

# PLUGGED IN!

Fall 2001, Vol. VII No. 2 \* The Official Newsletter of Electric Football

## 2002 CONVENTION TOURNAMENT FORMATS TO GUARANTEE TOP PLAY THROUGHOUT WEEKEND

While men, women and children EFLers of *all* ages begin to sharpen their coaching skills as the big 2002 Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention approaches, here is an overview of the formats for the three major competitions:

### SUPER BOWL OF ELECTRIC FOOTBALL 8

All Rounds of the **AFC and NFC Wild Card Tournaments**—including the Championship match-ups—will be played according to Miggle Toys' established "Wild Card" rules, wherein each team has a set of four downs to try to score a TD or accumulate the most yardage possible. (Full rules will be available at the Convention.)

All rounds of the newly-created **League Champions Play-Offs**—which will be divided into Eastern and Western Conference Divisions—also will be played using the Miggle Toys "Wild Card" rules. (See P. 7 of this issue of PLUGGED IN! for complete details on this competition.)

The AFC and NFC Championship Games (i.e., the Tournament Semifinals)—which will pit the *AFC Wild Card tournament victor* against the *League Champions Eastern Conference Playoff winner* and the *NFC Wild Card tournament winner* against the *League Champions Western Conference Playoff winner*—will be played in complete-game formats according to Official Miggle Toys Rules.

### BUZZ BOWL FOR WOMEN

All Preliminary, Semifinal and Championship games will be played in the "Wild Card" format.

### SPARK BOWL FOR YOUNGSTERS (BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT AND 15 YEARS OF AGE)

Youngsters between the ages of eight and 15 will be able to compete in one of two Spark Bowl Divisions: the 8-11 year old Division and the 12-15 year old Division. All Preliminary, Semifinal and Championship games will be played in the "Wild Card" format. Boys and girls seven years of age and younger will have an opportunity to participate in a complimentary EFL Clinic ■

## MEMPHIS MARRIOTT EAST HOTEL TO HOST 2002 OFFICIAL EFL CONVENTION

The American city best known for its variety and legacy of trend-setting music . . . ranging from the rock & roll of Elvis Presley and the blues of B.B. King to the best of soul, country & western and pop . . . MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—will host the **8th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention** from **Friday, Jan. 18, through Sunday, Jan. 20, 2002.**

All of the weekend festivities will take place at the **Memphis Marriott East Hotel**, located at 2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd., just minutes from Memphis International Airport. The hotel is ready to roll out the red carpet for all EFLers with the Southern Charm and Gridiron Knowledge for which one of Tennessee's leading cities is so well known.

"After holding our annual Electric Football Convention in Midwest and Eastern cities for seven years," stated **Michael Landsman**, president of Miggle Toys, Inc., the manufacturers and marketers of Electric Football games and products, "we felt it was time to move our biggest event to the South. And we believe one of the cities that best represents the hospitality, excitement, warmth, vitality and football culture of the South is Memphis, Tennessee."

The weekend will kick-off with the traditional **Welcome Reception & Dinner** hosted by Michael & Delayne Landsman of Miggle Toys on **Friday evening, Jan. 18.** Admission to this festive evening again will be **FREE—but advance reservations will be required for entry.** *To reserve a place for*

*you and your family, please fill out the Reservation Form printed in this issue of PLUGGED IN! (Page 7) and return it as early as possible.*

The action on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2002, will be highlighted by the AFC and NFC Wild Card Tournaments and the new Eastern and Western Division League Champions Playoffs. The day will also see preliminary round action in the Buzz Bowl for Women and the Spark Bowl for Youngsters. The schedule for Sunday, Jan. 20, 2002, called "**Championship Sunday**," will include the AFC and NFC title games, the championships of the Buzz and Spark Bowls and then the Super Bowl of Electric Football 8.

Of course, all throughout the weekend there will be a variety of exhibits to view, coaching clinics for youngsters and beginners, painting demonstrations and instruction, the Miggle Toys EFL "**store**" to visit for a wide assortment of products, free raffle prizes and many other surprises. Admission to the Convention, space for exhibits, all competitions and the raffle tickets will, of course, be **FREE.**

Conveniently located to most of Memphis' leading daytime and evening attractions, restaurants and clubs, the Memphis Marriott East offers beautifully decorated and appointed rooms, a fitness facility, an indoor pool, a full-service restaurant, a lounge, complimentary parking and airport transfers and more. Most major airlines service Memphis International Airport and there are a number of major U.S. highways that feed into the area.

A special Electric Football rate of **\$79** (plus tax) per room per night has been established by the Memphis Marriott East. Just call the hotel **on or before Dec. 31, 2001, at 800/627-3587** and ask for the "Special Electric Football Room Rate." Make your reservations early, as rooms may be limited.

In addition to its musical lore, Memphis also has a long and storied football tradition. The Liberty Bowl, originally built in 1965, not only has served as the home field of the University of Memphis football team, but also as the host of the annual Liberty Bowl college football game. The Memphis Southmen, featuring former NFL All

*continued on page 5*

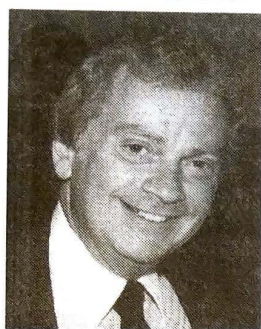


*The Memphis Marriott East, conveniently located to all of the city's entertainment, amusement and cultural attractions, will be the host hotel for the 2002 EFL Convention.*



# A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

## MICHAEL LANDSMAN



The past several weeks have been a very turbulent, challenging and stressful time for all Americans. We at Miggle Toys join in sending our condolences to those who lost loved ones and friends in the senseless violence against the United

States, as well as our gratitude to the tens of thousands of brave, unselfish and generous men and women all over the country who contributed their time, property and money to helping those most affected by these hostilities.

As Americans, however, we will come out of this dark period in our history with a greater resolve, a stronger commitment to country and an enhanced sense of community.

In times of sadness and need, the Electric Football Community has always stood together as one to comfort and assist our brothers and sisters. And this horrible episode in our country's history has been no different. We at Miggle Toys share with you the emotions that have been communicated to us and written on our Website Chat Board. We are especially sad for our friends and customers

in the New York City area, and do hope they were not in harm's way. And, our public relations representative in New York, Ira Silverman, reports with great affection how much he appreciated all of the phone calls and e-mails he received from EFLers in the days following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center seeking confirmation of the safety and well-being of him, his staff and his family. Our hearts and prayers go out to all.

Few games in our lifetime have been able to bring so many generations of family members, friends and neighbors together as well or as completely as Electric Football. It is a social game like virtually no other, bonding men, women and young people not only within their own communities, but also with other Coaches throughout the United States and around the world. In addition to teaching basic football action, strategy and rules, the game also provides a strong background for sportsmanship, cooperation and teamwork.

Thus, I can state with the utmost of confidence and anticipation that our **8th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention** will be another tremendous success when we all meet in **Memphis, TN**, over the weekend of **January 18-20, 2002**.

Memphis is the ideal city to host our 2002 Electric Football Convention, as it is easy to reach by air and car, and offers numerous recreational,

cultural, dining and entertainment attractions and opportunities. If you have some free time, we suggest you visit Graceland, one or more of the renowned music museums or an amusement park with your kids—and then end your evening on famed Beale Street.

And I am sure that the Memphis Marriott East will be the ideal host hotel for this event. We will again kick-off the weekend with our traditional **Welcome Reception & Dinner on Friday night, Jan. 18, 2002**, at the hotel, followed by two days of competition, clinics, exhibits, prizes, surprises and more. The hotel itself has a large two-tiered ballroom, first-class guest rooms, an indoor swimming pool, fitness center, food and beverage outlets and other services.

In closing, let me say that we hope that this renewed spirit of community, tolerance and camaraderie will extend across all elements of the Electric Football experience. As such, I am confident that all of you will continue to adhere to the recent request on the Miggle Toys Website to keep our postings on the Chat Board positive, upbeat and helpful for all of our young, new and veteran Coaches who rely on it so heavily for their Electric Football information and data. We thank you for your cooperation and commend your willingness to share your expertise and knowledge with others.

Please keep those e-mails, phone calls, letters and cards coming—and I look forward to seeing you soon Across the Gridiron.

Michael Landsman  
President, Miggle Toys, Inc.  
Commissioner, Electric Football League ■

## 2002 Convention & Super Bowl PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

*All events at Memphis Marriott East Hotel*

### Friday, January 18, 2002

1-6 p.m. Exhibitor move in  
7-9 p.m. Welcome Reception & Dinner hosted by Miggle Toys (**Free**)  
8-9 p.m. Advance sign up for Wild Card Tournaments  
9:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Practice & Scrimmaging

### Saturday, January 19, 2002

8-9 a.m. General Sign-Up For Wild Card Tournaments  
Exhibitor Move In Continues  
9 a.m. Convention Opens  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. AFC & NFC Wild Card Tournaments & League Champions Playoffs  
12-3 p.m. Buzz Bowl for Women – Preliminaries & Semifinals  
2:30 p.m. Announcement Of "Player Of The Year" & "Newcomer Of The Year" Award Winners  
3-5 p.m. Spark Bowl For Kids – Preliminaries & Semifinals

5 p.m. Convention Closes  
8 p.m.-12 a.m. Practice & Scrimmaging

### Sunday, January 20, 2002 "Championship Sunday"

9 a.m. Convention Opens  
9:15 a.m. Spark Bowl Championship Game  
10 a.m. AFC Championship Game  
11 a.m. NFC Championship Game  
12 p.m. Buzz Bowl Championship Game  
12:45 p.m. Pre Super Bowl Activities  
1 p.m. **Super Bowl of Electric Football 8 at Miggle Field**  
3 p.m. Convention closes

**Free raffle drawings will be held throughout the weekend.**

**Clinics for children and newcomers, as well as for adults wanting to start a youth league, will be held during the weekend.**

## PLUGGED IN!

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# CELEBRITY COMMENTS ABOUT ELECTRIC FOOTBALL

Over the past several years, *Plugged In!* has featured some of the nation's top sports celebrities and entertainers regarding their thoughts on the most electrifying game on the planet. *Plugged In!* has assembled the very best of these comments for you to enjoy again in this issue.

## Sean Landeta, Punter, Philadelphia Eagles

"Electric Football reminds me of a time in my life when things were simpler, less complicated and easier... The game not only promoted skill and sportsmanship, but helped us learn how to get along and play well with other kids.

"Looking back at how we played then, I realize that we weren't really using schemes or strategy—we'd just line the offensive and defensive players up and let them go. It was great fun!!

"I've noticed Electric Football being used on television a lot... it seems to be really 'hot' right now.

"I think Electric Football can be a great teaching tool for youngsters, especially if the child plays with an older person... I'm looking forward to using the players to show (my son) J.J. what the different positions are... of course I'll start with the most important position—punter."



Sean Landeta

## Fred Hickman, Former Anchor, CNN/Sports Illustrated TV

"It provides kids and adults alike with a look at the whole field and how each figure is part of an entire

play. Electric Football is a wonderful learning tool for players of all ages.

"I feel that since Electric Football really calls for at least two people to play it, it is a very good sociable game."

## Bobby Kelton, Comedian

"Being able to strategize plays and actually have players move and interact is the reason why Electric Football was so fascinating to me.

"I recall having leagues with my three brothers and enjoying the mental approach to the game that is such an integral part of real sports.

"The game truly helped my creativity in the touch football games I played with my friends. If anyone ever questioned one of my brilliantly designed plays in the huddle, I would just say, 'Hey, this play worked beautifully in Electric Football.'

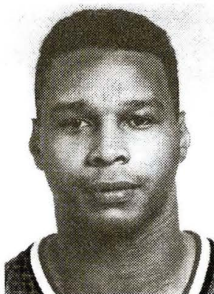
"Although my girlfriend is generally not that interested in sports, the game of Electric Football piqued her curiosity. However, she enjoyed the kicking game so much that I had to explain to her that you don't necessarily have to kick on first down.

"Most importantly for newcomers, don't forget to plug the cord into the wall!"

## Freeman McNeil, Former Running Back, New York Jets

"I guess what I remember most are the great times my brother Alex and I had with the game of Electric Football.

Alex, who is a year older than me and dyslexic, is



Freeman McNeil

terrific with numbers, which I think helped him become a really good Electric Football player. The game became very addictive to him, and he rarely lost a game.

"I really didn't start playing organized football until high school, so I guess all those hours with Electric Football and the pick-up games really got me started in the sport.

"I think Electric Football is an ideal way to get kids off computers and into something where they can interact, socialize and converse with each other. The game gets kids to use their brains, think and strategize, and allows them to have hands-on control of the players. It teaches them structure of the sport and challenges them to manipulate their minds."

## Wesley Walker, Former Wide Receiver, New York Jets

"Being a very competitive person even back then (as a teenager), I wanted to win no matter who I played against. And I found Electric Football to be very challenging.

"Electric Football is a 'throwback' to the games when we were kids.

Electric Football requires kids to communicate, get along with each other and work together. It helps them to learn the values we had when we were growing up."



Wesley Walker

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## HOT WIRES!

### NEW EFL IN OHIO

Scott Shingle reports that a new Electric Football League has officially started in **Toledo, OH**—the TEFL—and they are looking for new members. Contact Scott via e-mail: [Sscooter51@aol.com](mailto:Sscooter51@aol.com) or by phone: (419)666-3210.

### LOOKING TO LAUNCH NEW CAROLINA EFL

Walt Davis is looking to start an EFL league in the **Winston-Salem area of North Carolina**. He can be reached at [wally@hushmail.com](mailto:wally@hushmail.com) or via phone at (336)945-6219.

### MEMORIES FROM GLASS CITY EFL

Here is a letter from another Ohio EFL devotee received at Miggle Toys headquarters:

"My first contact with Electric Football was when I was about 11 years old and my friend showed me the new football game he got for Christmas. It was great looking, with the Browns and Giants.

We played all day until it was dark. It was great. I was so excited. That's all I could talk about until the next Holiday Season came when I got my own game. I was so surprised and excited I couldn't even yell. Within weeks I was definitely an EFL junkie, playing whenever I could find the time.

"Growing older, the game seemed to spend more and more time in its box. After high school I joined the military and spent most of my career overseas. Upon my discharge, I was looking through some of my old things in the attic where I came across a cigar box. When I looked inside, I felt the same excitement I did as a kid—it was my EFL men. But the game field was lost, so I recently ordered another game. Inside was not only my second childhood, but a copy of *PLUGGED IN!*. It was amazing. Thank you for keeping this great pastime alive."—Phil Gilliam, Toledo, OH

### LEAGUE LIST

If you would like to receive a FREE copy of the list of Leagues and Contacts around the country that was published in the Spring 2001 issue of *PLUGGED IN!*, please contact Miggle Toys via e-mail [info@miggle.com](mailto:info@miggle.com) or via phone: (847)432-0140.

### KUDOS TO MIGGLE

Here are three notes of thanks we have received recently from our many satisfied Miggle customers. We really do try harder!

"I wanted to write and personally thank you for sending me a stadium light set-up, which was not included in my original purchase off the Internet. Your company is 100% honorable, reliable and customer-friendly in my opinion, and I very much plan to do more business with Miggle in the future. Thank you for standing for the customer. You can't imagine my surprise when I opened the package. You are tops in my book. You have a loyal customer for life."—Bill Hoffman, Prineville, OR

"My order of EFL teams came the other day, and I just wanted to let you know that I am very pleased with it. The quick service, contact, easy ordering and quality of the teams were great. I am placing another order today for some more of them."—Tom Schwacke, Arlington, TX

"Mike (Landsman), thanks for everything you did to help our Alamo City EFL get started two years ago! You and the Miggle Newsletter: *PLUGGED IN!*, were a big part in getting the league formed. We couldn't have done it without you."—Jerry McGhee, San Antonio, TX ■



# WINNING EFL SUPER BOWL BRINGS MORE THAN JUST MIGGLE TROPHY

What affect does it have on someone's life—both around and away from the Electric Football field—to win the Big One: the Super Bowl of Electric Football?

To find out the answer to this question—as many of us prepare to head to Memphis, TN, for the **8th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention**—*Plugged In!* visited with the five Coaches who have won the EFL Super Bowl to see what winning the title meant to them. Here are their candid and enthusiastic responses:

## MARK AND BILL KLINGBEIL—Winners of Super Bowls 1 & 2

Back in January 1995, the first Electric Football Super Bowl was held in a cozy, upstairs room in Michael Jordan's Restaurant in Chicago. Four teams won trips to the event by sending in the most impressive and compelling videotapes, and they squared off against one another in the game's first-ever Official Championship Tournament. In addition, a few of the game's artisans set up displays of their Electric Football collections, adding a festive and community-like essence to the weekend.

Coming out victorious in the **Super Bowl 1 of Electric Football** was a brother duo from **Houston, TX**—**Bill and Mark Klingbeil**—who had been—and remain—great supporters of the hobby.

A year later, with interest in the event expanding tremendously, the **2nd Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention** was held in a ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Chicago. New rules disallowed coaching teams, so **Bill Klingbeil** went out and earned his second consecutive EFL Super Bowl title alone, while brother **Mark** (along with Mark's wife **Pauline**) manned the Klingbeil Family's convention booth.

Following their victories, the Klingbeils recall

being enamored by the tremendous local and national publicity they received, including exposure in such outlets as *USA Today*, *the Houston Chronicle*, *the Houston Post*, *Channel 2/Houston*, *The Wall St. Journal*, *WGN TV/Chicago* and their hometown *Huntsville (TX) Item*, which Mark refers to as, "the best story of any that I had ever seen."

"Locally, nationally, all together, when we got back from the first Super Bowl, we were physically exhausted," Bill told *PLUGGED IN!*. "The phone rang literally non-stop with newspapers, radio, television, magazines calling. We were just amazed."

But what stunned Bill the most were the connections that the press coverage renewed with old friends and relatives. "What was really strange was that my uncle in California and another guy, a friend I hadn't seen in a long time who lived in Utah, both heard us on the radio."

Despite the national acclaim they received, these selfless brothers did not focus on themselves during their recent interview with *PLUGGED IN!*, nor did they ever put themselves up on a pedestal as the media did. Mark saw the publicity as, "Good for everyone in the hobby. We had a ton of fun with it. It was exposure for the game, our league and the people. More people knowing about the game is best for everyone . . . I mean, who doesn't want this game to grow? I know the Akron (OH) League alone has grown leaps and bounds because of the press coverage it has received over the years."

Over the past five years, the Klingbeil Brothers have deferred from playing in the Super Bowl Tournament, spending their time coordinating their convention booth, helping out with referee duties and being "Good Will Ambassadors" for the game. But their names will forever be in EFL annals as the very first Super Bowl Champs.

## LAVELL SHELTON—Winner of Super Bowls 3 & 4

The **3rd Annual Official EFL Super Bowl & Convention** was again held in Downtown Chicago at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Once again, four coaches were flown in from all around the country to compete in the Super Bowl Tournament. But this time, a new champion emerged.

**Lavell Shelton** of **Greenville, SC**, still refers to his 1997 Championship in the Chicago Hyatt Regency Hotel, the first of his two consecutive Super Bowl victories, as "A very special time to win." He recalls it was Electric Football's 50th Anniversary and the atmosphere was, well, electric.

Lavell further told *PLUGGED IN!*: "Prior to going to Chicago, tons of media got in touch with me—that means Silverman Media&Marketing Group was on the ball! These events have attached me with people with passion for this game. For that, I'm grateful."

A year later (January 1998), with the **Super Bowl 4 of Electric Football** in a new venue (the Cleveland Browns Training Facility in Berea, OH), but with the same format (whereby Coaches qualified by sending in videotapes), Shelton successfully defended his EFL title.

Lavell, like the Klingbeils, still views the media attention as a "touchdown" for Electric Football and not just for himself. "The effect from my Super

*continued on page 8*

## Celebrity Comments

**Continued from page 3**

**Dave Sims, Sportscaster, Cablevision/MLB.com/"Phillies Weekly"**

"I loved the action on the field, and I loved that it was three dimensional.

"Also, I love that it's a totally hands-on game, and that's so much different than the other games kids play today. The players actually come to life."

**Chet Coppock, "Coppock on Sports," Sporting News Radio Network**

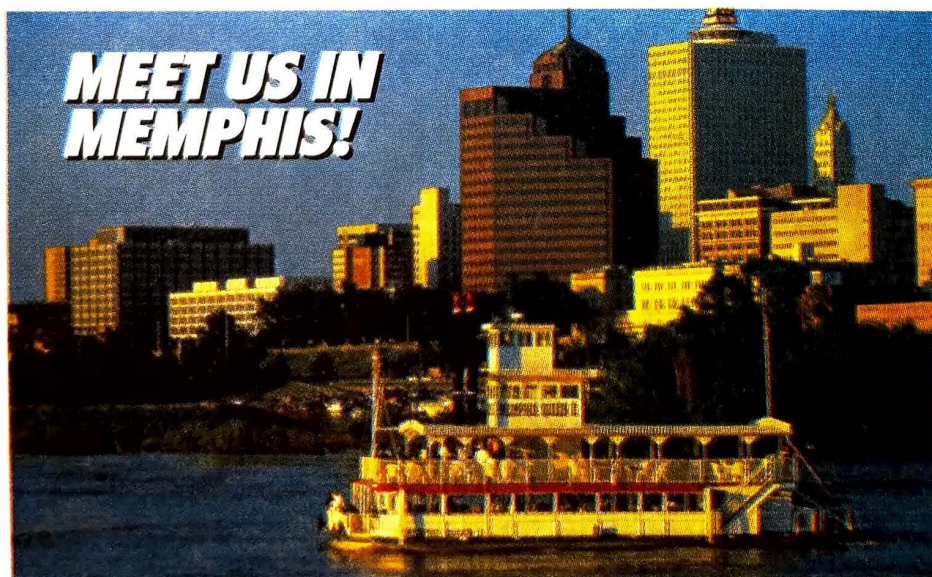
"For a little Chet Coppock, playing Electric Football was a big thrill.

"What I didn't realize then, but I recognize now, is that the real splendor of the game was its innocence.

"First, the fun of the game for me was that I could play it with my friends.

"It was just a great feeling of exhilaration. I think, as a kid, I probably enjoyed playing Electric Football more than playing baseball or basketball because there was something about the game that was challenging...it made a young boy feel part of the National Football League.

"The real charm of the game was that I was living out these youthful fantasies with the simplicity of the game. You lined up the players and 'boom' it happened. This very small—yet panoramic—electric football field would explode with players going in this direction and that direction. I must admit, I was a great fantasizer with Electric Football." ■



**The Memphis Queen Line's fleet of five paddlewheel riverboats offers a variety of dining and sightseeing cruises, as well as moonlight excursions.**



## Spotlight On: ALAMO CITY EFL

One Of the most inspirational, active, competitive and fastest-growing EFL leagues in the entire country is the **Alamo City Electric Football League (ACEFL)**, based in San Antonio, TX.

PLUGGED IN! recently spoke with League founder **Jerry McGhee**, who has also served as Commissioner since the ACEFL's debut nearly two years ago, about his league, his love of Electric Football and his future plans. Here are the highlights of the interview:

### PLUGGED IN! (PII): When did the league start?

**Jerry McGhee (JM):** The Alamo City Electric Football League started on December 4, 1999, in San Antonio, Texas, after Miggle Toys did an article in their Fall 1999 Plugged In! Newsletter on the Big Playing Board that I had designed and built. Nine coaches from the San Antonio area called me as a direct result of that article.

### PII: Who were the other coaches who helped you start the league?

**JM:** In addition to myself, the nine other coaches were Thom Duncanson, Theron Briggs, Trey Briggs, Ed Sifuentes Jr., Mark Villanueva, Hilton Chretien, Mike Robertson and Stephen Ingram.

### PII: How did you decide what rules to utilize?

**JM:** When we formed the league, we started with a meeting at my house that centered on the objectives of the league and what rules we were going to use. All of the coaches made suggestions, and they were voted on by the founding members. The Alamo City Electric Football League rules got their origins from a combination of rules used by Miggle Toys/Tudor Games; the DFW EFL in Dallas, TX; Rules 2000; and some original rules the ACEFL coaches wanted to include.

### PII: How has the ACEFL changed over the years?

**JM:** Two things have changed since we started this league. First, the league has grown in terms of the increased number of coaches who have participated each season. And second, the rules we originally created were reviewed after the completion of the first season and, from that critique, some rules were changed or added to help with realism. Then, upon completion of the second season last year, another revision of the rules was done by the league, as more rules were added or subtracted. Although the basic rules of the ACEFL have not changed from the first day, things like kicking, punting and season ending injuries are VERY realistic in the type of Electric Football game play.

### PII: Where and when do you play your league games?

**JM:** We play two seasons a year (Spring and Fall). In the spring, coaches use college teams, and in the fall coaches can use any professional team from any pro league that has existed. Most use NFL teams in the fall, but we do get the occasional USFL or AFL team. During both seasons, coaches have a 10 game schedule, five of which are home games. Games are usually played at the home team's field at that coach's house. Occasionally, we have met at a local middle school in the cafeteria.

### PII: We understand you are leaving Texas and moving North. What's the story?

**JM:** We are moving to Virginia this winter, which means I will be home for the first time in my 10-year career with the Air Force. I'm getting promoted to the rank of Major shortly after we move. But I will try to talk to the Electric Football coaches in the area and see what they've got going on; however, my job in Virginia is going to be quite demanding and require some traveling, so I am going to have to see how all that figures into my family life—then I will be able to figure out my Electric Football time.

### PII: What unique impressions do you feel you've left on the coaches and your league?

**JM:** The biggest thing I think I have imparted to our coaches is focusing on innovations across the hobby, getting them to shift their paradigm and think outside the box. Tudor and Miggle Toys did a great job of getting this game going. We have taken it a little farther and implemented a great deal of realism into our style of play from our rules, to big boards, decals/painting and figures that are in some really cool poses. We have a lot of great budding craftsmen and artists!

### PII: What will you miss most about running your league?

**JM:** I will miss the special friendships I have made here in San Antonio. Running a league is a thankless job sometimes, but the benefits come at the beginning and end of each season when you see guys who get hooked on the competition and they begin to develop as coaches and eventually they become powerhouses in the league.

### PII: What is the competition like in ACEFL?

**JM:** Competition has come a long way in this league. For example, Trey Briggs started playing in this league when he was 12 years old. He's 14 now. He went 0-10 in his first season; his second season saw him make the playoffs with a 6-4 record; and in his third season, he went undefeated and won the league championship! I used to be able to paste this kid, now I can't beat him! The other coaches are no picnic either. Every game is proving harder and harder to win and if you do win, you feel like you've run a marathon. We should start stocking Power Bars on our games to keep the coaches' energy levels up. It's gotten THAT competitive and I love it! Winning should never be easy.

### PII: What is the single most important piece of advice would you give to someone looking to start their own league?

**JM:** Get organized early, listen to your coaches and think everything through. We have an organization model in the Air Force called APTEC. APTEC stands for: Analyze, Plan, Train, Execute and Critique. If you use this system at the beginning and end of each season, you will have a successful league. Get your coaches together and make your league rules and vote on them as a league. Then, vote on a Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Treasurer and Secretary to enforce the rules when the season begins. Make sure your league officers' roles are clearly defined. No detail of league organization is too



**Coaches of the Alamo City EFL San Antonio, TX**  
Top L-R: Theron Briggs, Jimmy Sides, Ed Sifuentes Jr., Ed Sifuentes III, Hilton Chretien; 2nd row L-R: Ray Dixon, Trey Briggs, Jerry McGhee, Generro Guererro, Alfred Ramos; 3rd row L-R: John Rowan, David Rowan, Mike Robertson, Barry Stephenson; Not Pictured: Jeremy Hicks and Thom Duncanson

small and it will pay you big dividends as you go through a season. Make smart decisions in accordance with your rulebook as the season goes along. If it's not in your rulebook, get feedback from the other coaches before you render a decision as commissioner. Lastly, make sure you have a plan to recruit new coaches.

If you are interested in more information on the Alamo City Electric Football League, go to their website at <http://www.acefl.net>. ■

## Memphis to Host 2002 Electric Football Convention

Continued from page 1

Pro running backs Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick, competed in the World Football League in 1974-75; while the Memphis Showboats, anchored by future Pro Football Hall of Famer Reggie White, were a force in the United States Football League in 1984-85. Currently, the Memphis Xplorers of the Arena Football League play their home games in DeSoto Civic Center

"I can't think of a more ideal setting for our annual Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention than Memphis," Landsman concluded, "and I know the Memphis Marriott East will be a spectacular host for the event." ■



# MEMPHIS TO HOST 2002

## Memphis Offers Many Attractions

### Gather up your families and head for Memphis!

*There are a wealth of exciting attractions, restaurants and clubs in Memphis that appeal to all ages, tastes and budgets. Here are some of the most popular tourist attractions from which to choose. For more information, contact the Memphis Visitor's Bureau at (800)873-6282 or visit [www.memphistravel.com](http://www.memphistravel.com).*

### Attractions

#### Graceland (3765 Elvis Presley Blvd.)

The home of the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Aron Presley. Phenomenally enjoyable, affectionate celebration of the King. Visit the Hall of Gold, automobile museum, restaurants, gift shops and lots more. See Elvis' pink Cadillac and climb aboard his custom jets. 800/238-2000. 9.8 miles from hotel/App. 14 mins.

#### Memphis Music Hall of Fame (97 S. Second St.)

Comprehensive homage packed with photos, records, instruments and footage, ranging from the pre-Elvis years to *Sun*, *Stax* and beyond. 901/525-4007. 15.1 miles from hotel/App. 18 mins.

#### National Civil Rights Museum (450 Mulberry St.)

Powerful, detailed museum built around the remains of the actual *Lorraine Motel*, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. 901/521-9699. 14.8 miles from hotel/App. 18 mins.

#### Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum

(145 Lt. George W. Lee Ave.)

From the Smithsonian Institution, it's the complete Memphis music story ranging from blues to rock & roll to soul. 901/543-0800. 15 miles from hotel/App. 19 mins.

#### Sun Studio (706 Union Ave.)

Tour the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll," where

Elvis, Johnny Cash, B.B. King, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison and other legends created the music that changed the world. 901/521-0664. 12.7 miles from hotel/App. 16 mins.

#### Memphis Zoo (2000 Prentiss Place)

Located in Overton Park in the heart of midtown Memphis, The Memphis Zoo is home to more than 3000 animals representing over 400 species. 901/725-3400. 13.7 miles from hotel/App. 19 mins.

#### The Children's Museum of Memphis

(2525 Central Ave.)

Spark an imagination and light up a mind! This discovery museum for children provides interactive hands-on exhibits and programs within a child-sized city. 901/458-2678 or 901/320-3170. 7.1 miles from hotel/App. 14 mins.

#### Libertyland Amusement Park, 940 Early Maxwell Blvd.

Rides, live entertainment shows, carnival games and more. 800-522-PARK. 6.8 miles from hotel/App. 14 mins.

#### Mud Island River Park (125 North Front St.)

Mississippi River history, a scale model of the river and this historic Memphis Belle B-17 bomber highlight this attraction. 800/507-6307. 15.3 miles from hotel/App. 19 mins.

#### Bogey's Golf and Family Entertainment Center

(7800 Fischer Steel Rd., Cordova, TN)

Here's a year-round, one-stop golf facility that features a 9-hole, par-3 golf course, driving range, miniature golf, golf pros and pro shop—as well as go-karts, kiddie rides, batting cages, arcade and food court. 901/757-2649. 11 miles from hotel/App. 17 mins.

#### Celebration Station (5970 Macon Cove)

Memphis' #1 Family, Food and Entertainment Center. More than 100 of the latest arcade games, bumper boats, miniature golf and more. 901/377-6700. 9.2 miles from hotel/App. 13 mins.

**While in Memphis, you may also want to check out these fine attractions:**

- Gibson Guitar Memphis: (800) 4-GIBSON
- Ice Chalet Skating Rink: (901) 362-8877
- Laser Quest: (901) 324-4800
- Lichterman Nature Center: (901) 767-7322
- Memphis Botanic Gardens (901)685-1566
- Memphis Brooks Museum of Art: (901) 544-6200
- Memphis Transportation Museum (901)362-0202

## Memphis Nightlife & Restaurants

*Sports, fine dining, music, clubs. Memphis has it all. Here is just a sample of what's happening at night in Memphis.*

### Memphis Grizzlies host the Orlando Magic at the Pyramid (1 Auction Ave.)

Sat., Jan 19, 2002, at 8 pm. For ticket information, call 901/888-HOOP. 15 miles from hotel/App. 20 mins.

### BB King's Blues Club (143 Beale St.)

Popular club with blues, barbecue and beer enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd. BB makes an appearance or two per year. 901/524-5464. 14.9 miles from hotel/App. 19 mins.

### Elvis Presley's Memphis Restaurant (126 Beale St.)

*Lansky's*, Elvis' old tailors, has been transformed into a slick bar with Elvis-themed menu, good bands and dancing. 800/238-2000. 14.8 miles from hotel/App. 18 mins

### Green's (2090 E. Person Ave)

Authentic neighborhood club featuring live Delta blues and hard dancing. 7 miles from hotel/App. 11 mins.

### Rum Boogie Cafe (182 Beale St)

One of Beale's most crowded hot spots, with blues every night, plus Cajun cooking and ribs. 901/528-0150. 15 miles from hotel/App. 19 mins.

### Willie Mitchell's Rhythm and Blues Club (326 Beale St.)

Owned by the daughters of legendary soul producer/songwriter Willie Mitchell, with consistently classy blues and R&B acts plus talent searches. 901/523-7444. 13.3 miles from hotel/App. 17 mins. ■



**Fans from all over the world flock to Graceland to pay their respects to musical legend Elvis Presley. The Meditation Garden is adjacent to the Graceland Mansion and is the final resting place for members of the Presley family.**

## DRIVING DISTANCES TO MEMPHIS, TN

CITY	MILEAGE	APPROX. DRIVING TIME	CITY	MILEAGE	APPROX. DRIVING TIME
1. Little Rock, AK	150	2.5 Hours	14. Omaha, NE	712	12 Hours
2. Nashville, TN	205	3.5 Hours	15. San Antonio, TX	728	13.5 Hours
3. St. Louis, MO	291	5 Hours	16. Detroit, MI	732	12.4 Hours
4. Louisville, KY	373	6.3 Hours	17. Cleveland, OH	732	12.1 Hours
5. Atlanta, GA	381	8 Hours	18. Pittsburgh, PA	760	14.6 Hours
6. New Orleans, LA	404	6.6 Hours	19. Washington, DC	861	14.6 Hours
7. Dallas, TX	460	8.5 Hours	20. Philadelphia, PA	996	17 Hours
8. Indianapolis, IN	474	8.7 Hours	21. New York, NY	1091	18.1 Hours
9. Cincinnati, OH	475	8.1 Hours	22. Denver, CO	1140	20.8 Hours
10. Chicago, IL	539	10 Hours	23. Las Vegas, NV	1580	27.6 Hours
11. Houston, TX	580	11.9 Hours	24. Los Angeles, CA	1801	30.1 Hours
12. Columbia, SC	594	11.8 Hours	25. San Francisco, CA	2094	39.4 Hours
13. Charlotte, NC	616	10.6 Hours			



# OFFICIAL EFL CONVENTION

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE NEW OFFICIAL EFL SUPER BOWL 8 TOURNNEY TO INCLUDE ALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS!

The Champions of every EFL League in the country will now be able to compete in one of the two new play-offs at the **8th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention** to determine two of the four Super Bowl Tournament semifinalists at the 2002 event scheduled for Jan. 18-20, 2002, in Memphis, TN!

In making the announcement, EFL Commissioner **Michael Landsman**, president of Miggle Toys, also stated that the highly-popular AFC and NFC Wild Card Tournaments will continue to be played on Saturday morning, Jan. 19, 2002, to determine the other two tournament semifinalists.

"As a company that is always responsive to the suggestions, ideas and recommendations of our Coaches and customers," Landsman explained, "we decided to revise and expand the format for determining the finalists for the two Conference Championship Games at the upcoming Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention."

Here are the details Landsman has established:

### LEAGUE CHAMPIONS PLAY-OFFS

All EFL Leagues throughout the U.S. with six or more members are eligible to nominate one of their Coaches to compete in the League Champions Play-Offs at the 2002 EFL Convention. "We hope all leagues will designate their Champion," Landsman asserted. All leagues located **East** of the Mississippi River will be placed in the Eastern Conference Play-Offs, while all leagues located **West** of the Mississippi will be assigned to the Western Conference Play-Offs. **The winner of each Conference Play-Off will automatically qualify for the AFC or NFC Championship Game.**

To register your League for a spot in the Eastern or Western Conference Play-Offs at the 2002 EFL Convention (**required for admission into the competition**), please fill out the form on this page and send it to Silverman Media&Marketing Group **no later than January 14, 2002.**

### WILD CARD TOURNAMENTS

All 2002 EFL Convention attendees will be able to participate in the AFC or NFC Wild Card Tournament. Sign-up will take place at the Friday evening Welcome Reception & Dinner and at the entrance to the Convention on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2002, between 8:00-9:00 a.m.

### FORMATS

All Rounds of both the League Champions Play-Offs and the Wild Card Tournaments will be played according to Miggle Toys' "Wild Card" Tournament Rules. ■

## 2002 EFL CONVENTION FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER RESERVATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Due to the great popularity and increased turnout at the annual Miggle Toys-hosted *Welcome Reception & Dinner* at the Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention, we have been asked by the Memphis Marriott East Hotel to provide them with a projected attendance number approximately one month prior to the function on January 18, 2002. **To guarantee yourself entry to this FREE event, please complete this form, detach and mail or fax before Dec. 15, 2001 to:**

**2002 Electric Football Convention/Friday Night Reception**  
c/o Silverman Media&Marketing Group  
245 Fifth Avenue, Suite 604, New York, NY 10016  
Attn: Ira H. Silverman  
Fax: 212/686-8742

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY GUESTS WILL BE IN YOUR PARTY? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2002 CONVENTION EXHIBITOR APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

If you are interested in having a **free** display area at the 8th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention at the Memphis Marriott East Hotel in Memphis, TN, from Jan. 18-20, 2002—based on space availability—please complete this form, detach and either mail or fax by Dec. 15, 2001, to:

**2002 Electric Football Convention**  
c/o Silverman Media&Marketing Group  
245 Fifth Avenue, Suite 604, New York, NY 10016  
Attn: Ira H. Silverman  
Fax: 212/686-8742

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EVENING PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WILL YOU BE EXHIBITING \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY TABLES DO YOU NEED" (CIRCLE ONE)      1      2

(Two table maximum due to space limitations)

DO YOU NEED AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET? \_\_\_\_\_

## LEAGUE CHAMPIONS PLAY-OFF RESERVATION FORM

LEAGUE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CONTACT'S STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CONTACT'S PHONE NO \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CONTACT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF COACHES IN LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE LOCATED: EAST \_\_\_\_\_ WEST \_\_\_\_\_ OF MISSISSIPPI  
RIVER (CHECK ONE)

NAME OF LEAGUE CHAMPION COACH \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CHAMPION'S STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CHAMPION'S PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE CHAMPION'S E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to: Silverman Media&Marketing Group, 245 Fifth Ave., Suite 604, New York, NY 10016; or fax it to: (212)686-8742.

**DEADLINE: Monday, January 14, 2002**



# TEACHER AT 40-STUDENT HIGH SCHOOL STARTS EFL LEAGUE FOR COACHES AND TEENS

Electric Football has often formed a great bond between people of different ages and generations, and nowhere is this fact more true than in the small town of **Montrose, Missouri**.

One-time disc jockey **John Roberts**, a 36-year-old social studies teacher and basketball coach at tiny **Montrose High School** (enrollment of just 40 students), has taken his affection for Electric Football and brought it into the classroom where he has organized a very special Electric Football League.

Just how did Roberts' love for the game begin?

"My first Electric Football game was the one I received at Christmas in 1972," Roberts remembered. "It was the Cowboys and the Chiefs, and I played it all the way through junior high school. At that time, I thought I had outgrown it."

It took many years for Roberts to realize how wrong he had been.

"Last year, one of my players, 'Downtown' Joe Harris (nicknamed for his three-point shooting ability) brought me a catalog that had the Electric Football game in it," recalled Roberts. "I thought, 'Hey, this looks cool.' So I went to the kids and told them about the little hand-painted men and how they almost magically play for you like the little guys on TV at home! I think that sold them."

According to Roberts, the youngsters jumped at the idea of playing in an EFL League in their school and, together with two other teachers (Bob McIntosh and Raymond Troup, who also serves as the school's baseball coach), Roberts created a 13 team league. "Bob is the EFL equivalent of the NFL's Papa Bear

Halas," claimed Roberts. "He has played Electric Football for five decades. For him, Electric Football is not just a way of life, it is life to him."

At a school as small as Montrose High (Montrose is located 65 miles southeast of Kansas City), teachers, coaches and students obviously spend a great deal of time together. Now Electric Football has brought the adults and the teenagers even closer. "Electric Football dominates all of our lives," Roberts stated matter-of-factly.

From Roberts' perspective, the Electric Football League at his high school benefits everyone: "The game will provide our students with great memories for a lifetime. It also helps with our coaching by helping us relate to these young people. And, the parents love it because they know where their children are!"

What also makes the Montrose High EFL so special is the extremes the adults and youngsters go to in order to add realism to their games. "We have two stadiums in my classroom—we don't call them fields," Roberts conceded. "We put up lights and grandstands and other stuff."

"We even play with 'realistic field conditions,'" continued Roberts. "For example, we stick some tape on the field if it's muddy outside, or blast a fan at the field if it's windy. We even open the windows for *really* chilly wind. Coach McIntosh usually wears his parka for cold weather conditions just like Soldier Field in Chicago—except we play *good* football."

But that's not all. Coaches in the Montrose High EFL even *videotape* their games. "We do it

for scouting purposes," explained Roberts, who added amusingly, "We're hoping to get Steve Sabol, head of NFL Films, down here to cover our games."

Even if NFL Films doesn't find it's way to little Montrose, MO, the league has made its mark on the EFL landscape.

"We commend John Roberts and all of the other teachers at Montrose High School for their dedication, unselfishness and devotion to their students," stated **Michael Landsman**, president of Miggle Toys. "Once again, the Electric Football community has come together to show how our social, challenging and fun-filled game helps adults and children relate to—and benefit from—each other. Miggle Toys will support their efforts in any ways we can." ■



**Members of the Montrose (MO) EFL: Bottom Row (left to right) Kelly Bauer, Emily Swaters, Savannah Westhusing, Stacy Stoddard. 2nd Row: Matt Swaters, Cameron Hart, Travis Bracher, Joe Harris, John Roberts, Mike Linder. 3rd Row: Garrett Cook, Raymond Troup, Cody Jurgensmeyer, Travis Munsterman, Bob McIntosh. Top row: Josh Louwin. (Not in photo: Cole Jurgensmeyer.**

## Winning EFL Super Bowl Continued from page 4

Bowl wins—especially the local news coverage—helped kick-start a wonderful EFL in upstate South Carolina. Electric Football is alive and well again across America thanks to Miggle Toys and Ira Silverman's office. Long live the EFL!"

### PAUL DAVID DANIELS— Winner of Super Bowl 5

A new city (Philadelphia) and a new Super Bowl qualifying scheme (Wild Card Tourneys to determine two of the four championship semifinalists), greeted visitors to the **5th Annual Official Electric Football Super Bowl & Convention** in January 1999. With a large contingent of Philadelphia area Coaches in attendance, it was no surprise that one of them would emerge from the competition with the storied Miggle Trophy.

The winner was **Paul David Daniels**, a lieutenant with the **Gloucester (NJ)** police department, who defeated fellow Philadelphian James Crews in the championship game.

"I was overwhelmed by the reaction to my victory from other players and the media," Daniels stated to PLUGGED IN! "My home league is in Philadelphia, so most of the guys from my league were at the Convention. They were ecstatic that a Philly guy won the tournament. It really got

crazy when I was on the cover of the Philadelphia Inquirer's Sports Page—there was a huge picture of me next to a tiny one of Wayne Gretzky."

Daniels reported that in addition to the Inquirer, he also was the focus of coverage in the Philadelphia Daily News, a local radio talk show and three or four local newspapers and magazines. "And there was a huge influx of phone calls from friends and family," he noted.

But his fond memories don't end there. "Winning the Miggle Championship was proof that I was capable of really applying myself to do well. I love telling people about it since it was such a huge confidence booster."

Daniels added that it is great that Coaches can now not only win their local league title, but that a U.S. Electric Football Championship is also at stake. "The bar was raised in our hobby by having EFL leagues from around the country come together for one National Championship," he concluded.

### RON BELL— Winner of Super Bowls 6 & 7

**Ron Bell**, an assistant district attorney from **New Orleans**, qualified for the two most recent EFL Super Bowls by sending in the winning videotapes each year. But once he got to the Conventions,

Bell still had to demonstrate his great Electric Football skill and tenacity—and he did so twice.

Bell captured the **Super Bowl 6 of EFL** in January 2000 in Washington, DC, and successfully defended his crown this past January at the **Pro Football Hall of Fame** in Canton, OH. His speedy Miami Dolphins' defense and pinpoint passing game on offense were ever-present at the **2000 and 2001** conventions—and so was the ensuing media frenzy each year.

"After my first win, there was a huge article in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. And then after the 2nd victory, I did a live Electric Football demonstration on Fox News on the night of the 'real' NFL Super Bowl on live television. It ran numerous times."

Bell takes all of this celebrity in stride, recognizing the light-hearted and fun nature of the game. "It was lots of fun," he said enthusiastically. "I loved doing the press. When I do these interviews, I usually do them tongue-in-cheek and silly . . . saying stuff like my players had practiced hard and were ready for the game. Things like that."

And how have his comrades from his New Orleans league treated him? "As far as the local league is concerned, they all want 'a piece of me' now. I guess playing me is bigger than just a regular game for them because they are all out to beat me—in a friendly way of course." ■