



★ ALL-STAR UPDATE ★

Fall 2009 • The Official Newsletter of the Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge • Volume 11, Number 2



A Publication of the Boomer Esiason Foundation

With Gunnar Esiason at Helm, Long Island Controls Game, 31-14 by Kevin Adler

Football coaches often appeal to emotions to carry their team to victory. It would be hard to find an emotional lift that meant more to a team than having Gunnar Esiason as the starting quarterback for the Long Island All-Stars in the 2009 Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge.

Scoring a touchdown on its first possession when Gunnar was at the helm, Long Island was never challenged in a 31-14 victory over the New York City All-Stars. The 14th Annual Empire Challenge was played June 23 in front of more than 8,800 people at Hofstra University's James Shuart Stadium.

New York City got the ball first, and it moved downfield through steady rain. Behind runs by quarterback Jeremy Ramos (Port Richmond), Seamus Kelly (Xavier), and Sean Johnson (Port Richmond), the City team moved deep into Long Island territory in an eight-minute opening drive. But an incomplete pass on fourth down gave Long Island the ball on its own 13.

That's when Gunnar jogged onto the field with his teammates, a decade and a half after he was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. It was the culmination of years of determination to fight CF and to build an athletic career. "It was really an amazing feeling running onto the field with all my gear on," he said. "It's something I won't ever forget."

Once in the huddle, though, things were familiar for Gunnar, who played quarterback for Friends Academy. "The huddle was actually pretty laid back," he said. "Everyone was ready to have a good time and, hopefully, to get a win. No one was thinking about himself—it was about everyone else around them. I tried not to think about myself in the moment, I know that for a fact. I wanted my teammates to enjoy the moment as much as I was."

As Long Island lined up for the play, the New York City defenders walked across the line of scrimmage, and each one shook Gunnar's hand. It was a magical moment—a remarkable display of respect for an opponent who had persevered in ways unimaginable to the others on the field. "I'd never experienced an emotion like that before in my life. It really was amazing," said Gunnar.

Quickly, Gunnar and his Long Island teammates refocused on the game. "My hands were shaking underneath the center. I was thinking to myself, 'Don't fumble, don't fumble,'" said Gunnar.

On first down, Long Island ran a trick play, in which Gunnar pitched out to running back Terrell Williams (Hempstead) for a flea-flicker. Williams' pass fell far short of Rob Bellairs (Plainedge), but the play took the edge off the jitters for everyone. "Once I pitched it, I knew every play after that was going to be a piece of cake," said Gunnar. "I had full confidence in my guys around me to keep me safe."

On second down, Gunnar handed the ball to Williams on a trap. He hit the middle of the line, cut left and then cut right, and outran the New York City defenders for an 87-yard touchdown. "Terrell and I had a miscommunication on the play, when he asked me what side the play was going to while we were at the line," Gunnar said. "I turned my back to carry out the option fake, and I didn't think he would be able to get through the little hole that the trap had set up, but when I looked back I saw he somehow got through, and at that point I knew he was gone and that I better start running to meet him in the end zone."

At that point, Gunnar exited the game—a job well done and a team on a roll.

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A Father's Pride, A Son's Journey by Boomer Esiason

It is difficult to put into words what it meant to me to see Gunnar starting at quarterback for Long Island in the 2009 Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge. Any father, any parent, would be proud to have a son take the field in a football game, but this was more than a game.

Cheryl and I started the Boomer Esiason Foundation when Gunnar was three years old and had been recently diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. It seems like just a few moments ago that the Foundation organized its first all-star football game in 1996. Now, 14 years have passed. Gunnar is a young man who will attend Boston College in the fall. He's been blessed to have achieved so much, and he has his sights set on greater achievements in the future.

The Empire Challenge was inspired by Gunnar, and by my passion for football. I wanted to give back to football and to youth sports, which had been such an important part of my childhood. Little did I know how many people would give back to me, and to my family, and to everyone who suffers from CF.

Gunnar feels the same way. It was clear to me that he felt a responsibility to play in this game. He knew he was stepping into a tough situation and that the spotlight would be on him. But he doesn't run from challenges.

It was funny talking to Gunnar during the two weeks of practices leading up to the Empire Challenge. He had played football at Friends Academy, and he'd been tested during summer practices and during games. But he had never faced the caliber of players who make up the teams at the Empire Challenge. These are true all-stars, and each player was a dominant presence on his own high school team.

One night after practice with the Long Island team, Gunnar said to me, "Dad, these guys can really play football. I mean, they're really, really fast. And they're really big. I had no idea they would be this good."

No kidding. I'd only been saying that to Gunnar for a decade.

Then Gunnar added another comment that meant even more to me. "And Dad, my teammates are some of the best people I've ever met. They are great guys."

By the way, the New York City players are great guys, too. Their defense crossed the line of scrimmage before the first play to shake Gunnar's hand, a gesture of respect I've never before seen at a football game.

And let's not forget that both teams were led by coaches who are full of class, character and passion for football. This event would not be successful if the coaches weren't so dedicated to the Empire Challenge and the kids who play each year.

On behalf of the Boomer Esiason Foundation and my family, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who participates in the Empire Challenge and who supports our fight against cystic fibrosis. Each event is important, but some are more special than others. This was one of those very special occasions.



Boomer Esiason and Gunnar Esiason



(left to right) Sydney Esiason, Boomer Esiason, BEF Board Member Elliot Fleishhacker

What's Next for Gunnar?

Gunnar Esiason, the inspiration for the Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge All-Star Football Game, will attend Boston College in the fall. Gunnar has literally grown up with the Empire Challenge, beginning as a ball boy and locker room assistant and reaching all the way to starting quarterback for Long Island in 2009.

The game capped two weeks of practice that exposed Gunnar to a level of play he'd never experienced. "The first thing I noticed when I went to the first few practices was the talent of the other players," he said. "Coming from such a small school, Friends Academy...I had a tough time adjusting to the speed and ability of both the defensive backs and wideouts."

But, he continued, "the biggest difference I noticed was the ability of the running backs. Both Terrell Williams and Miguel Maysonet ran with such power and speed and that blew my mind."

With an all-star game under his helmet, what's next?

"I am definitely going to play intramural football at BC, and I would like to go out for club hockey or intramural hockey," he said. "My skating coach wants me to try and walk-on to varsity hockey at some point during my time there, and I am really considering it. Maybe my sophomore or junior year."



Gunnar Esiason

Most Valuable Player: Miguel Maysonet

The Timothy M. O'Brien Most Valuable Player Award honors the memory of BEF Founding Board Member Tim O'Brien, who died on 9/11.

The Timothy M. O'Brien Most Valuable Player Award was presented to Miguel Maysonet, a running back for Long Island. The former Riverhead High School star, who also earned MVP honors in his league last year, finished the game with 120 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns. Miguel looked comfortable on the field at Hofstra University's James M. Shuart Stadium – which is convenient, since he will be vying for a spot on the Hofstra squad this fall. Good luck, Miguel.



(left to right) Carl Reuter, Boomer Esiason, Miguel Maysonet, Bobby O'Brien

Player of the Game: Tristan Akong

New York City running back Tristan Akong was voted the Canon Player of the Game. Tristan's 50-yard touchdown run in the third quarter was NYC's first score of the game. In the next series, an 80-yard NYC march down the field, Tristan ran for 26 yards and caught a pass for 27 more. Now that his standout career at St. Francis High School is over, Tristan will be attending University at Albany starting this fall. We wish him the best of luck both on and off the field.



(left to right) Tristan Akong, Carl Reuter, Boomer Esiason

Michael Brennan Spirit Award: Bryan Collins, Director of Athletics, C.W. Post

The Boomer Esiason Foundation named Bryan Collins, Director of Athletics at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, as the recipient of the 2009 Michael Brennan Spirit Award.

"Bryan's work on and off the field exemplify the attributes of Michael Brennan and the award we created in Michael's honor," said Boomer Esiason. The annual Spirit Award honors individuals who show outstanding enthusiasm and support for the cause of cystic fibrosis research and for the game of football.

Collins has been a prominent supporter of the NFL's High School Player Development Program, which provides prep football players with academic counseling and football clinics. Also, a community-service program that Collins started at the university generated more than 3,200 volunteer hours by student-athletes last year for a dozen health and social-service organizations on Long Island and in Queens.

On the job, Collins maintains a busy schedule. In addition to being C.W. Post's athletic director since 2006, Collins has been its head football coach for the past 11 seasons. He has built dominant defensive teams that are consistently nationally ranked among NCAA Division II programs. His overall record at C.W. Post is 84-26, and he has won or shared four Northeast-10 Conference Championships.

Other C.W. Post squads, such as men's and women's lacrosse, also have flourished under his leadership. The men's team won the 2009 NCAA Division II championship, and the women were in the tournament.



(left to right) Bryan Collins, Boomer Esiason, Hugh Brennan (Michael Brennan's father), Tommy Smith

Taking Care of the Players by Kevin Adler

Only a handful of people can say they've been with the Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge since its inception in 1996, but Chris Kalinoglu can make that claim. Thirteen years ago, the Garden City, N.Y., physical therapist was approached by a coach of a local high school football team to volunteer his services at the first Empire Challenge. Kalinoglu accepted, and he's been in the trainer's room ever since.

"When something like this comes calling, you do just do it," said Kalinoglu, who owns Central Sports Care and Rehab in Garden City. "You do it for the kids, as well as for the cause."

This year, Kalinoglu was the head trainer for the New York City All-Stars, but over the years, he's performed just about every aspect of player care for both sides. "We cover all the practices, we keep injury logs on players and make sure they get the support they need," he said.

The trainers also use the Empire Challenge as an opportunity to teach the players. "We give them nutritional instruction, and we talk to them about hydration, because they've probably never played in a game in this level of heat before," he said.

As Empire Challenge has become a more visible and prominent event over the years, Kalinoglu said it has gained increasing respect from the players. "The players really seem to appreciate being selected to play in the game. They recognize it as a great honor," he said.



Fan Fest

Fans of all ages enjoyed FanFest at the James M. Shuart stadium parking lot. FanFest featured Generation Jets Fest, the New York Jets' interactive theme park, which included inflatable rides, giveaways and fun for the whole family. Participants kicked field goals, raced through an obstacle challenge and tested their passing skills.



Outback Steakhouse Tailgate

This pregame party was a great way to kick off the day's football fun. Held at the James M. Shuart Stadium parking lot, Outback Steakhouse provided all the tailgate needs for fans and game supporters. Admission to the game was included with tailgate ticket purchases, and proceeds from the tailgate supported the Empire Challenge's fundraising efforts. Remember to purchase your tailgate ticket next year!



Long Island Controls Game (continued from page 1)

Dynamic Duo of Running Backs

Prior to the game, Long Island Coach Russ Cellan predicted that his tandem of star running backs would play well. His prediction was dead-on, as Williams finished with 126 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Miguel Maysonet (Riverhead) had a very similar evening, with 120 on 17 carries and two touchdowns.

“They were the most valuable players of their leagues last year, and you could see why,” said Cellan.

Of course, New York City had star power to match. That’s why Cellan said he emphasized to the team that they “needed to do the little things, like finishing their blocks and finishing their runs.”

New York City Head Coach Lou Vesce predicted his defense would be fast and aggressive. He singled out defensive tackle Caraun Reid (Mount St. Michael), line-backer Ozzie Garcia (Kennedy), and defensive back Stephen Obeng-Agyapong as big hitters who would have an impact.



With Long Island ahead 6-0 after the long TD, its defense forced New York City to punt, and Long Island got the ball back on its own 48. Maysonet got his first carry of the game and gained 12 yards, but then New York City’s defensive line, led by Omar Rivera (Kennedy) and Jasper Kelly (Grady), stuffed the running game.

The teams exchanged punts for most of the second quarter, with Obeng-Agyapong, Reid, and Garcia making stops on three consecutive plays to end one Long Island threat. However, Long Island steadily gained a field-position advantage, especially after a quick-kick by Long Island QB Dillon Boos (Sayville) rolled to the NYC 11.

On New York City’s first play after the quick-kick, Naykwan Johnson (Curtis) fumbled the wet ball, and it was recovered by Long Island defensive lineman Steven Medard (Amityville). Medard and fellow linemen Andrew Smith (Riverhead) and Malcolm Eugene (John Glenn) had been singled out before the game by defensive coach Rick Punzone as “the strongest part of our defense.”

Set up deep in New York City territory, Long Island went back to Williams and Maysonet on the ground. Maysonet scored from 19 yards out on another run up the middle, and it was 13-0 after the extra point.

At this point, Williams had 106 yards rushing, and Maysonet had 45. In contrast, New York City had a total of 89 yards.

Unfortunately, New York City immediately dug a deeper hole. On the first play after the kickoff, Johnson fumbled again, and Medard recovered the fumble again. This time, Long Island took over on the NYC 27-yard line. Another touchdown, and the game probably would have become a rout.

But NYC’s defense rose to the challenge. Williams gained only two yards on first down, and then a penalty negated a completion by Boos to Joe Botti (Sachem East) that would have put the ball on the 2-yard line. Two plays later, Long Island’s kicker Nick Ferrara missed a long field goal.

With less than three minutes left in the half but down by two scores, NYC tried to generate momentum. But quarterback Najee Tyler (Xaverian) could not hook up with Zamel Johnson (Port Richmond) on fourth down, and NYC gave up the ball in its own 32 yard line with less than a minute to play.

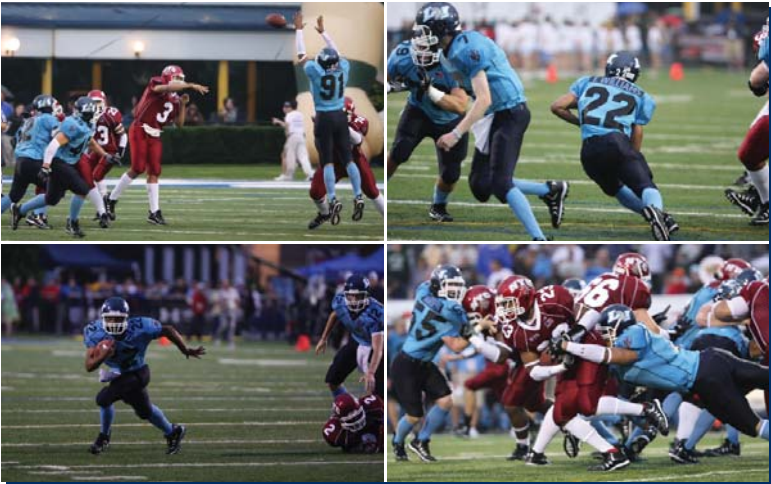
Again, Long Island took advantage. QB Rob VonBargen (Massapequa) ran for a crucial first down that moved the ball to the NYC 18-yard line, where Ferrara kicked a field goal to give Long Island a 16-0 halftime lead.

(continued on page 5)

2009 Stats

Team Statistics	LI	NYC
First Downs	14	11
Rushing Yards (Net)	259	208
Passing Yards (Net)	62	41
Total Offense	321	249
Passes Att-Comp-Int	14-8-1	18-4-1
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-27	3-34
Punt Returns-Yards	3-33	1-15
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-11	7-108
Interception Returns-Yards	1-66	1-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	8-75	4-24
Third Down Conversions	2 of 8	4 of 12
Fourth Down Conversions	1 of 1	1 of 5
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-5	1-2
Possession Time	29:04	30:56

Scoring	LI	NYC
1st Quarter	6	0
2nd Quarter	10	0
3rd Quarter	8	8
4th Quarter	7	6
Final Score	31	14



Long Island Controls Game (continued from page 4)

NYC's Second-Half Comeback

Things got worse for NYC to start the second, before the team then made a strong comeback.

NYC had possession first, but QB Dam Djukanovic (Bayside) could not complete throws to Torian Phillips (Port Richmond) or Jon Achab-Syms (Campus Magnet), and again Long Island took over in NYC territory. For the game, NYC quarterbacks completed only 4 of 18 passes for 41 yards, a testament to a great Long Island pass rush as well as difficult conditions on the field.

Starting from the New York City 43, Boos sealed the deal on a nine-play drive with a great fake handoff to Maysonet and a two-yard touchdown pass to tight end Stephen Murphy (William Floyd). On the extra point, Craig Geoghan (Sachem North) handled a bad snap, ran to his right, and hit Jimmy Gordon (Patchogue-Medford) with a pass in the back of the end zone. It was 24-0, and it looked like the game would rival Long Island's 44-7 blowout win in 2005.



But New York City didn't quit. Finally, the team got a big play to go in its favor, when running back Tristan Akong (St. Francis) raced around the right side for a 50-yard touchdown, and a Jeremy Ramos (Port Richmond) two-point conversion made the score 24-8.

Under Empire Challenge rules, NYC received the kickoff after its score. Again, Akong carried the load, on his way to earning the honor as New York City's Player of the Game. On a drive of 11 plays that covered 80 yards, Akong ran for 26 yards and caught a pass from Tyler for 27 yards more. When Tyler ran the ball in for the touchdown on a quarterback sneak, the score was 24-14, and seven minutes remained in the game.

During the touchdown drive, Tyler started to look like the star quarterback who will be joining Purdue University's football team in the fall. There was a sense that if Tyler's receivers could hold onto his throws—after several drops in the first half—New York City could make a run at victory.

But Long Island never gave him the chance. Long Island kept pounding Williams and Maysonet, using up time as it moved downfield. Long Island reached the New York City 15-yard line, where an interception by Ted Clohessy (St. Joseph's) temporarily staved off disaster for NYC. But Long Island forced a punt, and it took over in NYC territory again. More runs by Williams and Maysonet ate up the clock, before Ferrara missed another field goal with just over two minutes remaining.

But again, Long Island just shut down New York City. Tyler took over at his 20-yard line and rushed for a first down. But then he threw four straight incompletions to Zamel Johnson, Connor Brown (Fordham Prep), Levon Williams (Fort Hamilton), and Johnson again. Long Island took over on the NYC 30, and Maysonet ran it in two plays later to make the final score 31-14. That second touchdown earned Maysonet the Most Valuable Player designation for Long Island.

With the ball back for one last drive, Tyler was intercepted by Richard Volini (St. Francis). Fittingly, that turnover enabled Gunnar to return to the field to kneel down for the final play of the game.

Empire Challenge History

Year	Score	Winner
2009	31 - 14	Long Island
2008	21 - 20	New York City
2007	35 - 27	New York City
2006	20 - 19	Long Island
2005	44 - 7	Long Island
2004	10 - 7 (OT)	New York City
2003	7 - 6	Long Island
2002	21 - 14	Long Island
2001	17 - 10	New York City
2000	23 - 18	Long Island
1999	13 - 12	New York City
1998	28 - 14	Long Island



Long Island Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College
43	Barbuto, Nick	Running Back	5'7"	170	Seaford	SUNY Maritime
80	Bellairs, Robert	Wide Receiver	6'0"	170	Plainedge	Hofstra
13	Boos, Dillon	Quarterback	6'1"	200	Sayville	Bentley
1	Botti, Joe	Wide Receiver	6'3"	175	Sachem East	C.W. Post
24	Braun, Rob	Wide Receiver	5'10"	150	Carey	Nassau Community
78	Capodiferno, Craig	Offensive Guard	6'6"	285	Locust Valley	Colgate
65	Costea, Christopher	Defensive Tackle	6'5"	275	West Islip	Albany
95	DeNovellis, Joe	Defensive Tackle	6'4"	280	North Shore	Rutgers
81	Derham, Ryan	Wide Receiver	6'2"	185	Lindenhurst	C.W. Post
3	Donovan, Brian	Wide Receiver	6'3"	170	Half Hollow Hills West	Albany
92	Dooley, Christopher	Defensive End	6'2"	240	Chaminade	Yale
54	Doyle, Joe	Offensive Tackle	6'3"	260	Baldwin	Cortland
7	Esiason, Gunnar	Quarterback	6'3"	160	Friends Academy	Boston College
5	Eugene, Malcolm	Defensive End	6'4"	190	John Glenn	Undecided
16	Ferrara, Nick	Kicker	6'1"	200	St. Anthony's	Maryland
91	Fields, Jahi	Defensive End	6'3"	200	Hempstead	Albany
82	Gelling, Kyle	Cornerback	6'3"	195	West Islip	George Washington
2	Geoghan, Craig	Free Safety	6'0"	185	Sachem North	Nassau Community
11	Gilliam, Tyler	Outside Linebacker	5'8"	185	Riverhead	Alfred
17	Glueckert, Kevin	Strong Safety	5'10"	190	Bethpage	Morrisville
9	Gordon, Jimmy	Tight End	6'4"	245	Patchogue-Medford	Buffalo
55	Jansen, John	Middle Linebacker	6'1"	210	Wantagh	Cortland
75	LaGue, Jonathan	Offensive Guard	6'5"	330	Riverhead	West Virginia
58	Lasher, Pat	Outside Linebacker	6'2"	215	Seaford	SUNY Maritime
49	Leggiero, Jeremy	Middle Linebacker	6'0"	225	Connetquot	Undecided
76	Lindley, Thomas	Offensive Guard	6'3"	300	William Floyd	Michigan
74	Lindner, Guy	Offensive Tackle	6'4"	310	St. John the Baptist	Dean
14	Mayers, Justin	Cornerback	6'0"	185	Elmont	Nassau Community
21	Maysonet, Miguel	Running Back	5'10"	190	Riverhead	Hofstra
77	McBride, Matt	Offensive Tackle	6'6"	280	Holy Trinity	Hofstra
53	McVea, Maalik	Outside Linebacker	6'0"	195	Freeport	Hofstra
23	Medard, Steven	Defensive Tackle	6'4"	260	Amityville	Hofstra
37	Mercurio, Nick	Wide Receiver	6'1"	175	St. Anthony's	Holy Cross
26	Metalios, Matthew	Cornerback	6'0"	185	St. Anthony's	Trinity
25	Magee, Vaughn	Cornerback	5'9"	170	William Floyd	Southern Connecticut
4	Murphy, Steven	Tight End	6'2"	200	William Floyd	Notre Dame
28	Myers, James	Wide Receiver	5'9"	165	Elmont	Nassau Community
79	Real, Jonathan	Center	6'2"	280	Half Hollow Hills West	Sacred Heart
40	Sarra, Gregg	Outside Linebacker	5'10"	180	Connetquot	Hofstra
45	Schweitzer, Bryan	Outside Linebacker	6'0"	190	Babylon	Sacred Heart
50	Smith, John	Center	5'11"	215	Connetquot	Florida Atlantic
31	Smith, Andrew	Defensive End	6'3"	235	Riverhead	Hofstra
6	Sternbach, Jonathan	Strong Safety	6'0"	185	Connetquot	Hofstra
62	Swierkowski, Robert	Defensive Tackle	6'1"	230	Bethpage	Gettysburg
73	Tian, Cong	Offensive Guard	6'3"	300	Sachem North	Williams
20	Tillman, Randy	Free Safety	6'1"	180	Harborfields	Wagner
44	Vespier, Joseph	Outside Linebacker	6'0"	205	Lindenhurst	Nassau Community
12	VonBargen, Rob	Quarterback	6'7"	225	Massapequa	Cortland
61	Williams, Chris	Offensive Tackle	6'2"	265	Syosset	C.W. Post
22	Williams, Terrell	Running Back	5'10"	190	Hempstead	Undecided



New York City Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College
17	Achab-Syms, Jon	Wide Receiver	6'1"	195	Campus Magnet	C.W. Post
23	Akong, Tristan	Running Back	6'0"	185	St. Francis	Albany
49	Andrews, Jared	Defensive End	6'4"	240	Sheepshead Bay	Garden City Community
99	Argast, Charles	Defensive End	6'3"	250	Fordham Prep	Undecided
59	Beaubrun, Danilo	Offensive Guard	5'9"	245	Canarsie	Kingsborough Community
11	Bowen, Joel	Strong Safety	6'0"	200	Sheepshead Bay	Garden City Community
57	Bridges, Omari	Offensive Guard	6'2"	210	John F. Kennedy	Erie Community
21	Brown, Connor	Kicker	6'1"	175	Fordham Prep	Colgate
79	Celestin, Phede	Offensive Tackle	6'5"	280	Canarsie	Marist
18	Clohesy, Ted	Outside Linebacker	5'11"	185	St. Joseph's	Wagner
25	Coon, Terrence	Strong Safety	6'0"	185	Holy Cross	Undecided
4	Djukanovic, Damir	Quarterback	6'4"	230	Bayside	Alcorn State
74	Douglas, Kevin	Offensive Tackle	6'4"	330	John F. Kennedy	Undecided
54	Dugard, Frederick Ray	Defensive Tackle	5'11"	235	St. Francis	Missouri
55	Fredrickson, David	Offensive Tackle	6'3"	280	Poly Prep	Hofstra
56	Garcia, Ozzie	Middle Linebacker	5'11"	215	John F. Kennedy	Undecided
44	Gurbuz, Onur	Wide Receiver	5'9"	175	Bayside	Undecided
26	Hamm, Kobie	Cornerback	6'0"	175	Wagner	Rochester
75	Hill, Winston	Offensive Guard	6'3"	335	Bishop Ford	Hargrave Military Academy
8	Johnson, Naykwan	Running Back	6'0"	185	Curtis	Undecided
1	Johnson, Zamel	Wide Receiver	6'0"	175	Port Richmond	Hofstra
47	Johnson, Sean	Tight End	6'2"	200	Port Richmond	C.W. Post
27	Joseph, Robert	Tight End/Fullback	6'1"	225	Poly Prep	Rutgers
40	Kelly, Seamus	Running Back	5'11"	195	Xavier	California Berkley
9	Kelly, Jasper	Outside Linebacker	5'11"	205	Grady	Undecided
51	Lociano, Thomas	Offensive Guard	6'3"	325	New Dorp	Morrisville
73	McGriff, Antoine	Defensive Tackle	6'3"	270	Port Richmond	Nassau Community
77	Melfi, John	Defensive End	5'11"	265	St. Peter's	FDU
28	Mistretta, Gerald	Wide Receiver	6'0"	200	Xaverian	Holy Cross
7	Obeng-Agyapong, Stephen	Free Safety	6'0"	185	John F. Kennedy	Penn State
16	Ostermeyer, Ethan	Outside Linebacker	6'0"	225	Xaverian	Sacred Heart
6	Phillips, Torian	Wide Receiver	5'10"	175	Port Richmond	Syracuse
5	Price, Taurel	Free Safety	6'0"	170	Fort Hamilton	Undecided
2	Quarless, Travis	Tight End	6'1"	210	Holy Cross	Undecided
12	Ramos, Jeremy	Quarterback	5'9"	185	Port Richmond	Undecided
92	Reid, Carau	Defensive Tackle	6'2"	265	Mount St. Michael	Princeton
43	Rivera, Omar	Defensive End	6'3"	200	John F. Kennedy	Undecided
30	Robinson, Gardner	Outside Linebacker	6'0"	190	Fort Hamilton	American Internatinal
65	Simpson, Leston	Defensive End	6'4"	215	Campus Magnet	Southern Connecticut
52	Smith, Eric	Middle Linebacker	5'11"	220	Canarsie	Undecided
14	Taylor, Tyheen	Cornerback	5'10"	185	John F. Kennedy	Undecided
24	Tongue, Tariq	Wide Receiver	5'9"	170	Holy Cross	Penn State
3	Tyler, Najee	Quarterback	6'6"	230	Xaverian	Purdue
58	Ukeje, Collin	Center	6'2"	285	Port Richmond	American Internatinal
66	Vogel, Mauritis	Offensive Guard	6'4"	285	Christ The King	C.W. Post
53	Volini, Richard	Defensive Tackle	5'11"	230	St. Francis	Pace
78	Wells, Sheldon	Center	6'5"	365	Canarsie	Wagner
20	Williams, Carl	Cornerback	5'10"	165	Boys and Girls	Undecided
10	Williams, Levon	Wide Receiver	6'3"	205	Fort Hamilton	Undecided
22	Wilson, Tramaine	Cornerback	5'10"	180	Tottenville	Albany



Ultimate Athlete Magazine Adds Excitement to Event

by Kevin Adler

Ultimate Athlete magazine made a huge splash at the 14th Annual Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge and became the latest high-profile organization to support the Boomer Esiason Foundation.

The glossy game program produced by *Ultimate Athlete* editors gave visitors an inside look at the Empire Challenge and the work of the Foundation. The smart design and high-energy graphics showed why *Ultimate Athlete* is essential reading for everyone interested in high school sports in the New York metro area.

"We're all about the next generation of athlete," said Publisher/CEO Paul Corace. "We want to encourage and empower them, whether they are playing football or basketball, or an extreme sport."

In addition to the program, *Ultimate Athlete* brought the fan-friendly Sports Expo to this year's Empire Challenge. At the Sports Expo, fans visited more than a dozen display booths to check out the latest in sports gear and clothing, talk with physical therapists and trainers, and find out about training facilities and sports programs in the area.

"I'm all about adding to the fans' experience at the Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge, and the Sports Expo was a great addition. *Ultimate Athlete* did an excellent job of pulling it together for us," said Boomer Esiason.

Corace said he was extremely pleased with the enthusiasm Empire Challenge visitors showed toward his publication and the Sports Expo. "It's been a great experience for us," he said.

Ultimate Athlete sees immense opportunities to expand its impact on youth sports in the area, said Executive Editor N.J. Comanzo. "There are great stories out there about what kids are doing, and we're out there telling them. When a kid is on the cover of the magazine, there's so much excitement, not only for the athlete, but for his or her entire school," he said.

For more information about *Ultimate Athlete*, go to www.ultimateathletemagazine.com.



Game DVDs

The Boomer Esiason Foundation is selling DVD copies of the Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge broadcasts that have aired on the Madison Square Garden Network. If you would like to purchase a copy, please send a check for \$25 made payable to "Empire Challenge, Inc." to:



Boomer Esiason Foundation
200B Armstrong Road
Garden City Park, NY 11040

IMPORTANT: Please write on the envelope and check "Empire Challenge DVD Request" and include your name, phone number and a return address for delivery.



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Credits

All-Star Update

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Art Director: Neil Rieger
Photography: Lou Desiderio, Jeffrey Holmes

Outback Steakhouse Empire Challenge

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Game Chairman: Peter Blieberg
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**Mark your calendar
for the
2010 Empire Challenge
June 22, 2010**



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