

## STATE FARM EDDIE ROBINSON COACH OF DISTINCTION AWARD

# Coaches With Class

LEGENDARY COACH EDDIE ROBINSON, WHO LED Division I-AA Grambling for 57 seasons, rewrote football's record books with 408 career wins. Division III St. John's (Minn.) coach John Gagliardi broke that mark last year, but Coach Rob always thought other numbers defined him better. "I'm proud of the fact I can summarize my life by saying I've had one wife and one job," Robinson has said.

Those stats speak volumes about his devotion to family both immediate and extended—the players who learned from him. Now in its seventh year, the State Farm Eddie Robinson Coach of Distinction Award honors Robinson's legacy as champion and mentor. Since 1998, six coaches—Penn State's Joe Paterno, Tennessee's Phillip Fulmer, then-Stanford coach Tyrone Willingham, Fisher DeBerry of Air

Force, Larry Coker of Miami and Ohio State's Jim Tressell—have been honored both for their teams' excellence and the leadership they provide as teachers and citizens.

All Division I-A and I-AA coaches were eligible. Judges are former BYU coach LaVell Edwards, Southern California athletic director Mike Garrett, Indiana State AD Andrea Myers, SWAC commissioner Robert Vowels and Football Writers Association of America president Dick Weiss.

The State Farm Eddie Robinson Coach of Distinction Award winner, who will be announced during Saturday's State Farm Bayou Classic between Southern and Grambling on NBC, will receive a \$25,000 donation for his school's general scholarship fund—affirming the values shared by Robinson and 2004's four finalists below.—*Alec Morrison*



**Kirk Ferentz, IOWA**

Ferentz, 49, entered his sixth season at Iowa on the heels of the school's best-ever two-year run. The Hawkeyes went 21-5 in 2002-03. In '02, Iowa won a share of its first Big Ten title in 12 years, and Ferentz was AP national coach of the year.

Ferentz serves on the national advisory board for the Bethesda Family Services Foundation, helping those who are troubled. He's given time to the Children's Miracle Network, fund-raisers for the American Heart Association and Iowa Arts Festival, and he was honorary chair for Iowa's 1999-00 United Way campaign. Ferentz and his wife, Mary, also made a \$100,000 gift to the school's College of Liberal Arts.



**Urban Meyer, UTAH**

In less than two seasons leading the Utes, Meyer has a 20-2 record. This year's team, 10-0 through Nov. 18, is trying to become the first from a non-major conference to receive a BCS berth.

Meyer, 40, created the Utah football leadership committee so deserving players can have a say in team policy, and the group also helps discipline teammates. Meyer has given time to the Murray/Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce and the West Valley Fire Department. He's raised funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and National Kidney Foundation, and he runs free football clinics at area high schools.



**Paul Pasqualoni, SYRACUSE**

In his 14 years coaching the Orange, Pasqualoni, 55, has led Syracuse to eight bowl games and three 10-win seasons. His teams won three straight Big East titles from 1996 to '98, capping that final campaign with a trip to the Orange Bowl.

Pasqualoni and his wife, Jill, support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and he's also done work benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation, National Kidney Foundation of Central New York and a local Boys and Girls Club. Orange players read to students in elementary schools, help build Habitat for Humanity housing and also take part in Onondaga County Special Olympics ceremonies.



**Joe Taylor, HAMPTON**

Through Nov. 18, the 54-year-old Taylor had won 108 games at Hampton, most ever for a Pirates coach, in 13 seasons. His 2004 squad has clinched Taylor's third MEAC title, guaranteeing the coach a third trip to the Division I-AA playoffs.

On campus, Taylor helps students plan activities and raise funds for various causes, and he sponsors marathon runners to support the American Cancer Society. Taylor regularly attends Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings, and he formed a gospel choir in which his players sing. The former American Football Coaches Association president now chairs the AFCA's minority issues committee.



**STATE FARM BAYOU CLASSIC GRAMBLING TIGERS vs. SOUTHERN JAGUARS**  
Saturday, November 27, 2004 • New Orleans • NBC • 2 p.m. ET • CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS

Coaches With Class

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Name	Number of seasons coaching at their school	Age	Charity they support	School they work at
Kirk Ferentz				
Urban Meyer				
Paul Pasqualoni				
Joe Taylor				