

**BRIDGEWATER, Mass.** -- Four members of the local football community were recently honored with major awards by the Jack Grinold Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the National Football Foundation during its 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholar-Athlete Award Banquet.

Longtime Framingham State University Head Football Coach & Director of Athletics **Tom Kelley** is the 2022 recipient of the Grinold Chapter's *Ed Schluntz Contribution To Amateur Football Award*. Named in honor of **Ed Schluntz**, a charter member of the Grinold Chapter, this award is presented annually to a person in the Chapter footprint whose efforts and activities in support of the Foundation and its goals have been local in nature.

A 1976 graduate of then Framingham State College, Kelley was a four-year starter at defensive tackle for the Rams. He returned to Framingham State in 1978 as an assistant football coach and assumed the head coaching job in 1982. Kelley served as head coach from 1982-1985 and returned to coaching again in 2001 as an assistant coach.

Kelley returned to coaching again after the 2006 football season when he once again took over as head coach of the Rams football program and he stepped away from coaching in January 2020 after 14 highly successful seasons at the helm.

Kelley has an overall record of 107-59-1 during his two stints as the Rams head football coach including a 100-40 record over the last 13 seasons which featured an NEFC Championship, 10 MASCAC Championships, six NCAA Tournament appearances and four bowl game victories. In addition to the team success, the Rams' first three AFCA All-American's played during 's his tenure, one on the offensive side of the ball and two on the defensive side.

In Kelley's 14 seasons at the helm, he has been recognized as a coach of the year eight times by five different organizations including in 2012 by the New England Football Writers when he was named as the NEFW Division II/III Coach of the Year. Tom has been tabbed as the MASCAC Coach of the Year (2014, 2015, 2018), the NEFC Bogan Division Coach of the Year (2012 & 2010), the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Coach of the Year (2011), and the Master Sports Coach of the Year (2010).

Kelley is completing his 28th as Director of Athletics at Framingham State University and has been involved with his alma mater's athletic department for over 40 years. Since taking over as Athletic Director in 1994, Tom has changed the look of the coaching staff in every program and was instrumental in the addition of women's lacrosse as a varsity sport.

Kelley holds a master's degree in psychology counseling from Boston State College and lives in Milford with his wife Jackie. His son Mike serves as the Director of Athletics and Head Baseball Coach at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

In honor of his five-plus decades of service to athletics at both the high school and collegiate levels, Bentley University Director of Athletics Emeritus **Bob DeFelice** has been named as the 2022 recipient of the Grinold Chapter's *Ron Burton Distinguished American Award*. Named in honor of the late **Ron Burton**, who was the first draft pick of the then Boston Patriots and a noted philanthropist, the Chapter presents the award annually to a recipient who is an outstanding person that has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game and who, over a long period of time, has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and made a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football in the Chapter footprint.

DeFelice's affiliation with Bentley dates back to 1968, when he was hired as the school's first varsity baseball coach. After coaching the team on a part-time basis from its debut in 1969 to 1987, he was named Assistant Athletics Director for Programs in August 1987. Two years later, he was promoted to Associate Athletics Director. DeFelice served as Bentley's Director of Athletics from October 1991 until September 2020.

As Bentley's only head baseball coach, DeFelice won 848 games during his 54 seasons at the helm, a total that ranks third in New England Division II history. Following the retirement of Augie Garrido at Texas after the 2016 season, DeFelice served the longest tenured active college baseball coach in the country until his retirement from that position following this season.

During his tenure as AD, the university's sports teams prospered, with 120 conference championships (regular season and playoff) and NCAA appearances in ten team sports (football, women's basketball, men's basketball, field hockey, volleyball, golf, men's tennis, women's tennis, men's cross country and women's cross country). There were two national championships, field hockey in 2001 and women's basketball in 2014.

Under his leadership, Bentley captured the Northeast-10 Presidents Cup eight times, emblematic of the best overall athletic program in the conference. The most recent came for the 2008-09 academic year.

DeFelice, a 1963 graduate of Boston College with a Bachelor of Science degree in history, began his coaching career that same year as head football coach and assistant basketball coach at Christopher Columbus High School, a position he held for three years. In 1965, he began a three-year playing career in the Boston Red Sox minor league organization. In 1967, he was a player-coach with the Pittsfield Red Sox.

Before joining the Bentley athletic department staff on a full-time basis in 1987, DeFelice spent 17 years (1970-86) as head football coach at his alma mater, Winthrop High School. During that time, he led the Vikings to a 101-65-2 record, with four Northeast Conference championships, a 33-game winning streak in the early 80's and two Eastern Massachusetts Division II Super Bowl titles.

Amazingly, DeFelice has been inducted into nine Halls of Fame, the most recent being the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association Hall of Fame. He was honored by Boston College in 1986, Bentley in October 1999, and was a charter member of the Winthrop High Hall of Fame in 1997. In November 2002, he was one of four inductees into the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. In November 2010, he was a charter inductee into the Intercity Hall of Fame.

DeFelice has also been inducted into the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches, the Boston Park League and the Union Printers International Baseball League halls of fame. Bob helped establish the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference and was a founder of the Eastern Football Conference. He served as the EFC commissioner from 1997-2000, when it was absorbed by the Northeast-10 Conference.

Among the many honors he has received are the Jack Butterfield Award from the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association, the Murray Lewis Award from the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Football Officials and the Whitey Allard and Marty McDonough Memorial Sportsmanship Award from the College Baseball Umpires Association of New England. In December 2017, he received

the George C. Carens Award from the New England Football Writers for his lifelong contributions to the sport of football.

Bob and his wife, Patricia, have four children and seven grandchildren.

**Bob Bancroft** is a member of the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame based on his 27-year tenure at Whitman-Hanson High School and has been selected to receive the *Roger Crosley Chapter Contributor Award*. Named in honor of Roger Crosley, who served as the Chapter's Executive Director from 2010-2018, the Chapter Contributor Award is presented at the discretion of the Chapter's Executive Committee and presented to a person for outstanding work in promotion of the values and ideals of the sport of football and continued support of the mission of the National Football Foundation.

While at Whitman-Hanson Bancroft's teams compiled a 182-88-6 overall record and won 16 titles during his run from 1975-2001. During that skein, Bancroft's teams had six Super Bowl appearances resulting in three Super Bowl victories. Also the Whitman-Hanson Director of Athletics while he was coaching, Bancroft retired from that position in 2005.

In 2009 Bancroft took over the head coaching responsibilities at Pembroke High School. In his six seasons at Pembroke Bancroft's Titans were 32-32 with two league titles and two Super Bowl Berths. His career 33-year coaching record stands at 214-110-6 for a winning percentage of .658.

For over a decade, Bancroft has been the chair of the Grinold Chapter Scholar-Athlete selection committee. In the role he solicits qualified nominees from all the high schools in the Chapter footprint, compiles a list of each player's accomplishments, distributes the nominees to the members of the selection committee, and coordinates the voting for each year's honorees.

Former University of Massachusetts Dartmouth defensive standout **Jacob Burkhead** has been named as the Grinold Chapter's *Jack Daly Award recipient for Academics, Citizenship & Football*. Named in honor of Jack Daly, a Grinold Chapter charter member, the award is presented annually to a college football player at an institution in the Chapter footprint based on academic performance, community service and demonstrated football ability.

A 2021 graduate of UMass Dartmouth who earned a perfect 4.00 grade point average with a degree in Political Science, Burkhead is a former Grinold Chapter Scholar-Athlete Award recipient after excelling in competition, in the classroom and in the community at Plymouth North High School. He is currently seeking his juris doctorate at Boston College Law School.

Burkhead is the only two-time CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree in Corsair history and earned a pair of all-Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference first team accolades for his performance on the field. He was named as a semifinalist for the 2020 National Football Foundation William V. Campbell Trophy® Presented By Mazda, which is considered to be the "Academic Heisman".

The 2017 MASCAC Defensive Rookie of the Year and a team tri-captain, Burkhead was one of 59 Division III student-athletes nominated for the 2019 Cliff Harris Award as the nation's top small college defensive player, as he has registered 191 career tackles (133 solo) along with four interceptions and 15 pass breakups in 30 games played. He was named to the school's Chancellor's List throughout his career and was a four-time MASCAC Fall All-Academic team honoree.

Off the field, Jacob was an active member of the UMass Dartmouth community who served on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and participated in activities that include Special Olympics as well as the school's Sharing The Harvest recognition event.