



THE MINIATURE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

# THE *TWEAK*

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MFCA

MINIATUREFOOTBALL.ORG  
FALL 2009



- DFW EFL 1200 Miles
- BEFL 377 Miles
- DSEFL 673 Mi.
- BAMFL 457 Miles
- GREAT Lakes EFL 158 Mi.
- HOOSIER Heartland 294 Mi.
- Mid-Ohio EFL 132 Miles
- NEFL 436 Miles
- Dixie EFL 596 Mi.
- Charlotte EFL 306 Miles
- LAEFL 2385 Mi.



M\*F\*C\*A UNIT 4077TH  
FROM THE DESK OF GENERAL SCHMIDT

## Today's Report

MFCA CON 09  
Open RUN  
The CBSMF Championship  
It's a Small WORLD  
Painting with Gridiron  
"That Is All"





## A Letter from MFCAL Commissioner, Ken Allen

### MFCAL Brings National Competition To Your Doorstep!

A few years ago, I stumbled across a web site generated by Tom Ruesink. I quickly noticed a point system for winning tournaments and as I read the leader board, I saw my name included. You could not imagine the excitement I felt. I wound up going to another tourney just to see if I could get more points. I was so excited, that I drove seven hours one way, to do so. The tournament based ranking system was excellent, and could not have come at a better time. As of late, modest turnouts at tournaments due to the economic downturn, along with the growth of many regional leagues, and the formation of the MFCAL, have created the possibility for a large scale points system that should sweep the country.

The MINIATURE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION LEAGUE (MFCAL) is specifically designed to reward you for your efforts locally and nationally. Locally, you can post games in your league that you play with other MFCAL members. You are allowed to post eight games, so be selective and put your best foot forward. Say for example, you are doing average in your league and you upset the top team. You surely want to post that game, as you get rewarded both for your win and each of their wins against other opponents. For instance, say I lose my first game against a fellow MFCAL coach in the Great Lakes. I then go on to win the remainder of my games. The coach that defeated me gets additional points for my wins, without lifting a finger or even posting another game. That same coach has the option to pick and choose his MFCAL games, based upon the opponent and points potential. So it is important to know that even if you play a sixteen game season, you still have the opportunity to choose your games wisely and get the maximum points possible. You will not gain an advantage by blowing out a coach who loses every game. By the way, every good league needs those "pure hobbyists". Just remember that both coaches must agree to the game being an official MFCAL contest before it is played.

Nationally and locally, you do not have to belong to a league to play a MFCAL game. You merely have to be an MFCAL member. Two great examples for this would be when

you enter a tournament like Dave's Open Run. Let's say for instance you make it to the finals against another MFCAL member. You can count any of the games played against MFCAL members. The second great example, my personal favorite, is if I am traveling out of town on business and a League member is in that town, we can get together for an MFCAL game. It's just that simple. You need only agree that the game is official.

All you need now is to agree on your rule set and you're off and running. This is normally a major stumbling block in the formation of leagues, their longevity, and degree of fun. With the MFCAL you can play by the many established rule sets on our website or simply play anyway that you are comfortable. There are so many options to choose from and if you can't agree on the rules, and here's the kicker, you can always find another member to play. You are not bound by the limited number of members in your league. Therefore you can shake a box, place the ball, simulate the pass, use the percentages, or physically knock down a player for a fumble.

The options and styles of play are endless. As such, it should help coaches by opening up our minds to the many dimensions by which the game is played. I have always been receptive to learning from a different perspective. I feel that it is very important for all of us to be willing to come out of our "comfort zones" in the name of fellowship. Besides, many of the top coaches in the country are some of the most open minded.

I am looking forward to the scores rolling in from all over the country. The inter-league play will be a real gauge of a leagues overall strengths and weaknesses. With the upcoming Miggle Convention in January, many coaches will have an opportunity to fellowship, play many league games, and have a beverage or two afterwards. So if you just happen to travel, and have space for your teams give a MFCAL member a call and see if they are up for some fellowship and league play. May I suggest that you:

1. Schedule your meeting in advance, confirm a date and time.
2. Cover the rule-set to be used.
3. Allow additional time for clarifications (you would not believe how different per-

- spectives can be when it comes to rules).
4. Enjoy the moment. Remember you are fellowshipping, then competing.
5. Maintain your integrity at all times. If you don't agree, flip a coin.
6. I do not suggest redoing disputed plays unless they are the result of penalties.

I truly hope you enjoy your experience and remember that this is, and always will be, a work in process. All suggestions are welcome. We strive to provide you with all the tools and support you need. Feel free to contact me or post if you experience difficulty posting your scores, highlights, or any other matter that requires third party resolution.

Just a reminder the MFCAL champion will be awarded a MFCAL trophy, free gold membership the following year to the MFCAL and a free two night stay at the MFCAL convention hotel. In addition, the MFCAL champion earns an automatic spot in the new Coaches Points Challenge Championship game to be played in Canton, Ohio on Sunday, August 8, 2010. The winner of this game will be awarded a custom one of a kind MFCAL championship ring with your name and team colors valued at \$500.00 or more. So if you are like me you are thinking to be ready for the big games against the big guns in your league.

In some respects the MFCAL will increase the level of play in leagues across the country as average coaches, like me, look to shoot down the high rollers in my league to score high enough to qualify for that Points Challenge Championship Game. Sure, I'm getting ahead of myself, but I know for sure I will be much more prepared for those guys who win all the time. The hunters have now become the hunted, thanks to the MFCAL! Always remember, you can play anyone, anywhere, at anytime. The links below will help you get started.

<http://miniaturefootball.org/mfca-league/mfcal-games-played/>  
<http://miniaturefootball.org/mfca-league/>  
<http://miniaturefootball.org/mfca-league/rankings/>

Please include a summary of your games along with posting some pictures of your action. I look forward to watching the action and the standings. Good luck to you all!

# THE TWEAK

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE  
MFCA

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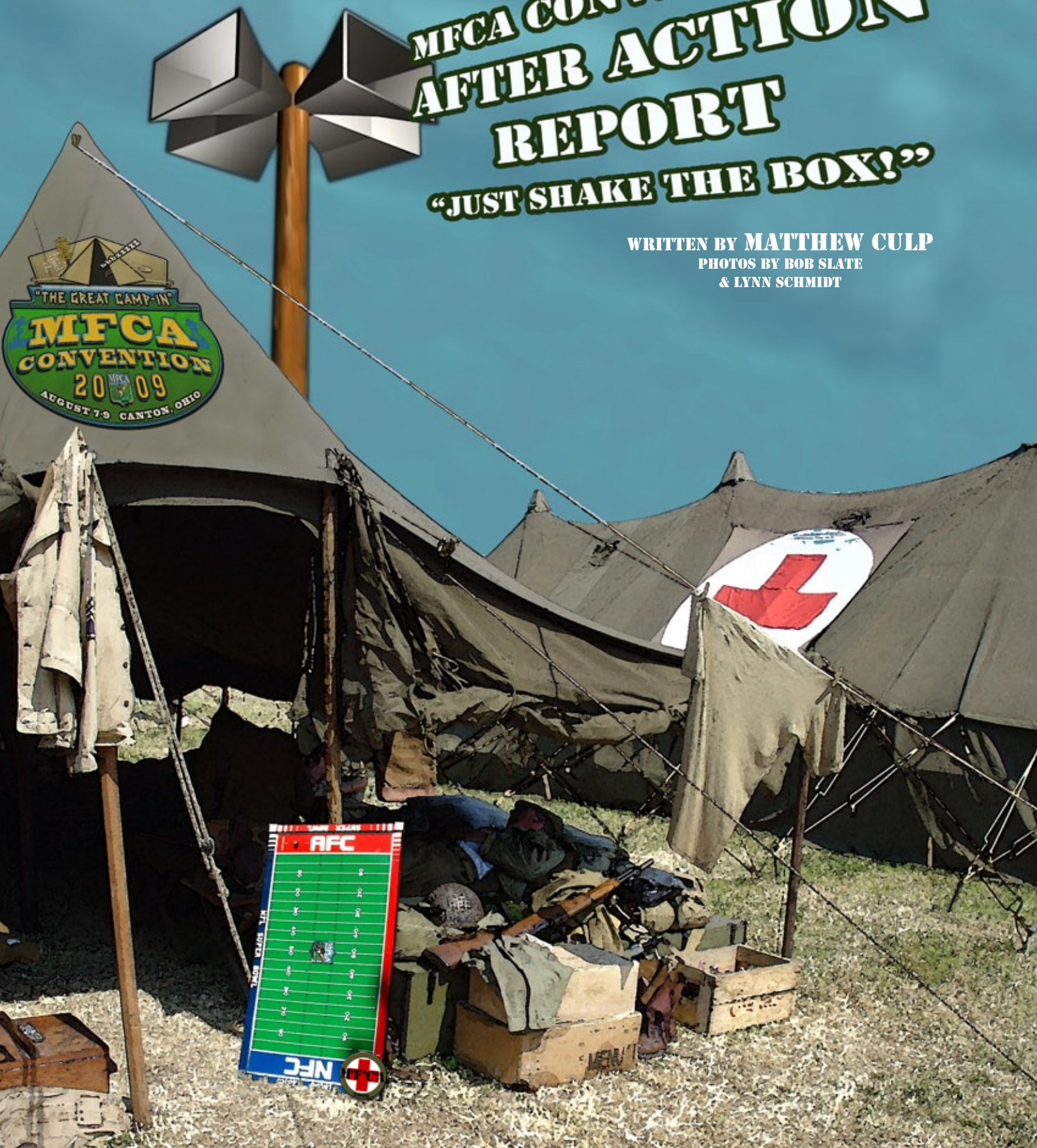


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# THE 2009 MFCA CONVENTION AFTER ACTION REPORT "JUST SHAKE THE BOX!"

WRITTEN BY MATTHEW CULP  
PHOTOS BY BOB SLATE  
& LYNN SCHMIDT





# M\*F\*C\*A UNIT 4077TH

FROM THE DESK OF:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW CULP - C.O. CANTON DIVISION



To: General Lynn Schmidt-Commanding Officer of the MFCA Forces  
From: Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Culp-Commanding Officer Canton Division

**This is the after action report for August 9th, 2009.**

This is to inform you of the tremendous sacrifice made by many in Canton, Ohio from 0900 6th of August, 2009, until 2300 hours on August 9th. I am happy to report, that during this campaign of electric gridiron warfare over the three day period, we only suffered two casualties. First, when Private Frank Jacobs took a knife to his left leg, while assembling figures for action. Although it was touch and go for most of the night and some doubted he would make it, our M\*A\*S\*H surgeons of Captain Harvey "Hawkeye" Bennett III and Captain Will "Hunnicut" Travers were able to save his leg from amputation, through quick and decisive action. Due to their quick action, Private Jacobs did not require an EVAC to M\*A\*S\*H unit 4063rd. Private Jacobs lost a tremendous amount of blood, but was back in action the next day.\*\* Note to self...he is no longer allowed to have knives during an event. Second, Private Steve Martin gave us all something to think about, following his "Dance for Joy" after winning a local raffle. Several privates found their way to the camp hospital reporting numerous eye injuries following self-inflicted wounds. One private said... "Sorry Colonel...I just could not watch that horror again". Here is the complete day by day report.

## **0900 6th of August 2009-Thursday report.**

Our small team of convention staff took refuge in a rather large Chateau located in Dover. Although our brave army was still on route, we arrived at Sergeant John Martin's Barracks at 0900 on Thursday, August 6th. This was a day spent planning, revising and setting up for the action to come. It was also a day for our traditional dinner at the county fairgrounds... R-I-B-S! Like Captain "Hawkeye" Pierce once stated... "A life without ribs...well...is a life not worth living". We did not have "Adam's Ribs", which disappointed Captain Pierce, but we had the best ribs just the same. It was all about the ribs...and I do mean great ribs. It has now become a tradition, before the yearly battle, to enjoy a full rack of ribs during our Thursday setup day. I hope every soldier, who reads this, will make it a tradition as well, as Canton hosts some of the best rib vendors during this Hall of Fame week from all over the country.

After a long day of setting up camp at the J.B. Stearn Center in Canton, we retired for the evening at Sergeant Martin's barracks. I must admit General, I felt a little guilty during the evening. While our soldiers were arriving to horrible living conditions at some of the hotels in Canton, and were forced to eat rations...we were enjoying the best prime rib 4" steaks this soldier has ever had. Along with that came all the alcohol we could drink, nice fire outside, stories of past battles and cigars that would make George Burns smile. It might have been the best evening before major battle yet, as a group of us sat outside





under the stars and exchanged stories of battles past. Around 0100 August 7th (1 a.m. for those non-military) two lost privates found their way to our camp...Private Steve "Dance for Joy" Martin and Sergeant Jim "Big Sexy" Davis. Both camped out for the night in anticipation of a long and fun weekend. It was during this time that some staffers received their official uniform and dog tags for our upcoming battle. \*\*Personal note to self...never sleep within 20 feet of Private Steve Martin...at several points during the evening I thought we were under attack.

### 0600 7th of August 2009-Shower Encounter

I have fought many battles in my lifetime, but never with a shower. After awaking to the Private's buzz saw snoring, that kept me up most of the night, I preceded to take my morning shower and shave. Note to all service men that stay at Sergeant's John Martin's barracks...ask how the shower works (it was as frustrating as a one legged man at a butt kicking contest). After stepping into the shower, I preceded to turn on the shower. Water on...check...water right temp...check...lever to turn on the shower...nowhere to be found. I did everything, but take the facet apart to try to find the lever. I even went as far as plugging the facet, thinking the back pressure would force the water threw the shower head...nope. So as any good soldier would do...*I improvised*. Elephants can do it, so can I. DO NOT ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING WITHOUT PROPER INSTRUCTION. I got down on both knees and carefully cupped my hands. With a careful stance, so as not to slip, I threw water on myself...lathered up...and again threw water on myself. I then repeated the process two or three times. The shave went a little smoother, but I was so cold and frustrated from my "shower encounter", that I was ready to get to the work at hand. The team left for the Stearn Center at 0900.



### 0900 7th of August, 2009-Opening Day

Our staff team was tremendous. The night and day before we had setup everything, from our registration tent, to tables we hauled in from a neighboring school...to our camping area towards the back of the building. It was all coming together nicely. Coaches...I mean...Privates... started to arrive from all around the country and the fellowship began. We kicked off the 2009 MFCA Coaches Point Challenge at around Noon on Friday. In addition, the MFCA welcomed the College Bowl Series of Miniature Football (CBSMF) hosted and ran by Mr. Rutledge from Dal-



Above Right: Reginald Rutledge signs in while Matt Culp looks on.

Above: Coaches from across the U.S. visit and break out their gear shortly after arrival.

las, Texas. That got started at 1400 hours and the buzzing and warfare was immediate. It was a great afternoon, as everyone arrived...got caught up on recent news and sat down for a great afternoon of action. Registration went very smooth and we had a bigger turnout than we had anticipated, which was a huge plus. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Rutledge for the first time, along with "RJ", Celo, Mr. Roller, Mike Robertson and several other coaches, who I had never met before. I got to bond with Lt. Colonel Ken Allen, as we sat down and discussed the MFCA and plans for the future. At 1600 hours we





all gathered for our annual MFCA officers meeting. It was a superb example of team work, brain storming and thinking forward. Several privates came with some creative ideas for the future of the MFCA and the MFCA was never the same after the meeting.

### 1800 7th of August, 2009-Chow Time and Hall of Fame Ceremony

At 1800 hours, head cook, R.A. Mallon delivered the chow from local G.B. Packer watering hole, Mallon's Bar and Grill. It was good eating for the troops and there was plenty to go around including some suds to wash it all down with! Following grub, we honored three "young men", who were inducted into the 2009 MFCA Hall of Fame class. First was Mike Turner. Mike is a very polite, friendly young man and he is a great promoter of the hobby. Mike was an easy choice for this award. Very well liked by everyone that I know in the hobby, he is a true champion both on and off the field. The second inductees went to a pair of brothers, who have been in it since the very beginning. Bill and Mark Klingbeil won the first two Miggle Tourneys, created great products, such as their ITZ bases and custom numbers, and became a cornerstone to the growth of the hobby. Although Mark was AWAL for the ceremony, he was eventually hunted down and presented his award. A very special thanks to Ray Fanara for all his work with the MFCA Hall of Fame. Amongst other awards handed out... Jeff Eby's wife

won the "2009 MFCA Greatest Wife Award" and 2009 MFCA Coach of the Year went to Adrian Baxter. The 2009 President's Award went to Al Dunham for his continued work for the MFCA. It was a great Hall of Fame Ceremony. Afterwards, it was off for the troops, as the CBSMF continued, along with, the MFCA Coaches Points Challenge. Games went on into the night and early morning.

### 0600 8th of August, 2009-Exciting Saturday



Above: Mike Turner speaks as he accepts his induction into the MFCA Hall Of Fame.

Right: Mark Klingbeil accepts the Hall of Fame awards for his brother and himself.

Our camp at the Stearn Center was loud. After 4 hours of sleep due to 13 coaches snoring in unison, we began our Saturday activities. The CBSMF continued all day, as did the CPC. At 0900 we took a small Special Forces unit on into Canton to aid the PFUFA (Professional Football United Fans Association) in an effort to entertain 2,000 youngsters and promote miniature football. It was again a great event, as we met people from all over the county. Special thanks to Ray Fanara, Adrian Baxter, Mark Francis and Will Travers for helping out with the event. After about two hours we returned to the Stearn Center and received a surprise visit from Neil Smith, former player in the NFL. Neil was great and posed for photos and made the day for everyone. The CBSMF games were intense (see recaps), but one game that caught my eye was Joe Greco and Ken Allen's marathon game, that went on until 0300 Sunday morning. Neither coach would back down, and eventually Joe held off Ken on the final play of the game for the win. Coach's fellowshipped the entire day, enjoying a break from the ac-





tion with a quick game of basketball, checking out all the items sold at the registration desk or participating in the MFCA's skills competition. Games went into the night again, wrapping up at 0400 Sunday morning...Sunday was going to be the highlight of the weekend.

#### 0900 9th of August, 2009-A Day Too Remember

At 0600 I awoke from my two hour nap. Today was going to be the best of them all...and it easily was. The CBSMF would name a champion on this day, as would the MFCA. As battles raged all morning and into the afternoon, two coaches emerged as champions. First, Mike Robertson took home the CBSMF crown with a 28-10 win over Greg Harmon in the championship game. That game was historic on many fronts. Not only did it conclude a college season on a national level, but it also became the first ever miniature football game to use a life size scoreboard, at least for one half. It was a great atmosphere and the MFCA thanks the CBSMF for making us a part of history. Then, Kelvin Lomax took home the Coaches Points Challenge, easily winning with a ton of points accumulated over the weekend. At 1700 hours all the awards were handed out for the painting contest, and 2009 Daley Award was presented. At



Above: Neil Smith looks on as Joe Greco and Marcelo Troilo played one of the most exciting games of the weekend.

Top Right: Ray Fanara goes over the advancements of Miniature Football with people at the Kid's Tailgate Event held at the Hall of Fame.

Right: Frank Johnson, Corey Johnson and others look on as Robert Don scrimmaged Michael Robertson as he prepared for his next games on his way to an eventual CBSMF championship.







**Jerry McGhee gets in on the fun with our Deutsch friends, Christine (left) and Lena (far right).**

1800 hours we wrapped things up at the Stearn Center and then it was time...time to tail gate!

Everyone proceeded to Canton and to "Dan the Parking Czars" residence for the beginning of a very eventful night. Ray Fanara had the party started with his special "travel box" full of good times. The food was fantastic...special recognition to Sergeant John Martin and Dan the Parking Czar for putting on a Class A tailgate. It was at this time that two lovely German ladies joined our fold. Christine and Lena became an instant party favorite, as they joined us, traded in their game tickets, so as to sit with us and gave the party just that much more life. We were complete strangers, and yet, they joined our party as if we had known them for years-they were awesome! One of the girls gave Corey "Mr. National" Johnson a new name...he is now and forever just known as "Nation". Cigars, beer and brats...how could it get any better?

At 1900 hours we left for the game and what a game it was. Although the seating was tight and even though Corey "Prettyboy" Johnson had knees in his back...he was still surrounded by "the German Chicks", which put a smile on his face, as well as, everyone else! Following the game, the party returned to Dan's home and it just went nuts from there on. We had Frank Jacobs doing his best Jim Carey impressions to Corey Johnson's "Party Time" stories of times past, to Joe Greco and the "alarm" back at the Stearn center. If you missed it...I am sorry to say...you missed the best Tailgating party ever in the history of miniature football.

#### **0600 10th of August, 2009-Packing Up**

With the Tailgating Party going on well into the night, our Convention Team still managed to get up, clean up the Stearn Center, take down our Camp and head out for home. Looking back on the weekend there is just too many events to recall to put into this report. I do want to recognize some of the people, who made it possible. Our staff: Lynn Schmidt, Corey Johnson, Tim Young, Will Travers, Ray Fanara and most important-John Martin was tremendous. Reginald Rutledge and the CBSMF staff as well-thumbs up! All deserve special commendations for performance above and beyond the call of duty. Also, Tim Haverstock and the staff at the Stearn Center was the best-thanks!



**It is about friendship...it is about family...it is about a Band of Brothers!**

My advice to all who read this report...go to Canton next year! It truly has become an event beyond just min-

ature football. The fellowship has gone to the next level and in Canton...magical things happen. We often talk about the future of miniature football...will this hobby survive...will it grow...for me...that is not the critical issue any more...what is important is that the friendships survive...because the MFCA is not just about a buzzing board...it is about friendship...it is about family...it is about a Band of Brothers!



**Tim Young gave it his all for the MFCA! THE END**

**End of Report**

(For 100's of great photos from the convention, go to: <http://miniaturefootball.org> and check under the MFCA News heading.)







## THE WINNERS

Coach K-Lo won his CPC games and snuck in and gathered up the bonus points, by playing under 4 different rule sets to take the MFCA leather helmet, as our 2009 Coaches Points Challenge Champion. In the youth category Zack Greco snagged the leather helmet as the boys took over and ran their own version of the CPC.

The South West region of the MFCA edged out the Great Lakes region, 300 to 251, to claim the CPC Daley award. It's team members included, Mike Robertson, Robert Don and Doug Shanefelt.

The skills competitions were well attended and we saw some incredible speed, strength, kicking and passing.



**Our skills national champions are as follows.**

Passing: Chris Fields 260 pts

Kicking: Steve Martin 300 pts (OT against Matt Culp and Joe Greco)

Fastest Man: Will Shropshire 52 inches

Fastest Man Enhanced: John Martin 48 6/8 inches

Strongest Man: Will Shropshire 20 7/8 inches

Strongest Man Enhanced: Will Travers 52 inches (figure/man combo weighed in at 16.56 grams and beat out Adrian Baxters man who weighed in at 19.24 grams)

In the route running fundraiser, nobody was able to hit all three routes. Kelvin Lomax and Matt Culp each hit two so the pot was split 3 ways with the MFCA.

### Paint Contest winners

This was a tough class to judge and the voting was very tight. Only a few votes separated most of the winners from the rest of the field.

Scene Category: TV's Chachi with his Steeler on the bench pose.

No Decal Category: Al Dunham with his Cardinals QB.

Individual Category: Chris Fields with his John Elway.

In the raffle for the Megawattz field; the dapper, singing in the rain, Steve Martin took home the beautiful one of a kind field!





# M\*F\*C\*A UNIT 4077TH

FROM THE DESK OF:

SPECIAL ENVOY COREY "NATION" JOHNSON - PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

In only its second year of existence, the MFCA Convention is turning into a must see event! You could actually leave your teams at home and still have an awesome weekend. With so much going on, that weekend is like a holiday to the city of Canton. Of course you have the HOF enshrinement & game, but you also have the Hall of Fame facility. In addition, you have the county fair (with live entertainment), the Sunday tailgate at Dan "the parking Czar" crib, and the list just goes on. The Tailgating was a blast this year, as the Mid-Ohio crew was the life of the party. We also had two special guests: Christine and Lena from Germany. They were just walking by and noticed us enjoying ourselves; these ladies know a good time when they see it! They even traded their better seats to the game, so they could sit with us.

Making this MFCA convention even more special was the CBSMF tourney. With it being a "RR production", you know it had all the bells and whistles to go along with it. Selection show, interviews, prediction show, national anthem, and great match ups throughout the tourney. The league and coaches showed that you really can have a playoff system in college football.

The camp in at the Stearn Center was great. What a venue for Miniature Football. The M.A.S.H. theme was priceless...shout out to Matt Culp for that set up. The MFCA opened its hall of fame doors to the latest coaches. Your inductees were...Mike Turner and the Klingbeil brothers, Bill & Mark. Congrats guys. You cannot thank all the officers of the MFCA enough for putting on this wonderful event. No one gets paid for the time and effort put out; I guess you can call it a labor of love. But you have to give a special thanks to John Martin; this guy makes it all happen. This year he opened his home to a few coaches. He is the MVP of the whole weekend and makes sure each and every coach has a memorable time.





## BEST MOMENTS

At the top of the list is the fellowship, and unity that goes on at these events. All the coaches get to put a face to the username on the chat boards. Coaches that get to play each other for the first time.

Reg singing the National Anthem at the start of the Title game was amazing. It was special, by the middle everyone was singing along!

When former NFL star Neil Smith walked into the Stearn Center to hang out with our group. What a class act, he posed for pictures, signed everything that was handed to him, and just was a real cool dude.

Tailgating before and after the HOF game at Dan's house was the best. He is the parking Czar! John Martin is on the grill. He handed out cigars for all! The German chicks were a blast to hang out with; they fit right in with the rest of the group.

Seeing the excitement on Morgan and his son's face as they watched their cousin play for the Titans during the game.

Watching the selection show of the CB-SMF. The short interviews about the matchups were some of the funniest stuff you could ever hear!

Seeing Frank Jacobs have one too many adult beverages at the tailgate. He broke out into a fire marshal Bill impersonation. Remember "In Living Color"....Yeah that Fire Marshall, let me tell you something! Hilarious!

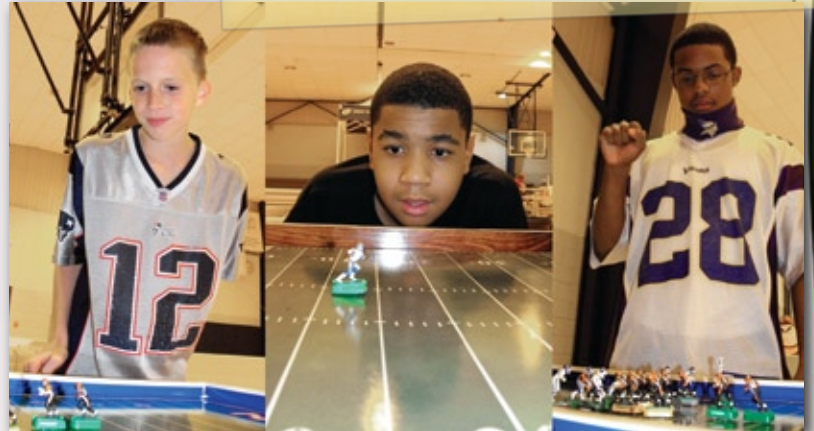


## DID YOU NOTICE

Matt and CorEY playing John Martin and Wolf in a game of 2 on 2 basketball.

That Mark Francis had a nice Jerry Rice Jersey... but he had it tucked in his jeans! Where are the fashion police when you need them?

David Roller was in the building with his pristine Rollerboards!



How much fun the younger kids had at the Stern Center?

Artlax was referee in about a dozen CBSMF games; he wasn't even in the league!

That Lena (1 of the German ladies) was calling National, Nation...she dropped the a!!?

The trash talking that went on between the CB-SMF coaches. Funny stuff!



That Jerry McGhee knew the names of all those military helicopters.

That Mantaray Dre in person, is the most quietest person in the hobby/sport

Jim and Steve did a horrible job of transporting Norbert's roller board; they put more dents and scratches on that thing.

If your back hurts, raise that field up like Bruce Watts did. Funny thing was...the field ran better on Bud!





# WORST MOMENTS

National being sandwiched during the Bills/Titans game was an event. To add insult to injury Kevin Bodie's long, bony knees were stuck in the back of the Ol Nat'l one! Just to see him hunched over with no room to move was gut busting funny! Now to throw a little salt in the wound...Kevin's seat wasn't even in that section, that's why there was no room.

When Wolf went up to all the wives, who were looking a little bored and suggested that they entertain themselves by making use of the workout rooms at the Stearn Center. Needless to say, they didn't take Wolf's "thoughtful" suggestion, quite the same way. A quote from one of the ladies, "You bess just start walking away before you say another word!"

Some of the rooms at the Motel 6 were so bad that a few coaches had to check in at other hotels. Not all were bad; several coaches kept their reservations and were content with the accommodations.

The Stearn Center not having Wi-Fi was a bummer. There was no way of getting out all the updates to the masses that were not in attendance, this lead to some harsh post on the MFCA chat board. The silver lining to all this was the birth of the MFCA soap opera post that had us all laughing at ourselves.

Watching Jim Davis shoot free throws, well it was even closer than a free throw. Talk about Wilt, or Shaq? Jim made them look like Rick Barry!

Anyone who bought tickets for the MegaWatts board, then had to sit in horror, as Steve Martin ran around the gymnasium after his name was called as the winner. He screamed, he danced, it was like watching some of those people after they get called for the "Price is Right"!

If you camped in and you were one of the last guys to go to sleep, good luck trying to fall asleep! It was like having a chain saw running with all the coaches who were snoring!

Lynn's camera went missing right before it was time to leave for the HOF game! This put a big damper on the evening. Not only was all the photos from the weekend, but Lynn had some other pictures stored on the memory card as well. This particular incident turned into a best moment when Reggie said he mistakenly took that camera thinking it was his own.



# THUMBS UP

To all who attended the MFCA business meeting. There were some big topics to go over, and everyone worked together to "Get-r-done".

To Ray F, his work with the MFCA HOF is exceptional. Thumbs up to the new members as well, Mike Turner, and the Klingbiel brothers.

To Jerry McGhee for inviting those German chicks to the tail gate!!!!

To Tim Young, he was Johnny on the spot as he worked the registration table so Matt, Wolf and Will could do other things.

To all of the award winners this year.







**A**s the NFL Hall of Fame induction ceremony began in Canton, Ohio, miniature football coaches from across the nation were preparing to create their own legacy, as they attempted to cement their names in EF/MFCA History. The most anticipated tournament to date was underway... the CBSMF National Championship Tournament of Miniature Football! The battle for EF supremacy and the first ever National Champion would be crowned during this historic event!

The greatest of the greats were all in attendance...Greg Hardmon, Jim Davis, Don Lang, Simmie "Tookie" Lassitter, Steve Martin, and Kenny Allen from the Great Lakes, all made their presence known, as they represented the Big10. Hall of Famer Mike Turner, Marcelo Truijlo, Eric Thompson and Jeff Eby of the west coast made it out, as representatives of the PAC10 conference. The Texas Boys were in attendance representing the SWC...the legendary Reginald Rutledge and protégé Mike Robertson were there along with Robert Jackson and "The Rookie" Doug Shanafelt. The east coast also had a strong representation with the likes of Joe Greco, Morgan Scott, Kevin Boddie, Dru Sparks, Kelvin Lomax, and Darien Ross. The guest player of the event was an EFL legend... Frank "The Professor" Johnson.



The tournament began with a bang! The selection show hosts Mike Robertson, Frank Johnson and Mr. National brought flavor to the event, as they revealed the brackets and the historic match ups of the weekend. The top 4 seeds included the #1 ranked and undefeated Texas Longhorns from the SWC, coached by Mike Robertson. The #2 overall seed was the Big10 Champ Greg Hardmon and his Saginaw Valley squad. The #3 overall seed was the Heisman winner, the PAC10 Champion and the #1 offense in the land, Marcelo Trujillo and his 10-1 UCLA Bruins. The #4 overall seed was the surprise of the tournament, Doug “The Rookie” Shanafelt, and his 9-2 Texas Tech Red Raiders.

## ROUND ONE

The first round match ups began with made for T.V. drama, as this tournament would not disappoint. The legendary Reginald Rutledge would take his team into a swarm of Great Lakes believers, and face one of their former champs and head coach of the Oklahoma Sooners, Eric Thompson. This was a game that all wanted to see. Explosive plays were all over the place, as they traded blows in this classic matchup of “legend” versus “up and comer”. The Vols and Coach Rutledge pulled it out in the end, as they squeaked by the Sooners 35-28. Another first round extravaganza

paired Joe Greco and his methodical Wolverines versus Jim “The Hulk” Davis and the Penn State Nittany Lions of the Big10. This looked to be a sure win for the Hulk, as he began to push around the Wolverines as the Lions went up 7-0 early in the contest. The Wolverines were no match for the strength of the Hulk. However, it was a case of brains over brawns as the Wolverines began to stack the box, forcing the nation’s worst passer to stick it up in the air. The Lions threw a crucial interception late in the ball game, as the Wolverines pulled off the upset of the 1st round, defeating the Nittany Lions 10-7. Kevin Boddie, Doug Shanafelt, Robert Jackson, Tookie, Jeff Eby and Frank Johnson all advanced to the 2nd round as well.

As the tournament moved forward into the 2nd round, the match ups would become more intense. History was definitely in the making. This tournament brought together match ups that would have never been thought possible. Round 2 paired Robert Jackson and his SWC Nittany Lions versus Ken Allen’s Ohio State Buckeyes and their CBSMF’s #1 defense. After a great first round performance, the Nittany Lions and Coach Jackson were unable to put together any type of drive against the great Ohio State defense. The score was tied 0-0 at the half. In the second half, the Buckeyes broke the game wide open with 2 quick scores, taking a 14-0 lead into the 4th quarter. That was plenty enough for the Buckeyes defense, as they went on to eliminate Coach Jackson, and his Penn State Nittany Lions, 14-0.

Two miniature football legends faced off in the 2nd round, reviving a longtime rivalry dating back to the Texas Shootout roots. Hall of Fame inductee Mike Turner and his Boise State Broncos played host to Frank Johnson and his Purdue Boilermakers. Coach John-

son had been out of the game for awhile, but his experience would prove valuable, as he faced the heavily favored Broncos. Turner and his explosive offense started the game quickly and scored right away. However, the Boilermakers didn’t fold as Frank “The Professor” Johnson whipped up a formula to move down the field and tie up the ball game. They would trade blows into the 3rd quarter, as Boise St. would miss a costly extra point, putting the score at 21-20 Purdue. The Boilermakers would ice the game with a late score as “The Professor” would advance over the Hall of Famer!





# ROUND 2 MAIN EVENT

The main event of the 2nd round would be the 10-1 UCLA Bruins, coached by Marcelo Trujillo with Heisman winner Troy Aikman, versus the underdog Joe Greco and the Wolverines. After a round 1 upset, the Wolverines thought that they had made good by just making it to the 2nd round. As the game started, Heisman winner Troy Aikman immediately went to work as he connected on his first 10 pass attempts, racing the Bruins out to a 14-0 lead. In the 2nd half the Bruins continued their assault, clicking on all cylinders, as Aikman connected on two more scores, making the score 28-7 late into the 3rd quarter. As the wind blew, the tide changed. Inspired by an early marking on the brackets, that they had already lost, the Wolverines went to work! Coach Greco must have gave one of the world's greatest speeches to the Wolverines to start the 4th quarter, as they moved down the field quickly and scored early, cutting the lead to 14 points. The Bruins got the ball back with less than 8 minutes on the clock trying to close it out. Aikman's errant pass resulted in an interception. UCLA would later fumble, as these two crucial turnovers resulted into 10 points for the Wolverines making the score 28-24. Panic began to set in on the Bruins, as Aikman could not mount a drive to cement the victory for the Bruins. The Wolverines would get the ball back with one last shot to win it. Michigan put together a historic and classic nine play drive eating up the remainder of the clock, as they would go in for the go ahead score and a monumental upset! The Big East Wolverines upset the first #1 to go out in the tournament. The most explosive offense in the CBSMF, the UCLA Bruins went down in defeat. Mike Robertson and his undefeated Longhorns advanced past Jeff Eby's Aztecs in the 2nd round 34-7. Doug Shanafelt and his Red Raiders won 14-0 over Don Lang and his Grambling Tigers. #1 seed Greg Hardmon escaped a close one, as he defeated Kevin Boddie and his Catholic University squad 28-20.

## ELITE 8

The Elite 8 had great matches on hand as the #1 seed, Mike Robertson's Longhorns, would face off versus Simmie "Tookie" Lassiter and his Longhorns from the Big 10. What a match up. This game had real wagers on, as the Vegas betting lines saw some expecting upset, and other lines saw a blowout. What an electrifying game on hand for the world to see. Lassiter's Longhorns came out with the ball early in the 1st quarter, and was shut down quickly by Robertson's SWC Longhorns great defense. After that early stop, defense would be a thing of the past...at least for the remainder of the game. This game became explosive! Big play after big play would be the theme of the day, as these two coaches talented teams traded blows. At the half the score was tied 14-14.

The SWC version of the Texas Longhorns, coached by Mike Robertson, got the ball in the 2nd half as they put together a great drive in 8 plays to go in for the go ahead score. The Big 10's Texas Longhorns did not let up, mounting a drive of their own, as the Big 10's version Major Applewhite would connect on a 54 yard strike in the air to wide-out Roy Williams. The Odessa Permian product would race in for the tying score to make it 28-28. This game seemed as if the team who had it last would win. With two minutes to go, Mike Robertson's Texas Longhorns went up 35-28. Lassiter's Horns would get the ball back, but on a 4th down and 15, the Big 10's version

of the Longhorns would not account for a blind rusher coming off the edge and...SACK! This great defensive play call by Robertson typified the type of coaching genius this new breed of coach brought to the game. The Big 10 coach would lose the game 35-28, shaking his head in utter disbelief, as his storied Texas Longhorns would go down to defeat to a Texas Longhorns team from the SWC. This put the SWC's Horns on course to a Final Four appearance in the first ever national championship of miniature football.

Joe Greco and his Michigan Wolverine were not done at the ball as Cinderella kept dancing. The Wolverines went in to Columbus, Ohio and upset highly regarded Ohio State, under the tutelage of Ken Al-len. OSU had the #1 defense in the land so the victory of 14-7 was felt throughout the CBSMF community. In another game of old pro versus new arrival, Doug "Rookie" Shanafelt and his Red Raiders flew under the radar, as they took down "The Professor" and his Boilermakers 16-7 to advance to the Final Four. In the main event of the Elite 8, Greg Hardmon's Saginaw Valley squad would take the field against the legendary Reginald Rutledge and his famed Tennessee Volunteers. The only thing legendary about this game was the lesson that was taught by Greg Hardmon, as the Saginaw Valley Cardinals put on an offensive clinic racking up 52 points and more than 500 yards of total offense, as they exploded on the Vols 52-17, eliminating the Vols and Rutledge in emphatic fashion. That victory put Hardmon in the driver seat as the tournament favorite.







## THE FINAL FOUR

The Final Four had Mike Robertson and his Longhorns taking on tournament Cinderella Joe Greco's Wolverine. The clock struck 12 on the Wolverines, as they proved to be no match for the crafty Mike Robertson and his Longhorns. The game was decided early as the Wolverines got blown out of the building 35-7. With an impressive run in the tournament, Joe Greco would go on to receive the Most Outstanding Tournament Coach Award for his historic performance over the weekend.

Greg Hardmon would face Doug Shanafelt in what would be a nip & tuck battle of two great minds. Saginaw seemed to overlook Shanafelt and was unable to put together any offense in the first half, as the Red Raider would take a 7-0 lead into the half. The Red Raiders would come out in the 2nd half and continue to dominate the line of scrimmage, but could not punch in another score. Late in the ball game, the starting DB for the Red Raiders went down with a pulled hamstring. That was the opening Hardmon needed, as the Saginaw Valley Cardinals went to work with less than 2 minutes to play, looking to tie the ball game at the end of regulation. And yes, they did! In the overtime period, Saginaw scored first, but missed a crucial extra point to take a 13-7 lead. As the Red Raiders put together a drive to win the ball game, Tech's QB Graham Harrell spotted a wide open Michael Crabtree running free. Harrell dropped back in the pocket, harassed and chased by two defenders, and on the run threw towards Crabtree. In the blink of an eye, the ball was picked off. INTERCEPTION! WOW! The game was over. The Red Raiders had the game in the bag and Harrell threw the most costly interception of the tournament. The Red Raiders would fall short in their quest to play for a national championship, but the respect for "Rookie" has elevated his name to "The Rookie". Shanafelt is one of the bright young minds on the CBSMF circuit and should be in the hunt to play in next year's National Championship game.







## THE 2009 CBSMF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championship Game! The game that the world has been waiting for! The undefeated Texas Longhorns, coached by Mike Robertson, and the explosive Saginaw Valley Cardinals with head Coach Greg Hardmon. What a showdown! This game would not disappoint.

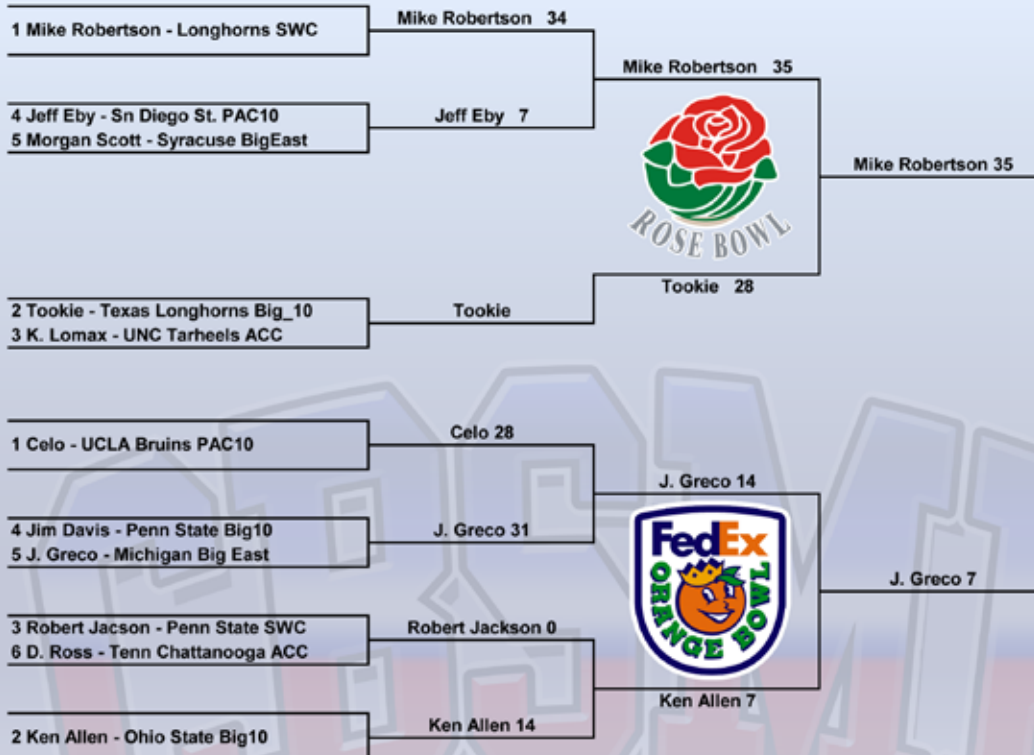
The first quarter would show Greg Hardmon's Saginaw Valley Cards quickly moving down the field in short fashion, taking an early 7-0 lead. Coach Robertson would have to rely on all his training for this opponent, whom he quickly came to respect with great admiration. The Longhorns were on their heels, not knowing what to do defensively. As quickly as the Longhorns got the ball, they would quickly turn it right back over on downs. The Cardinals would move down the field in short order. This had the makings of a blowout waiting to happen. However, with any other coach, this possibly could have happened, but not with the Longhorns and Mike Robertson. The Longhorns would regroup as they played before a packed house in the Rose Bowl Stadium, created by Footballfigure.net.

The Cardinals were held to a field goal, failing to score a TD on a key early game drive. The score at that point was 10-0 Saginaw. That would be all the scoring the high flying birds would see. The Longhorns began to come alive and show why they made it this far undefeated. The Horns put on a 10, 8, and 4 play touchdown scoring drives to take a commanding lead into the half 21-10. Coming out in the 2nd half, the Longhorns did more of the same thing, as the Red birds had no answer for the explosive Longhorn offense. The Horns would go in for another score to take a 28-10 lead into the 4th. The Cardinals came alive early in the 4th with a big time drive that was sure to get them back into the game! As the SVSU QB began to press, he threw into a crowd. Interception! The SWC Texas Longhorns would go on to win, sealing the first ever national championship for Coach Robertson. The Longhorns and Coach Robertson would accept the crystal trophy, climaxing a perfect season en route to a 15-0 record and capturing the inaugural CBSMF National Championship.

Congratulations to the SWC Texas Longhorns as they are the Kings of the CBSMF. Congratulations to all the coaches who participated in the CBSMF, as it presented many fantastic finishes, great coaches, and camaraderie never experienced in the game of miniature football. The CBSMF is here to stay, and it was the great sportsmanship of all that participated that made this the most exciting and watched league in miniature football history.







Mike Robertson

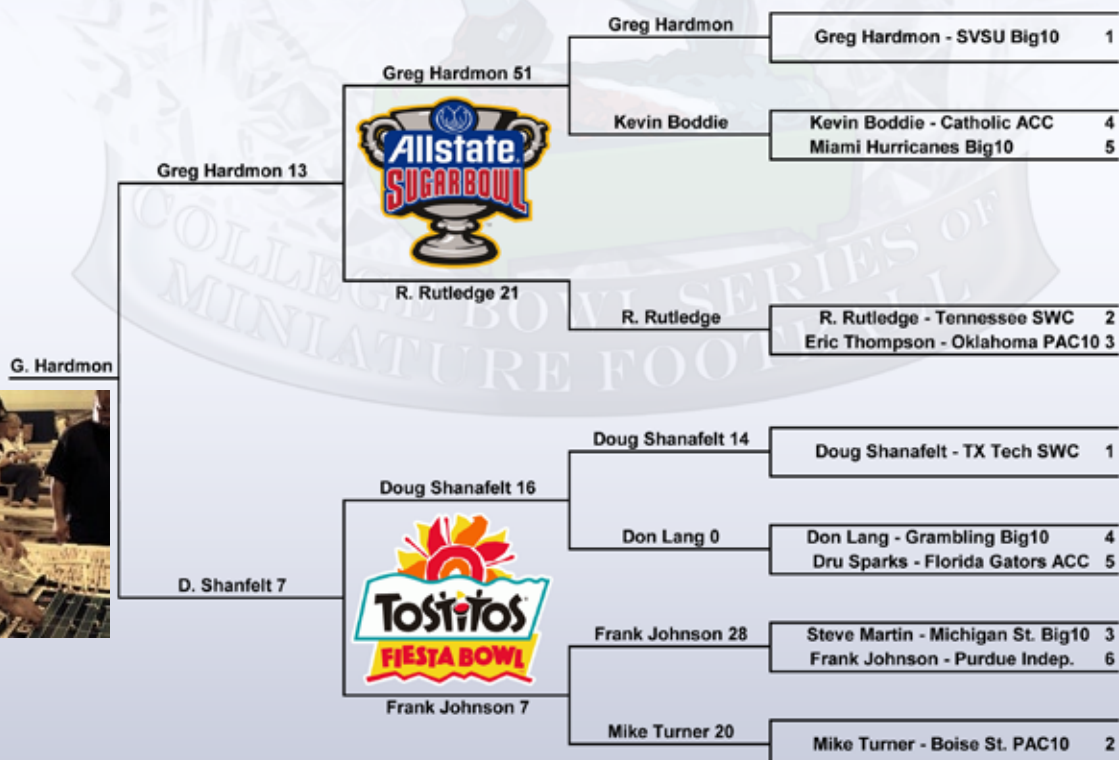


## CBSMF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**MIKE ROBERTSON 28      GREG HARDMON 10**

# CBSMF CHAMPION

# MIKE ROBERTSON





# **PAINTING FIGURES IN THE LONE STAR STATE**

**...INTRODUCING THE TALENTS OF  
MICHAEL WINEGARDEN**





# My introduction into the world of electric football...

As I sat down to write this article, I could not help but think about how I got to the point of being in the situation of writing an article on painting miniature football figures. I have had many people give me encouraging comments on my figures, and I am always reluctant to tell them that I am actually a professional artist. Some people would say it is “cheating”, or others just say “oh, that figures”. What I want those people to know is that the reason I am now an artist is because, when I was a kid, I would spend most weekends painting miniatures, and some of the first ones I ever painted were electric football figures. It all began in my younger years, when one of my best friends got a beautiful Super Bowl set of the Cowboys and the Steelers for Christmas. At that age the paint jobs were amazing, way better than anything I could do. At some point (from what I recall) my friend’s board got stepped on by one of his parents, so the next Christmas he got another one of the Steelers and the Rams. By then I wanted one so bad, but my parents were not even considering getting me a set. Christmas came and went, but sometime a little later, my Grandmother came to visit and I knew she would get me something, but all of the sets were too much to even ask for one. Much to my surprise, when she arrived, she ended up getting me my very own set, but it was the basic set with the red and yellow figures. All was not lost, as for me, the best part was the catalog. I wanted every team, except for those awful Steelers, who kept beating my beloved Cowboys, luckily for me my friend had plenty of teams to go around. So I set out to paint teams with my trusty Pactra and Testers enamels, but mine never looked anything like the ones in the pictures. My first figures I attempted to paint became the size of 67 big men, after many attempts for detail and many coats of paint. Eventually my interests moved onto other things and electric football faded from my awareness.

Fast forward to 1995... I saw a Super Bowl set in the J. C. Penny’s catalogue, and my wonderful wife, who has always allowed me to indulge in my childhood collecting, bought one for me for Christmas. Unfortunately, it came with the worst painted teams I had ever seen, the Chargers and the 49’ers. Some of you may recall how bad the paint jobs were on those, especially the Chargers. I think I played one game and then decided to try my hand at painting the figures. I painted the Chargers into the Cowboys and they

stayed that way for several years. I would occasionally get the board out and play, but it took me until about three years ago to find the Miggle forum. Meanwhile, I had been playing and collecting other war games and learning to paint figures. I cannot remember who’s work I first saw on the forum, but I was amazed that people had started customizing the figures, and making all of the details like chin straps and face masks. I finally ordered a mix of items from Miggle and started working out my method of customizing and painting.

It took me about a year to get brave enough to cut up a figure, but I eventually did and I became somewhat addicted to customizing. About that same time I started to become interested in the heritage of football and began to study the players of the past. I decided that I wanted to start making figures as true to the players as I could. The rest of this article will be a step by step process of how I make my figures.

## The Winegarden Way to make a custom figure...

Apparently there are a lot of Raiders fans, and I have had several people want to see me make a Ken Stabler figure. I began by searching for the right pose to mimic. I had a request to make him ready to throw, so I started looking for a shot that had the right stance. I found the 2005 Upper Deck Legends card and it was perfect (*photo 1*). The next step was to choose which figure(s) to use (*photo 2*). I have been using the Haiti repros, as I like the quality of the plastic and the details, so after dumping out a bag I realized that the safety figure had a similar angle in the legs and I wouldn’t have to make as many cuts. Next, I dismembered the poor guy, but for a good cause (*photo 3*). At this point I scraped the seams off of all of the parts, as nothing ruins a good paint job more than forgetting to remove a seam, at least where they are obvious. The rest becomes a lot of adjusting and looking.

I start by trimming plastic off of the legs, until I can hold the figure in a position close to the one in the picture (*photo 4*). Once I get them there, I drill holes into each part with my small pin vice (A.) and “pin”





them together using super glue with the 28 gauge wire (F.) (See photo of tools/materials you need). I then do the same on the bottom of the heels and glue the wire in, leaving some excess length. Then I hold the figure up to the stand and decide where to drill holes to pass the wire on the feet through. I usually have to make a couple of holes to get them to line up, but those can be filled later. I glue them on, then I trim the excess as close to the base as possible with small wire cutters, and then push the base over and sand paper to smooth down the wire, holding it flat very carefully so that you don't break the legs back off the stand.

Once that's done, I start looking at how I want the torso. I have found that most of the torsos can go two ways, depending on how much of a forward bend you want the pose to have. For this pose I actually turned the torso around to have a little arch in the back to give the pose tension like he is about to throw (*photo 5*). I drill a hole into the legs and the bottom of the torso with the larger drill (B.) and use the copper wire (G.) to attach them with the pinning method. I then do the same to attach the head. I usually play with the angle of the head, and make a few bends to the wire until I finally get the way I like, and then glue it on

The next part is the most complicated aspect of what I have been doing. I make wire armatures for the arms with the 28 gauge wire. I then mold the arms with "Milliput". I have tried several different epoxy putties and have found that, for my way of working, Milliput is the best. Actually, any that allow you to scrape the material when it is dry will work. I use the pliability of it to roughly shape the arms while it is workable. I just go for a very rough sculpt leaving things bulky on purpose. Once it sets I begin to remove the excess. I use a mix of scraping and lightly cutting away of the putty. I have found that I can make some rough cuts once the putty has hardened, but hasn't fully set. I then scrape after it is fully set to shape the details the way I want them. In the picture (*photo 6*), you can see where I hit the wire in the arm, and when/if that happens, I just start taking off the excess from the opposite side. The hardest part is getting the hand holding the football to look right. I usually get it close with the putty and then build it up more with acrylic gel medium. The main thing to do is work slowly, taking off just a little at a time. You can always take more off, but it is a lot of trouble to add it back. Once the arms are close to what I want, I use the gel to fill any gaps and to build up wrist bands, sleeves, hands, etc. (*photo 7*).

Once the figure has dried I spray it with primer. I have been using black automotive primer and dry-brushing with white for the base coat. I have been doing this because my decals are made with the base color around them and the white makes the numbers stand out. You can see in the picture where I paint in base tones and apply the decals (*photo 8*). I then start to paint in around the decals,



slowly adding in details. Once everything is blocked in, I get to the fun part (for me). I start by using a darker tone of the base color. I then paint around edges, wrinkles or details with the thin brush (C.), using the larger brush (E.) dampen to lightly blend the paint into the base tone. The

main thing is to not get the brush too wet or it will just wipe the paint off. Using the brush, slightly damp the figure with soft blending for best results. You will find your own method with some trial and error. I usually make a couple of layers to get the blend to look subtle enough. I then continue to do this for each area of the figure. The trick is to find how much of an area you can do at a time, and make sure the paint has the right consistency. If it is too thick or thin it can be hard to work with. I usually just paint a line around one feature or boarder of an area and blend it, slowly moving around the area of each color (*photo 9*).

Once that is done, I add the highlights by using a lighter shade of the base tone, painting in any detail I want to stand out such as knuckles, ridges on pants, seams etc. I could write an entire article on color theory, as just adding black and white doesn't work well. I try to find a darker and lighter shade of each color, but this can get expensive at \$3 or more per bottle. Usually adding purple for shadows and yellow or white for highlights works pretty well, but you have to be subtle in the changes to make them look right.

Sometimes I just make a darker outline, as can be seen in the pictures of the face (*photos 10-13*). I then add the black of the eyes, paint in the white on each side of the pupil allowing the paint to go below the black. I then retouch the pupil if needed. The next step makes a huge difference in how the eyes look. I add a line of the dark tone below the eyes to set them into the face. I used to make



eyes without this step and they always looked like bug eyes.

You can see in the picture where I have added shadows, highlights, or outlining. Once major areas are done, I start adding the details with the small brush such as stripes, shoes, repainted numbers and progress until everything is done (*photos 14-16*). The last things I add are the facemask and the grass (*photo 17*). I have been using Woodland Scenic's "coarse turf" glued on with slightly watered down wood glue, but I think watered down gel medium would work well too, if it is the right consistency. Once the glue dries, I thin down some Testors green enamel, so that it will flow into the grass better. I use enamel on the base because it is the strongest paint I have found for not scratching off. I usually have to go around the edges with un-thinned paint to get coverage. I let that dry for one to two days, as the enamel remains sticky for quite awhile. You can paint enamel over acrylics, but you cannot paint acrylic over enamel, so be careful in your stages that you don't get an enamel underneath, as it could lift off when the varnish is sprayed. After that I spray a heavy coat of Krylon Matte Finnish, which dries enough to handle lightly in about 30 minutes. The last thing is to paint gloss on the helmet. I found that Future Floor Finish without wax works very well. Just make sure you don't use very much on the brush, as it can run into the seam of the neck and the shoulders and neck will get glossy. Then you have to repeat the spray and try again. When it is all done, it can take a number of hours to do one figure, but the effect is worth it.

A little bit about the tools shown in the picture are:

- A. Small Pin Vice (Not sure which number)
- B. Larger Pin Vice
- C. 18/0 liner
- D. 5/0 spotter
- E. 10/0 filbert
- F. 28 Gauge Jewelry wire
- G. 1/16 Copper Wire

I have acquired tools from many places. I usually buy the wire and take it to the hobby store to find a drill bit that is one size larger, but you can reverse this too, buying the drill bit first and a smaller wire second. A good art store or online art supplier is the best place to get brushes. I have seen them at hobby stores, but often the quality is better at the art stores. Get the smallest brush you can for the details, and a slightly larger one for painting in areas. I have found that a "filbert" blends well; however, I did use my "area" brush for blending for many years. And there you have it! I hope these steps help you on your quest for painting perfection...

Editor's Note. The staff of The Tweak would like to thank Michael for his insight into painting and for sharing his style of painting. If anyone has questions for Michael, he can be found on the MFCA forum under "Gridiron Painter".





Photo 2



Photo 7



Photo 3



Photo 8



Photo 4

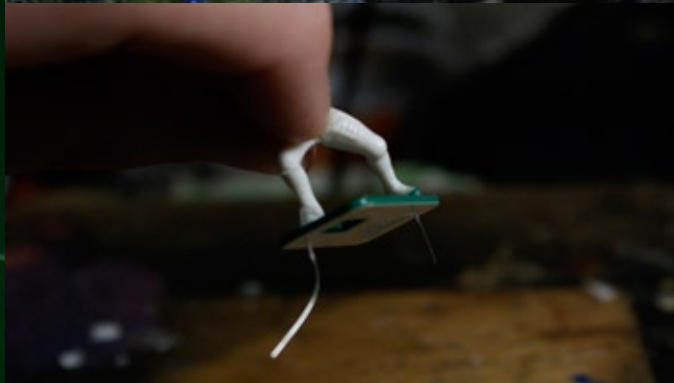


Photo 9



Photo 5



Photo 10



Photo 6



Photo 11





Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17







# IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

## PRESENTING THE MFCFA'S GLOBAL FAMILY OF COACHES

BY AL DUNHAM

JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE STANDING ON A PLANET THAT'S EVOLVING AND REVOLVING AT NINE HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR, THAT'S ORBITING AT NINETEEN MILES A SECOND, SO IT'S RICKOCHET, A SUN THAT IS THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR POWER, THE SUN AND YOU AND ME AND ALL THE STARS THAT WE CAN SEE ARE MOVING AT A MILLION MILES A DAY IN AN OUTER SPIRAL ARM, AT FORTY THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR, OF THE GALAXY WE CALL THE 'MILKY WAY'. OUR GALAXY ITSELF CONTAINS A HUNDRED BILLION STARS. IT'S A HUNDRED THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS SIDE TO SIDE, IT BULGES IN THE MIDDLE, SIXTEEN THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS THICK, BUT OUT BY US, IT'S JUST THREE THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS WIDE. WE'RE THIRTY THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS FROM GALACTIC CENTRAL POINT. WE GO 'ROUND EVERY TWO HUNDRED MILLION YEARS, AND OUR GALAXY IS ONLY ONE OF MILLIONS OF BILLIONS IN THIS AMAZING AND EXPANDING UNIVERSE.

THE UNIVERSE ITSELF KEEPS ON EXPANDING AND EXPANDING IN ALL OF THE DIRECTIONS IT CAN WHIZZ AS FAST AS IT CAN GO, AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, YOU KNOW, TWELVE MILLION MILES A MINUTE, AND THAT'S THE FASTEST SPEED THERE IS. SO REMEMBER, WHEN YOU'RE FEELING VERY SMALL AND INSECURE, HOW AMAZINGLY UNLIKELY IS YOUR BIRTH, AND PRAY THAT THERE'S INTELLIGENT LIFE SOMEWHERE UP IN SPACE, 'CAUSE THERE'S BUGGER ALL DOWN HERE ON EARTH.

MONTY PYTHON



Ever since Doc Smeby from England passed away a few years ago, the miniature football world has been centered right here in the good 'ole US of A'. Now, thanks to the ever expanding world of the internet, we are seeing a new influx of people interested in this wonderful hobby from other parts of the world. Whether it's north of the border, across the Atlantic, or heading west past the Pacific coast, miniature football is making its mark.

Dimitri Matias, Ben Racette and Brett Davis are about as separate as three people can be. One lives in Canada, one in Australia and the other in France. Although they grew up in different countries with different cultures, they all share a common bond.... the love of gaming and miniatures. It is because of this shared passion, that they have found miniature football and the MFCA.

For those of us that grew up in the states, our involvement in this hobby usually got its start during our childhoods. American football has been around longer than we have, as has miniature football. For those living in other countries, American football is something relatively new, and miniature football pretty much unheard of. With the advent of Warhammer and Blood Bowl, and the increased exposure of the NFL overseas, it is only a matter of time before we see more and more people interested in our hobby. This could be just the beginning of a new era, a second coming of miniature football. Perhaps someday we will see the sales of millions of games again, only this time, many of those will be in other countries...and with that, perhaps a global convention? These are lofty goals indeed, but for now, here is the story of Ben, Dimitri and Brett.



## DIMITRI MATIAS

*"THE FRENCH CONNECTION"*



When you think of France, you envision rolling farmlands, fine wines and cheese, art museums, espresso in a bistro, and miniature football. What??? Wait a minute, miniature football doesn't belong in France, you say. Well, it will if Dimitri Matias has anything to say about it.

Born near Paris, France of Ukrainian and of Portuguese heritage, Dimitri (a.k.a. The French Guy) lives in Pontonx, a small town of 2,500 people in the southwest of France, near the Atlantic Ocean. He has been a fan of American football since he was a child. "When I was a kid, about 10-14 years old, in France (or, at least, in my school) American sports (and everything American for that matter- movies, music, etc...) were really fashionable. Every kid wanted to have a Jordan or Montana tee shirt, pump Reeboks, and stuff like that. We were always looking for American sports (NFL and NBA) on pay TV channels, and played Sega or Nintendo basketball and football games a lot. I learned the basic rules of football (and even baseball) during these years."

Now 30, Dimitri, a graphics designer and modeling artist by trade, enjoys painting fantasy and sci-fi miniatures in his spare time, something he has been doing since he was 14, and often does dioramas and scenery professionally. He is also a big fan of slot car racing, old school (80's-90's) video games, wood crafting and Warhammer gaming. In fact, it was his love of tabletop games that led him to the MFCA. "I was searching for tabletop sport games on the internet, and discovered miniature football. It started with tabletop gaming, then electric football, then miniature football. The first thing I asked myself was...how does it work? I watched lots of videos on YouTube, and was quite impressed. The miniature players, the detailed playing field, and especially the coach's strategic approach against the unexpected physics and reactions of the players, seemed just like the real thing."

Living on the other side of "The Pond" has some drawbacks; chief among them is the non-availability of games. Dimitri didn't let that stop him, however. Because importing a new Miggle game or buying a game off EBay would be too expensive, Dimitri is doing things the old fashioned way..... he's making one himself. "I'm currently build-







ing my own “big board” game, in fiberboard. I made that choice because importing a board from the USA is quite expensive. For the same price of a 35” I can build a 42” sized board. And building things is one of my hobbies, too.” Thanks to some generous donations by Scott Hooper, Dimitri will have a nice set of teams and bases to go along with that board.

Many guys would be satisfied just playing by themselves, but Dimitri has bigger plans. “My brother (33 years old) is very interested in the game. He’s more of a “real sports” fan than I am. I’m more a miniatures fan myself. He knows the basic rules of US football, too. I have other friends interested in the game, but I’ll have to make demos and teach them the rules. I hope to create some interest about miniature football here. France is a country with great potential for that, with 15,000 licensed US football players. All are possible miniature football players as well! I’ll try to make contacts and buzz around this new hobby here, as soon as I am able to play and demonstrate the game.”

So far, Dimitri has rolled ahead with a truckload of enthusiasm. What is it about miniature football that has him so fired up about it? “I’m intrigued by the modeling aspect of it, as well as the “chess-like” strategic side needed to play. There is also the “magic” of all these little players moving on the board and the “like the real thing” coach simulation ...you train your guys, then on game day you give orders and plan strategies. Finally, you have to deal with the fact your players will have the last word on that!” Yes, Dimitri, truer words have never been spoken!



## Brett Davis The Coach Down Under



**N**o matter where you are in this world, there are bound to be people that play Warhammer and other board games. For those that live outside the U.S., American football has been making inroads, gaining popularity with each passing season. It was only a matter of time before the two would mesh. Brett Davis is a perfect testament, as it was his love of Subbuteo tabletop soccer and his growing interest in the NFL that led him to browse the internet and find the MFCA website. His reaction to his find... “WOW, you have got to be kidding. This looks great, what do I have to get to get into this?” His next step was to go to YouTube and catch some videos. It didn’t take long before he was hooked.

Born in 1976 in Forbes, New South Wales, Australia, Brett now calls Emu Heights home. Located about 70 kilometers (that’s approximately 50 miles to us Yanks) west of Sydney, it got its name... “from the early days when there was a lot of Emu’s here. Now days all you see are the odd fox and rabbit.”

Known as “Wolfden” on the chat board, Brett took the name in a most unusual manner. “In my family you name your house. Mine comes from growing up in the bush I think, and because I love wolves and have them tattooed all over me. My house became the Wolfden for my mates when gaming night came around, easier to say game at the Wolfden then Brett’s house, I think (does sound better too).”

Growing up in the land down under, you would think that most guys would follow either rugby or Australian Rules football. Brett preferred the American style instead. “I can remember watching a game between the Vikings and the 49ers in the late 80’s and my mate, being a fan of all things Viking, took them. So, in order to have a bet, (which I think was mowing the loser’s lawn’s) I took the 49ers and have been a die-hard fan ever since. I can watch any team play, though, because I love the sport. I did play for a number of years as well, from 15 until a couple of years ago as my job as a Correctional Officer keeps me away. The weekends are good money and we are a single income family. Working the weekends means making ends meet sometimes.”

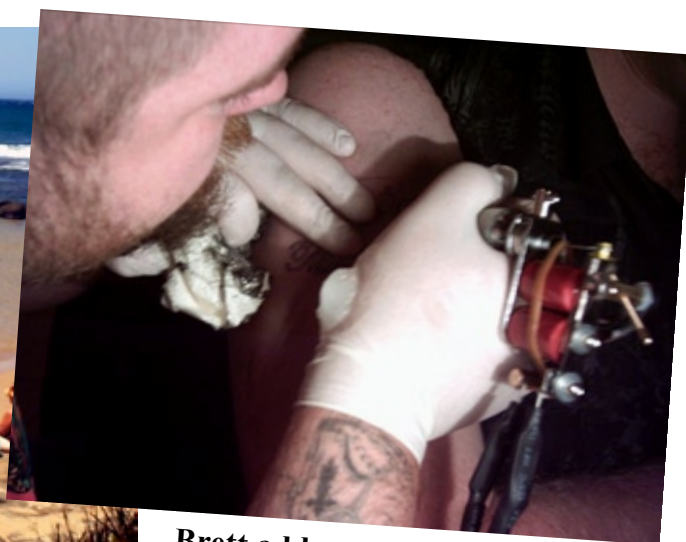
For now, Brett has to be content with just talking on the chat boards, as games have been difficult, if not impossible to find in Australia. Asked if he had a game, Brett replied, “Not as yet, but hopefully soon. So many guys on the forum have offered to help out, it is fantastic.







**Norah Head, Australia**



**Brett adds another Wolf tattoo!**

The next time you are angry with someone, just step back and realize how great a bunch of a mob you are, unheard of in the Blood Bowl circle.” An ardent painter, Brett can’t wait to get his hands on some figures. “I painted all the figures for our Subbuteo league, and I also paint 6mm, 15mm and 28mm war games figures.”

Someday, Brett hopes to be able to meet some of the MFCA members... “I want to meet Hooper. For one, he is a great bloke, helping me out a lot. A better mate you couldn’t ask for, he is never too busy to offer advice and answer questions, plus he set up the fantasy league which I love. Pit Couture as well, just to chat a bit to him in the flesh about building a board. His guide is fantastic. I think the MFCA is great. The only thing that could be better is really not up to you guys. I think it is up to me, and that is an Australian Tourney that hopefully some of your mob from across the pond would come to.” Hmmm...The Thunder Down Under??



## **BEN RACETTE OH CANADA!!**



**F**hose of us who have been around the miniature football world for awhile may remember when a young man, from north of the border, first showed up on the old Miggle chat board...a recommendation that came from another Canadian, Pit Couture. He was new to the hobby, and had many questions about how to play the game. He stayed with us, and eventually moved to the MFCA chat board when it opened.

A native of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Ben Racette (same name on MFCA forum), 36, first got interested in miniature football in the late 70’s when he was playing a game with one of his uncles. Naturally, they were playing Canadian football with Coleco’s CFL total team control game. It featured a 110 yard field, 12 players vs. 11 and only 3 downs, Ben grew up looking at Canadian football and American football as two different sports. Football isn’t his only interest, though, as he also plays Subbuteo Soccer, and Flick-Hockey, his own custom hockey game that is very similar to Subbuteo Soccer. Ben is also a huge fan of Guitar Hero and Rock Band.



**Munro manufactured a Canadian set in the 70’s.**

Even though he lives outside the U.S., Ben follows the NFL and college football. When he is not cheering on his Montreal Alouettes, Ben keeps tabs on the Miami Dolphins of the NFL, and the NCAA Texas Longhorns and Florida State Seminoles.

Millions of electric football games were sold in the U.S. in the 60’s and 70’s. Even with all that exposure, it is often difficult, if not nearly impossible, to find people who are still interested in the game, even in the larger cities like New York and Los Angeles. Imagine how hard it must be trying to find interested people, living somewhere where few games were sold. For this reason, Ben plays solitaire. “I use a playing chart for offense and defense, and some dice to adjust the players, and yes....I use the TTQB for passing. My game is a Miggle Super Bowl XL, (I have the Steelers & the Seahawks) the last that Miggle made before losing their license.”

By his own admission, Ben is not a painter. He prefers to simply buy teams that are already painted. “My goal is to have all the NFL (32) & CFL(8) teams (some in white, some in dark) for 2010 or 2011”





Unfortunately, he doesn't get to play very often, as he devotes much of his time to his hockey project. But when he does get to play, it's the realism of the game that he enjoys the most.

For now, Ben is content to stay in Canada, but someday he hopes to be able to come down to a convention to hang out with some of the people in the hobby. "I would love to meet guys like Reggie Rutledge, Shabby J, Glenn Hardaway, Jim Davis and, of course, all you MF maniacs." I'm sure the feeling is mutual, Ben.

Every day, more and more people from all around the globe are discovering miniature football.... South America, Africa, India, the Middle East. No longer will this just be considered an American game. As the MFCA branches out, we can all be thankful for people like Brett, Ben and Dimitri, as each one brings a new talent and sense of enthusiasm to our hobby. I feel that we are on the verge of a new era in miniature football, one that will be fueled by the passions of gaming fans from all walks of life. The most exciting sport on the planet, American football, combined with the gratification of working with miniatures, and spread by the zeal displayed by those in foreign lands. As Rick Blaine, played by Humphrey Bogart, said at the end of that classic movie, Casablanca, "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."



THE MFCA  
THANKS  
**MIKE DALEY**  
FOR HIS  
INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE MFCA AND FOR SPONSORING  
THE DALEY TRAVELING AWARD  
FOR THE  
COACHES POINTS CHALLENGE  
REGIONAL CHAMPIONS.  
**THANKS, MIKE!**  
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## CONTRIBUTORS

### BILL & MARK KLINGBEIL

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born: Cleveland , Ohio
- Grew up in Strongsville and Humble Texas.
- Mark and Bill received their first game from an uncle.
- Played in a solitaire league together since 1978
- 1995 and 1996 Miggle Super Bowl Champions.
- Houston EFL League Champion (Mark)
- Worked with Miggle to expand the Super Bowl Convention Tournament to more participants than just those submitting video tape entry's for Cleveland in 1998.
- Instrumental in setting up the Electric Football Display at the Pro Football HOF for 2001 Miggle Convention.
- Designed Proline bases for Miggle.
- Worked with Miggle to expand the product line to include new ITZ based poses and 67 Big Men.
- Developed and marketed In the Zone (ITZ) Figures, two-tone numbers, and the famous ITZ Dials.
- Maintained a miniature football web page and newsletter, "The ReadZone" devoted to the EF hobby.
- Winning the first ever Miggle Super Bowl together is their most memorable moment in the hobby.

## COACH

### MIKE TURNER BRONCOS

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born and raised in Dayton Ohio.
- Received first Tudor Game in 1964 from parents.
- Received a Tudor 620 in 1967.
- Started neighborhood league in 1968.
- Vietnam veteran having served in the Air Force 1970-74.
- Enjoyed playing EF with friends and relatives while on military leave.
- Played in first major Miggle Tournament in 1998, Cleveland.
- Has played in every major EF tournament across the U.S.
- Played in 8 championship games plus 3 league championship games.
- Most proud of two 2nd place finishes in Bama Blasts and two 2nd place finishes in Green Room Rumbles including the first held in South Bend, In.
- He's recorded more miles than any other coach in pursuit of EF/ MF championships.
- His most exciting EF moment came in 1998, when he met Joyce and Dirk Thomas at the Miggle Convention.
- Another memorable moment came in 2009, watching his son JaRon win the Miggle Senior Spark Bowl in Chicago.
- A friend to every major competitor and hobbyist alike.
- Always plays to win and always puts the game first with great sportsmanship.
- Currently resides in Las Vegas, NV.







**T**he 2009 Eric & Dave's Open Run lived up to its billing. There were hard fought games, laughter, drama, excitement, some more drama and most of all fellowship. This event brought in coaches from as far as Michigan and Texas. We even had a visit from Corey "The National Pretty Boy" Johnson from Philadelphia.

## The Coaches

Eric Robinson (Black College All-Stars)  
David Campbell (Michigan Wolverines)  
Cleon Tate Jr (USC Trojans)  
James Partipilo (Clemson Tigers)  
Mike Robertson (Texas Longhorns)  
Doug Shanafelt (Texas Tech)  
Robert Runnels (Utah Utes)  
Ajah Patterson (Southern Jags)  
Jeff Eby (San Diego State Aztecs)  
Rick Garrison (East Carolina Pirates)  
Marcelo Troilo (UCLA Bruins)  
Mike Turner (Boise State Broncos)  
Steve Martin (Michigan State Spartans)  
Matt Riley (Nebraska Corn Huskers)  
Perry Burke (Penn State Nittney Lions)  
Barbra Burke (Florida Gators)

## Round Robin Saturday

Round Robin Saturday was marathon electric football at its best. It all got started around 9am Saturday morning. Each team played 5 games consisting of two 20 minutes half to determine the seeding. 2 points were awarded to the winner and a point for a tie.

Round by round results:

### Round 1

Penn St (Perry B.) 7	Texas (Michael R.) 7
Florida (Barbara B.) 7	Texas Tech (Doug S.) 7
Boise St. (Mike T.) 14	Clemson (James P.) 0
Nebraska (Matt R.) 14	USC (Cleon T.) 0
UCLA (Marcelo T.) 3	SDSU (Jeff E.) 0
Michigan (David C.) 7	Southern (Ajah P.) 3
Utah (Robert R.) 0	Michigan St (Steve M.) 7
BCAS (Eric R.) 7	ECU (Rick G.) 15

### Round 2

Texas Tech (Doug S.) 0	Penn St (Perry B.) 3
Texas (Michael R.) 14	Clemson (James P.) 0
Florida (Barabra B.) 9	USC (Cleon T.) 0
Boise St. (Mike T.) 7	SDSU (Jeff E.) 0
Nebraska (Matt R.) 7	Southern (Ajah P.) 7
UCLA (Marcelo T.) 14	Michigan St (Steve M.) 0
Michigan (David C.) 8	ECU (Rick G.) 8
BCAS (Eric R.) 7	Utah (Robert R.) 7

### Round 3

Penn St (Perry B.) 3	Clemson (James P.) 0
Texas Tech (Doug S.) 16	USC (Cleon T.) 7
Texas (Michael R.) 7	SDSU (Jeff E.) 0
Florida (Barabra B.) 0	Southern (Ajah P.) 0
Boise St. (Mike T.) 3	Michigan St (Steve M.) 0
Nebraska (Matt R.) 0	ECU (Rick G.) 6
UCLA (Marcelo T.) 7	BCAS (Eric R.) 0
Michigan (David C.) 7	Utah (Robert R.) 3

### Round 4

Penn St (Perry B.) 14	USC (Cleon T.) 0
Clemson (James P.) 0	SDSU (Jeff E.) 10
Texas Tech (Doug S.) 14	Southern (Ajah P.) 0
Texas (Michael R.) 14	Michigan St (Steve M.) 0
Florida (Barabra B.) 0	ECU (Rick G.) 8
Boise St. (Mike T.) 7	BCAS (Eric R.) 0
Nebraska (Matt R.) 7	Utah (Robert R.) 0
UCLA (Marcelo T.) 6	Michigan (David C.) 0

### Round 5

SDSU (Jeff E.) 10	Penn St (Perry B.) 0
USC (Cleon T.) 0	Southern (Ajah P.) 0
Clemson (James P.) 14	Michigan St (Steve M.) 0
Texas Tech (Doug S.) 14	ECU (Rick G.) 8
BCAS (Eric R.) 3	Texas (Michael R.) 7
Florida (Barabra B.) 14	Utah (Robert R.) 0
Michigan (David C.) 6	Boise St. (Mike T.) 0
Nebraska (Matt R.) 0	UCLA (Marcelo T.) 10

## Round Robin Final Standings

Seed	Wins	Lost	Ties	Pts
#1 UCLA (Marcelo T.)	5	0	0	10
#2 Texas (Michael R.)	4	0	1	9
#3 Boise St. (Mike T.)	4	1	0	8
#4 Texas Tech (Doug S.)	3	1	1	7
#5 ECU (Rick G.)	3	1	1	7
#6 Penn St (Perry B.)	3	1	1	7
#7 Michigan (David C.)	3	1	1	7
#8 Florida (Barabra B.)	2	1	2	6
#9 Nebraska (Matt R.)	2	2	1	5
#10 SDSU (Jeff E.)	2	3	0	4
#11 Southern (Ajah P.)	0	2	3	3
#12 Clemson (James P.)	1	4	0	2
#13 Michigan St (Steve M.)	1	4	0	2
#14 BCAS (Eric R.)	0	4	1	1
#15 Utah (Robert R.)	0	4	1	1
#16 USC (Cleon T.)	0	4	1	1





# Tourney Time

...And then it was tournament time. One and done, lose and go home. Each game used a 30 minutes running clock, each team paired up based on their ranking.

## First Round

#1 UCLA (Marcelo T.) rolled #16 USC (Cleon T.) 21-0.

#2 Texas (Michael R.) beat #15 Utah (Robert R.) 14-7.

#3 Boise St. (Mike T.) loses to #14 BCAS (Eric R.) 28-22...This game was marred by drama. Both coaches wanted this game and neither wanted to back down. There was a call late in the game, which went against Boise St. coached by Mike Turner. A pass was called incomplete by one ref and another saw it picked off. After a few referee conferences, it was called a pick and Eric Robinson's BCAS went on in overtime for the win.

#4 Texas Tech (Doug S.) out last #13 Michigan St (Steve M.) 21-14.

#5 ECU (Rick G.) tamed #12 Clemson (James P.) 14-0.

#6 Penn St (Perry B.) slips by #11 Southern (Ajah P.) 7-6.

#7 Michigan (David C.) comes back on #10 SDSU (Jeff E.) 14-10...Great come back win for the Wolverines. Trailing the whole game, David Campbell's Wolverines found magic in a bottle with two scores in less than three minutes for the win. Jeff Eby had his chance to put away Michigan but was stopped on two consecutive drives and had a field goal attempt blocked.

#8 Florida (Barbra B.) goes down to #9 Nebraska (Matt R.) 22-7

## Quarter-Finals

#1 UCLA (Marcelo T.) hangs on to beat #9 Nebraska (Matt R.) 21-19...If Matt Riley can make an extra point this would be a different story. His Cornhuskers gave UCLA all they could handle and them some.

#2 Texas (Michael R.) routs #7 Michigan (David C.) 35-0.

#4 Texas Tech handles # 5 ECU (Rick G.) 18-8.

#6 Penn St (Perry B.) makes easy work of #14 BCAS (Eric R.) 24-7.

## Semi-Finals

Semi-finals and championship games were played using 15 minute quarters, with a 1 minute warning in the first half and a 2 minute warning in the second half.

#1 UCLA (Marcelo T.) beats the #4 "Rookie" (Doug S.) Texas Tech 28-7...Never really threaten in this game UCLA cruises to an easy win.

Now for the shot heard around the EFL world. Here is Jeff Eby's account of Texas vs. Penn St....Texas is up 14-3 with 2 minutes to play. Penn St scores to make it 14-10 with 1:30 to play. Penn State



*Celo gets a rule clarification during the title game*

recovers the onside kick in a very exciting play (the first wave missed the ball, but the second player got to the ball just before a Texas player got to it). Penn State picked up a first down, but had to use their last timeout. On 2nd down, Penn State had a receiver open for a probable touchdown, but missed the pass. 3rd down was a sack by the wide loopier of Texas. So now it's fourth down, ball is at midfield. Perry lets the clock run down to 6 seconds – it's all or nothing on this one play. Penn State gets a receiver open, and hits the pass about 10 yards down field. Michael Robertson adjusts all the defensive backs and safeties. It looks like he has all the right angles, but the receiver scoots his way through the defense and scores! 16-14 Penn State game over! The crowd erupt at the most amazing finish in Open Run history. It was unbelievable! This game had it all, as "ABC's Wide World of Sports" commentator Jim McKay once said, "The Thrill of victory and the agony of defeat".



*MFCA HOF'er Mike Turner matches wits with Eric Robinson. This was the game that spurned the name change of Doug from the "Rookie" to "Shananigans".*







Open Run favorite Mike Robertson takes on Dave Campbell as "Shabby J" looks on.



Coach Celo and his Bruins laid a whipping on Cleon's USC Trojans on their way to the title game.



## 2009 Eric & Dave's Open Run Championship Game

Two long time rivals meet for the crystal ball...Perry Burke and his Penn State Nittney Lions take on Marcelo Troilo and his UCLA Bruins. Perry still flying high on cloud nine after his stunning upset over the #1 player in the country, struck first in the first quarter on an 80 yard TD pass. Marcelo, who was on fire all day, picked the wrong time to get frost bite. After the first quarter it was Penn St. 7 UCLA 0.

Second quarter action saw UCLA heat up some with the passing game. A quick answer to the 80 yard score from Penn St was an 80-yarder of their own. Only thing wrong was that they missed the extra point. Now it's Penn St. turn to go cold with the pass. After two straight "3 and outs", Penn St. punts and Ed O'Bannon goes 80 yards for the go ahead score and the lead at the half. UCLA 13 Penn St. 7

The third quarter was a back and forth game. UCLA had their chances to put the game away, but Penn St. kept coming up with the big plays. A blocked punt set Penn St up in UCLA territory and the Lions took full advantage. They hit on an 18 yard TD pass to take the lead at 14-13.

Both teams came up with big plays in the fourth quarter. UCLA would drive into Penn St. territory and then would get sacked. Marcelo threw a pick that started a discussion about engaged players. Marcelo's pass was picked off by a linebacker playing nose tackle on the play. The linebacker was engaged with an offensive lineman when he picked off the pass. The rule states that defensive linemen once engaged, can not intercept a pass. As a linebacker the interception was upheld by the referee crew. Marcelo and UCLA had a chance late to win, but instead of going for the game winning field goal, they went for the touchdown only to get sacked. Asked why he didn't go for the kick, Marcelo said, "I had two kicks blocked today, it was touchdown or nothing I came up with nothing". Game over and the end of a dream run for Perry and Penn St....as they are...the new E & D Open Run champions.

### Championship game stats:

	1	2	3	4	F
UCLA	0	13	0	0	13
Penn St.	7	0	7	0	14

	UCLA	Penn St.
Rushing:	5 carries, -8yds	5 carries -15yds
Passing:	6 - 13 - 169 - 1 - 1	6 - 13 - 151 - 2 - 2
Receiving:	#42 Hicks 3-107-1	#82 1-80-1
Defensive stats	#23 6 tackles 4 sacks	#31 2 tackles 2 sacks

	UCLA	Penn St.
First Downs	3	4
Rushing Yards	-8	- 15
Passing Yards	169	151
Total Yards	161	136
Kickoff Ret. Yards	0	0
Punt Ret. Yards	80	0
Total Net Yards	241	136
Sacks for	7 (-60)	7 (-62)
Sacks against	7 (-62)	7 (-60)
3rd Down Eff.	0-5 0%	2-6 33%
Turnovers	1	2





# HANGING WITH MR. NATIONAL AT THE.... O.R.



**A**s I got ready to attend the 2009 Eric and Dave Open Run, I could not get the song “California Love” by 2Pac & Dr. Dre out of my head. It was set to repeat on my I-pod, and I even watched the video a few times in the airport. Even though the tourney was in Los Angeles, I was flying into San Diego to chill with my fellow 49ers fan, and long time friend Cleon Tate. My flight was landing around 2:30p.m. on Thursday, and he was using his lunch break to pick me up, allowing me to get checked into a hotel. That’s what this hobby/sport is all about. Guys from all around the country, going out of their way to extend a helping hand to out of town coaches, who are visiting. That is just the tip of the iceberg, when it comes to the bond and fellowship inside this organization.

After picking me up, Cleon (a.k.a. “Rasta Haze”) took me to a newly built hotel in of all places... National City, California how ironic!? A town named after “yours truly” on the west coast. My favorite movie of all time was shot in San Diego... “Top Gun”, starring Tom Cruise. I wish we could have driven by the corner house where Charlie (from the movie) lived. We got on the road for our drive to L.A. around 11a.m. on Friday, and what a drive it was. Cleon pointed out all the sights, and gave a brief history of the surrounding area. I was amazed that the highway had six to seven lanes...in both directions! To add to the excitement, we ended up about 5 minutes behind a car that had flipped over, landing on its roof. The driver was out of the car and a bit shaken when we passed the wreckage. All you could see was a cloud of dust, and then brake lights as the cars slowed down. Before I knew it, we were in L.A. land. L.A. has many attractions, but some of the sites you see makes you feel like you have seen them before. With so many movies being filmed in the city, you got the sense that you have been here before.

We finally arrive at our destination and we find a parking spot. We then proceed to the community room, which is totally hid-

den from the mall traffic. We arrived too early, as the room was locked, so we headed back through the mall, actually “Pavilion” is what they call it. We went walking outside as well. Now they say “Cali” is laid back, I couldn’t tell, people are quick to blow a horn while driving, as we walked outside into the noise. After a short while, we returned to the community and the door was unlocked, so we could go in. Shabby and Ajahaana were setting up chairs and tables. Man, Shabby J is a big dude. He thought he might be bigger than Jim Davis, I told him not a chance! The first thing I said is “where’s the wifi?” We both laughed, and he admitted that he was out of line when he blasted the CBSMF for not updating the results. The whole thing was getting ugly until the now infamous “Soap Opera” post put a comical end to the thread. Ajah was talking trash the whole tourney; he is a blast to be around and can lighten up any mood. By now the room is starting to fill up with coaches. I meet up with Dave Campbell, and Rick G. Then the moment I’ve been waiting for about a dozen years...the “Kinpinn” (a.k.a. Vince Peatros) introduces himself to me! Wow! A big treat for me was calling his arch-rival from the old days, James Crews and putting them on the phone. I sat there like a kid watching them talk on the phone.

The man with all the pressure on his shoulders (to me) was Rick G. (a.k.a. Bluesman280) on the MFCA forum. Post after post, this was the guy who is suppose to score outrageous amounts of points on every coach he went up against. I wanted to scrimmage just to get a sample, but he didn’t have his squad. Orders from the KINGPIN...do not bring your team; don’t show the tourney field anything. Rick did tweak up a white speed diamond for my BAM 49ers. In only a couple minutes he made the fastest base on that team. He credited Vince with showing him all the ins & outs of tweaking, but he also blasted him for making him look like the bad guy on the MFCA site. Putting all this pressure on his shoulders, I could tell he wasn’t comfortable with carrying. To set the record straight...Rick has game, Rick can tweak, but Rick can be rattled, and put off his game. The latter is what ultimately led to his demise, and maybe being removed from the KINGPIN camp. It astonished





me, that a man that hasn't played in several years commanded the respect of those under his wing. I was talking with Shabby and Ajah, and they both felt that Mike couldn't come within 40 points of Vince, if they played. Now this isn't the KINGPIN saying this, this was coming from the posse. Vince reminds me of "LL Cool J", in the sense that he has been around forever, but has remained successful and in the spotlight. Meeting him was like seeing a UFO or something. I've heard of all the victories, and stories, some so amazing that I started to believe that the west coast had made up this person. You always heard of him, but never saw him. For a man with all his accomplishments, he feels he doesn't get the respect of some others in the hobby. I beg to differ; he has always been a step or two ahead of everyone else. So dominate his level of play, that rules had to be changed to level the playing field, but he adjusted, and still won. The only thing I see that hurts him and the WC is that they only play their style, and rarely play outside of their rules, and comfort zone. Maybe "hurt" is the wrong word, but you get my drift. The knowledge inside Vince's head would work anywhere, and I hope to incorporate some of those schemes into my own game play.

The video wizard of miniature football, Jeff Eby, was doing his thing filming for two different projects. If Corey is the "Face of the hobby", Cleon has to be the "Voice". He read over a script for one of Jeff's projects, and you couldn't tell me that it didn't sound like a pro reading it. The next task for Eric and Dave was the board inspection. But before that, Rick G. was awarded a very nice ECU sweater for winning the Pac-10. They also had some nice pull over sweat shirts for all the coaches in the tourney. Back to the boards, the plan was to select the best eight boards for the tourney, which was to be voted on by a show of hands. The first board voted on was Rick's. I thought this was a fantastic running board, but my vote didn't count. The board had a little slide to it, but ran smooth and steady. The tourney coaches voted it off the island, and you



could see that this got under Rick's skin. He made comments, as he took it off the table. He went on and on, I pulled him aside... "don't sweat it"... "they will need your board". Next up was Mike Robertson's Texas field, and there wasn't a snow balls chance in hell that this board was going to be used. They couldn't let Mike get any advantage. Sure enough, it was voted off. Mike just laughed and put it away. So this went on until they had gone thru every board

there, but they only had seven fields and needed eight. So now they had to decide which board of the three voted off was best for the tourney. Rick's ECU field was easily the best of the rest being the 8th and final board. In my opinion it was in the top three of boards in the room. By now it was time to shut things down. Cleon and I headed over to the Travelodge in Culver City, only a few minutes from the Mall.

Saturday morning...we join Jeff Eby (a.k.a. Ned Flanders) for breakfast at a spot right next to our hotel. As we are heading back to the mall we pass the church of all football fans...NFL Network headquarters! It's barely a mile from the hotel. I'm like... "LA has everything...what a time not to have my camera". We arrive at the Mall and now the action is about to start. The prelim rounds are used to seed the coaches, and give everyone a feel for the game play. I'm the official coin flipper, going to each board to see who will defer or receive the kickoff. The other thing was that I was officially getting a cold. How could this happen? I escaped the chilly weather of Philly to the sunshine of Cali, but here it is I have a runny nose, and a sore throat. Mid way thru the prelims I went into the Mall, they have a sitting area, and that's where I was headed. I was able to catch some Z's and get back some energy. Just as I was waking up the group was headed towards the food court. "Is National out here looking at the women?" I didn't let them know I was knocked out on that couch we just walked by. Now you guys know! The Pavilion has a great choice of eats, and the food court covers every type of food you could think of. Corey orders a Philly cheese steak! You can take him out of Philly, but can't take the Philly out of him.

I'm feeling better, but time moves slower when you are not playing. I even caught the KINGPIN sleeping in his chair. He's an EF junkie that could talk schemes, bases, figures, and boards all day. He invited me to visit his garage, I will be back! The prelims had some great moments as some games were won on the final play. One of the better match ups was a game between Rick G. and Doug S. (the S stands for Shananigans) Rick scored late... went for 2... and got it 8-7. Shananigans then scored on the last play to win it. Rick had 2 defenders with a chance to make the tackle. Vince chastised his pupil saying that you use 1 player to attack the man with the ball, and the other to try and head him off as a safety valve. Rick snapped back that he knows what he's doing, and how would KINGPIN know how the board would run on that play.

The KINGPIN sensed that his understudy is beginning to falter under the bright lights of the event. On the chat board RJ is demanding to know what is going on with Rick, how can he lose? Rick tries to brush it off as just prelims, but I've been around long enough to know when someone is cracking, and that is just what is happening.

## THE BLOW UP

Now the prelim rounds are over and the match ups are being set. Vince must have posted something after this went down, but I never saw it. It must have been some heated words said. I know I got calls, text msgs, and emails from a lot of coaches wanting to know what happened? Well here is what went down.

After being alerted by Doug Shananigans, the Open Run commit-





tee approached Rick about his TTQB. The problem was with how the TTQB was attached to the base. Instead of being flush on the base, Rick had him glued near the back of the base. What this did was allow Rick to throw over any and all defenders. Rick exploded...he didn't want to hear how this was cheating or bending the rules. He felt that he was being singled out again, as he put it; they are always making rules for everything I come up with! Coach after coach tried to explain to him the rules. It was heated. I just watched I looked at KINGPIN; he never attempted to engage the situation. Finally Rick takes the TTQB and snaps him like a twig. I couldn't believe it. I'm like this guy must be nuts, you never destroy your QB or the throwing ball for that matter. I've seen some MF arguments in my time this was not bad. In my opinion, since it wasn't picked up during the prelims, he should have been able to keep him. To make a guy change his TTQB just as the tourney is starting was a tough pill to swallow. I could understand Rick's frustration, but he never should have broken the TTQB! He's really cool guy, but there was just a lot on his plate! RJ doggin' him, Vince proclaiming him the 2nd coming, and the MF community wanting to see if he got game. Take that add his board being voted out and this TTQB fiasco on top of it my man Rick G was between a rock and a hard place!

Now KINGPIN is just about to have his own henchman rubbed out! We had a brief chat outside the room; he said I can teach this game. I can show you how to pass, how to defend. I can make you a tweaker. I can train you how to run schemes, but if you don't have it up here (pointing to his head) it's all for naught. He's not cut from championship cloth was his words. By this time cooler



heads had prevailed and the tourney was off and running. The big dawgs were taking care of business as most of the match ups went to the way of the favorite. The Rick G vs. Doug Shanani-gans game was suppose to be a tight, competitive match up, but Rick couldn't hit a pass to save his life. The game wasn't even close, as the "destroying his TTQB tantrum" came back to bite him in the butt.

Saturday's action is coming to a close as the Open Run gets down to the final 4. Steve and I catch a ride from an Angry Mike Turner to North Hollywood. The whole drive he talks about the bad call that cost him his game. Tonight I'm staying with Steve at his friend's apartment.



Sunday morning we grab some breakfast and we are going to do some walking at Runyon Canyon. Once you get near the top of these hills you can see all of Los Angeles, including the famed Hollywood sign. Everyone out west is into staying fit. This place was packed with people walking their dogs, pushing a stroller, or just jogging, and walking. After we got our workout on it was back to the apartment. I was trying to get back to the mall to watch the final 4 games, but Steve and his buddy (Carlton) didn't want to go. I was getting game updates from several coaches, and passing on the info to the guys who were calling and texting me. I called Mike Turner to come get me, and he did under one condition, I had to promise to buy him some beer!

Mike picks me up and now the fun starts. Instead of getting on the highway, which Mike said was backed up at this time of the day. He takes the scenic route thru Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and very famous Rodeo Drive. Mike had lived out here before moving to Vegas, and it showed, he knew all the short cuts. I saw mansion after mansion. We counted about 6 Bentleys, 3 Rolls Royce, 3 Ferraris, 4 Lamborghinis, and 2 Aston Martins. I saw that hotel from the Beverly Hills Cop movie. We were on Sunset Blvd; I was looking for some movie stars to walk out. Finally we get back to the area of the mall, Mike made sure we found a gas station to get his beer. After that ride I was more than happy to buy some beer. Along the ride Mike had gave me some recaps of the games I had missed. Including the upset of Mike Robertson, that one I couldn't believe. I was also stunned by how easily Celo beat Doug Shanani-gans. When we got back to the room the title game was just under way. Jeff Eby was filming, and had the game live on the internet. Mike R was on the laptop giving play by play. Some how he suckered me into trading places with him, so now I'm stuck at the computer and can't watch the game. The game was very entertaining from beginning to end with both coaches injecting their own brand of comedy and drama into every situation. Coach Perry hung on to win the Open Run championship as the nation watched via the web broadcast.

Now it was time to clean up, and be on our way. I said my good-byes to everyone. I had to thank my man Cleon for everything. This was the 4th night in California and I was staying at a different place....talk about being National! Tonight I'm at Celo's spot





in Simmie Valley, sharing the coach with Doug Shananigans who was still trying to convince us that he saw an INT. There was a great match up on Sunday night football, but we had to watch the Saints vs. Jets game that Celso taped on his DVR. No one was allowed to call out scores from the games because Celso wanted to watch his Saints game without knowing the outcome. Now the whole ride from the mall we had to hear Celso go thru the shoulda, woulda, coulda of his title game loss. He was a li'l bummed out but a good sport about the whole event. I rather hear that than listen to Shananigans talking about how he hopes Vince comes over like he said he was. I thought a kid waiting on X-mas was bad!

By the time we get to Celso's house I'm really feeling the effects of my cold. I was able to fall asleep with Celso screaming at the TV. I did hear Vince come in, but I was too tired to get off the couch to watch him and Michael scrimmage each other. Here's the crazy thing; Michael and Shananigans had a real early flight. I had a later one, but it was too much for Celso to make two runs to the airport so I was going to have to wait around the airport for a few hours. Those two stayed up till three or four am playing with Vince, they



should have never went to sleep. We all had to be up and out by 5:15am for them to catch their flight. Well they over sleep, I can't even take a real shower; I had to take a bird bath and run out to the truck with my tooth brush still in my mouth. I thought I was grouchy in the morning but Celso takes the cake, this dude is just miserable. Michael is the total opposite, he's all bright eyed and bushy tailed. He and Shananigans are talking about staying up all night with the KINGPIN. I'm like you guys are going to miss your flight. Celso is trying to stay positive, but he knows how that Cali traffic is in the mornings. When Michael realized he was in jeopardy of missing the flight, it was like he switched moods with Celso. He didn't say a word for like 15 minutes while Celso came to life, and even cracked a few jokes. To make things worst we get stopped by the guards as you enter the airport for a random search. They want to know what's in all those plastic cases, and tackle boxes. Michael is heated! I'm in the back cracking up, I'm happy because now I might have company as I wait for my flight. We finally get them to their gate, and they jump out, and start running like O.J. thru the airport.

Celso says lets get some breakfast to me, I'm like awesome! We find an I Hop that is only a few minutes from the airport. We're talking about everything from family to work, and some MF. Celso told me that he was a little nervous before his game versus Shananigans. That was until he saw Shananigan out on the balcony, he told Celso to look down. What was down there I asked!? This dude was so nervous that he had vomited. Celso, tell me you are playing with me I demanded. "Once I saw that, my butterflies went away, and I knew I had the game", said Celso. He also told me about how the whole ESPN pilot thing went down, and how he wished I was in it. Man this thing sounds great, and I hope that he can pull it off. I was calling Michael on his cell, but got no answer. I'm thinking they must have made their flight. We are laughing about how angry Michael got when he thought he would miss his flight. He drops me off at my gate, but I know I still have to kill about two or more hours before my flight boards. I'm walking around and who do I see, the Texas duo themselves. I guess you guys missed that flight? Now their flight leaves around the same time as mine. So how do three MF coaches keep themselves busy in an airport? We pull out our TTQB, and have our very own passing skills competition. Of course the National One wins the title. Next we are talking about the tourney, and Michael is saying how he kept shooting himself in the foot in his game versus Perry by not calling out his intended receiver. He said at least three or four times he had guys that probably would have scored, but they were down at the spot. Shananigans is like a big kid, he's asking all kinds of questions. He starts telling a story about something that had happened, and I'm finishing it. How do you know all that? "He's the F.O.T.H., he knows everything" says Michael. Next thing I'm getting challenged by Michael to play games on my iPod Touch. Before we knew it, it was time to board our flights and go home. Michael and Shananigans back to Texas, and Nat'l back to Philly. Before I get in line I head over to Starbucks for a drink to take on the plane. As I'm coming back I run into Queen Latifah walking thru the airport...only in LA!!!!





# The MFCA Salutes the 2009 League & Tournament Champions



## MAJOR TOURNEYS

2009 MIGGLE CHAMP-JIM DAVIS

2009 BUZZFEST-ADRIAN BAXTER

2009 BASH-KELVIN LOMAX

2009 BAMA BLAST 3.3-JOEL PRITCHARD

2009 BAMA BLAST 4.1-BUTCH CARTER

2009 MFCA CPC-KELVIN LOMAX

2009 CBSMF-MIKE ROBERTSON

2009 ERIC & DAVE'S OPEN RUN-PERRY BURKE



## LEAGUE CHAMPS

2008 HHEFL CHAMP-JOE ALLORE

2009 BAM-KEVIN BODDIE

2009 DSEFL COLLEGE-JAMES SHEALEY

2009 DSEFL PRO-CHARLES LANE

2009 DSMFL - ALLEN RIDGILL

2009 NHFL-MIKE GUTTMAN

2009 CEFL-RON MINNI

2009 CTEFL-JOHN WHARTON

2009 CNYEFL-ROBERT SLATE

2009 BELTSVILLE EFL-KELVIN LOMAX

2009 DIXIE EFL-BRIAN REDMOND

2009 DIXIE COLLEGE LEAGUE-BRYAN NUTT

2009 GREAT LAKES EFL-GREG HARDMON

2009 NEFL-KEITH CHALMERS

2009 MOTOR CITY COLLEGE EFL-KEN ALLEN

2009 HARRISBURG COLLEGE-PAUL BARTELS

2009 HARRISBURG PRO-GEORGE DIAMOND

2009 LAEFL-MARCELLO TROILO

2009 MID-OHIO MFL-FRANK JACOBS