

Sports

West beats East in All-American Bowl

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Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO – America's best high school football players and more than 80 "Soldier-Heroes" shared a nationally-televised stage at the 2007 U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome here.

The West All-Stars defeated the East All-Stars 24-7 in front of a record All-American Bowl crowd of 35,151.

The Alamodome crowd was filled with Army Combat Uniform-clad Soldiers. At least four stadium sections were filled by Advanced Individual Training students from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

During breaks in the game, the stadium's big screens would play commercials from the new "Army Strong" advertising campaign.

The commercials would spark a spontaneous and loud "Hooah" from the stands, and inspire a large number AIT Soldiers to stand at attention and shout the Soldier's Creed in unison.

During the "Army Strong Pre-game" more than 80 Soldiers who have been awarded a Bronze Star,

Silver Star or Purple Heart were honored as "Soldier Heroes." As the all-star athletes emerged on the field they greeted a "Soldier Hero" at midfield before heading to their sideline.

Capt. Scotty Smiley, an Accessions Command Soldier who was blinded during a suicide car bombing in Iraq but has fought to stay in the Army, flipped the coin during the opening coin toss.

Smiley, a Pasco, Wash. native, joked that he was selected because "they just knew my thumb just worked that well."

"I love every opportunity to be an example for the Army," Smiley said.

At halftime, 100 Delayed Entry Program Soldiers from the San Antonio area marched onto the field to take the oath of enlistment from Gen. Richard A. Cody, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army.

Bryan Elkins, and 18-year-old Lehman High School student from San Marcos, Texas said he was proud to take the oath.

"I love the military, and I've always wanted to serve my country," Elkins said.



Capt. Scotty Smiley flips the coin during the start of the East versus West high school all-star game, the "All-American" Bowl. Smiley was blinded by a suicide bomb attack in Iraq.

Additionally, Gen. William S. Wallace, commander, Training and Doctrine Command, administered the oath of office to two officers.

2nd Lt. Jennifer Oviedo, formerly a St. Mary's college Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet, and 2nd Lt. Daniel Barnhart, formerly a University of Texas-San Antonio cadet, were - in Cody's words - the "the Army's newest lieutenants."

"It was awesome. How many people can say that they had a general officer administer their oath," Oviedo said.

West All-Star Ian Harris, the nation's 24th best tight end prospect according to Scout.com, said he appreciates the sacrifices the more than 80 "Soldier-Heroes" have made.

"What the Soldiers do is intense. You cannot compare that to football," he said.

The game provided Soldiers an opportunity to meet former NFL players, notable contemporary music acts and NASCAR icon Mark Martin.

Martin, who will co-drive the No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet during the 2007 Nextel Cup season, signed autographs for every Soldier who asked.

Former Washington Redskins kick returner Brian Mitchell, the NFL's second all-time leader in total yardage, was born in Fort Polk, La., and his father had a 20-year Army career. He watched the game from the sidelines, signing autographs and talking with Soldiers.

"My dad passed in '91, and it is nice to see first hand the discipline that he talked about. I have a lot of respect for Soldiers. Because anyone who puts their life on the line - you must respect that," he said.

During the NBC-televised game, a few heralded football recruits announced where they would play their college football. Additionally, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston presented Notre Dame-recruit Jimmy Clausen the trophy he received for winning the U.S. Army Player of the Year Award.

Over 30 AIT students moved stagecraft to and from the field during the event's myriad ceremonies and musical interludes.

Pvt. Kacie Kremer, an AIT Soldier from Lancaster, Calif., volunteered to push the stage out for country music's Lonestar, who performed a 45-minute concert in honor of Soldiers and their families after the game.

"We are pumped up," she said.

Many "Soldier Heroes" honored at the game and during the Lonestar performance said the game was the perfect finale to a week of All-American Bowl celebrations.

Staff Sgt. Jamal Robinson, A Troop, 2-1 Cavalry, Fort Lewis, Wash., said the game and surrounding events were exciting.

"It just gives you a good feeling to be a part of a great organization," Robinson said.



PHOTOS BY DAREN REEHL

The East running back finds a hole during the first quarter of the "All-American" Bowl all-star football game that split the best players in the nation into East and West squads. The West team won the game 24 to 7 in front of a crowd of 35,151 fans.

Sports briefs

NFL playoffs

Starting Jan. 6 the Officers' Club and the Centennial Club offers the NFL Playoff games throughout the post-season. Divisional playoffs are Jan. 13 and 14, conference championships Jan. 21 and Super Bowl XLI is Feb. 4. The Officers' Club will also feature Sunday Brunch before the game. For more information call 568-7013 or 562-5969.

Veterans mini sports

Veterans mini-sports is now taking registration for basketball for ages four through seven. The season starts Jan. 13, and cost is \$20 per player which includes a T-shirt and trophy.

Martial arts

Veterans Recreation Center Fitness Program is now accepting new students for their martial arts program. Cost is \$20 per month. Children and adults are eligible to participate. Students are assigned to groups based on age and experience levels. Each session includes karate skills, instruction and practice. Instruction focus is on discipline, concentration and fitness for all ages. Class schedule is Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Ages three through five year olds practice from 5:30 to 6 p.m., six through nine year olds practice from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and 10 years to adults 6:30 to 7:20 p.m. Students should wear comfortable

athletic or workout clothing to each session. Students may engage in testing from time to time for belt promotion. Students may combine martial arts classes with aerobics and use of the fitness center for one low monthly fee of \$29. For more information, call 821-8909 or 821-8911.

Super Bowl

The Centennial Club will host its Super Bowl Party at 2 p.m. in the Pub. Watch the game on a big screen TV while munching on popcorn and nachos from the complimentary nacho bar. The Pub offers a fully stocked bar in the warm ambiance of an old English style pub. For more information, call 562-5969.

The Officers' Club begins its festivities at 2 p.m. in the Down Under Club with a fully stocked bar and complimentary popcorn and free hot dogs. Sit back and enjoy the game on the club's big screen TV. For more information, call 568-7013.

Hunting license

The Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club now offers New Mexico hunting and fishing license for active duty military personnel and DoD civilians. Active duty personnel may purchase a Military K License which allows them to hunt and fish on Fort Bliss property in New Mexico which includes Dona Ana and McGregor Range. Active duty personnel or DoD civilian may purchase a regular hunting and fishing license for New Mexico

Basketball Scores of games played Jan. 8

B/D 5-52 def. C 5-52, **44-41**

377th Trans. Co. def. E 5-52, **56-42**

286th Sig. Co. #1 def. 286th Sig. Co. #2, **75-31**

as either a resident or non resident. For more information, call 565-4867 or 568-2983.

Adult and Youth Olympics

The Martin Luther King Jr. Canned Food Drive is sponsoring a fun, friendly and educational competition for adults and children. The competition is called the Adult and Child Olympics and pits teams of one adult and one child against each other in friendly competition. The games feature three events, which are a football toss, basketball free throw and a trivia contest. Each event will award points to the top three finishers and an overall champion will be crowned, based on the number of points obtained. There will be free snacks and T-shirts for all the competitors as well as trophies for all the winners. The olympics will be held Jan. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 4625 Delta. Cost to enter is \$5 or five canned goods per team. For information, call 543-5468.