Levell went to an after-party. Thomas headed home.

Their families have stayed in touch and spoken several times this weekend; Thomas' stepmother sending pictures via email, Levell's mom thanking her for helping broker such a special weekend.

John Levell, Joslyn's grandfather, wrote an email to Rochelle thanking her for helping to make the connection.

"Speaking of words, whoever said a picture is worth a thousand of them wasn't entirely accurate as the smile on Joslyn's face in the pictures of her and J.T. at the dance seem worth at least a million!" John wrote. "One very impressive young man you have on your hands there I must say too!! Can't wait to see him smash a couple Packers!!!"

The best part about this whole story is that J.T. and Joslyn know they will be forever intertwined. They want that. She will follow his career, and he will follow her progress.

"She's not just my friend for that one night," Thomas said.

If Thomas makes it with the Bears, he said he'll do everything he can to get Levell and her family tickets to a game. It's a goal. That might mean more to Levell than the dance. Despite having grown up in Chicago near Wrigley Field, home of baseball's Cubs, she has never seen the Bears in person.

CVCWVUAA Golf Classic

Winners Announced

The 7th annual CVCWVUAA Golf Classic was held on Monday, May 13th at the Birkdale Golf Club in Chesterfield. After a great day on the course, golfers and volunteers were able to relax in the club house with a buffet dinner, cold beer, raffle, and the awards ceremony.

1st Place



Mickey Mahoney, Jeff Jones
Mike Yglesias, & Tim Haden

2nd Place



Joe France, Allen Chandler,
Thomas Lucas, & Matt Carson

3rd Place



The DuBraelers
Justin, Jim, and Jerod

The winning team received customized WVU golf bags. Special thanks to chapter member Lowell Connor who volunteered to chair this year's event.

Women's Basketball Sets Attendance Record

Sets Records for both Total & Average Home Attendance



Totaling 49,648 fans at the WVU Coliseum, the West Virginia women's basketball team set a school record for total and average home attendance during the 2011 season.

WVU's previous school record for total home attendance was set in 2010 with 33,094 fans. The new record ranked 35th of all NCAA Division I programs. The Mountaineers held the fourth-highest attendance numbers within the BIG EAST Conference, behind league-leading Louisville, Connecticut and Notre Dame.

Most notably, WVU had the fifth-largest per game increase nationally from the 2010 season as it went from an average of 1,947 fans to 3,103 in 2011, an increase of 1,156 fans. Helping to attain their record attendance, the Mountaineers had six of the top 20 crowds in WVU Coliseum history.

Of 31 conferences and seven independent teams, the BIG EAST Conference recorded the fourth-highest attendance figures with a conference record 889,026 fans attending women's games this year. The Big 12 Conference led the way with just over one million and the Big Ten and Southeastern Conferences took second and third, respectively.

Overall, NCAA Division I women's basketball experienced record-high attendance numbers for the fourth-straight year as it surpassed the previous record of 8,090,084 fans set in 2008, with an all-time high of 8,127,779.

CVCWVUAA Annual Mailing

Kicks Off Membership Drive

You should have received our annual Spring Newsletter including a wrap-up of the previous year by mail. If you did not we don't have your mailing address, however we will be forwarding the information by email soon. Please remember to renew your yearly membership in July.

Athlon's 2011 Big East Predictions

Athonsports.com – June 20, 2011

		Big East	Overall
	1. WEST VIRGINIA	6-1	10-2
	2. SOUTH FLORIDA	5-2	8-4
	3. PITTSBURGH	4-3	7-5
	4. SYRACUSE	4-3	8-4
	5. CINCINNATI	3-4	7-5
	6. CONNECTICUT	2-5	6-6
	7. RUTGERS	2-5	6-6
	8. LOUISVILLE	2-5	5-7

FINAL ANALYSIS

There's a new sheriff in Morgantown. It is Dana Holgorsen, who takes over the offense this season and was promoted to head coach a year earlier than expected. Holgorsen's track record with offenses is stellar. Defensive Coordinator Jeff Casteel also has a fine national reputation.

The Mountaineer schedule sets up nicely. LSU visits Morgantown, and in Big East play, WVU hosts Connecticut, Louisville and Pitt.

Athlon's has WVU ranked 17th nationally.

Note: Lindy's has WVU ranked 1st in the Big East & 18th nationally while Phil Steele has WVU 3rd in the Big East & unranked nationally.

Big East 2011 Bowl Games

Big East Champion to BCS

December 20 th	Beef O'Brady's Bowl	St Petersburg, FL	8:00pm – ESPN	C-USA
December 27 th	Belk Bowl	Charlotte, NC	8:00pm – ESPN	ACC
December 29 th	Champs Sports Bowl	Orlando, FL	5:30pm – ESPN	ACC
December 30 th	New Era Pinstripe Bowl	New York, NY	3:30pm – ESPN	Big 12
January 7 th	BBVA Compass Bowl	Birmingham, AL	1:00pm – ESPN	SEC

BCS Schedule

January 2 nd	Rose Bowl	Pasadena, CA	5:00pm – ESPN	
January 3 rd	Allstate Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, LA	8:30pm – ESPN	
January 4th	Discover Orange Bowl	Miami, FL	8:00pm – ESPN	Big East
January 5 th	Tostitos Fiesta Bowl	Glendale, AZ	8:30pm – ESPN	
January 9 th	BCS National Title Game	New Orleans, LA	8:30pm – ESPN	

2001 Gold & Blue Auction

Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund

Once again the WVU Alumni Association has launched the 2011 version of the Gold & Blue Auction. All of the proceeds from this auction go to the Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund housed here at the WVU Alumni Association. The Association raised over \$30,000 over the past 6 years, helping aid students with their education at West Virginia University.

Follow this link to the auction site: <http://bit.ly/pxRrfh>



Let's Gooooo Mountaineers!!