

LARGEST SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMIT HELD AT GILLETTE STADIUM

More than 1,000 student athletes, coaches, athletic directors, principals and others participated in the 13th Annual Sportsmanship Summit held at Gillette Stadium on Tuesday.

The large crowd that filled the Fidelity Investments Clubhouse to capacity heard an inspiring array of speeches, participated in workshops and passed out awards and honors to schools and individuals recognized for outstanding contributions to sportsmanship in high school athletics and community service.

The exciting day started with a rousing rendition of our National Anthem by the legendary Rene Rancourt of the Boston Bruins.

Among the many highlights from the program that followed are these:.

- ! The reading of the winning essays on the subject of *What is My Role in Sportsmanship* by the three contest finalists, Charles Toomajian of Drury H.S. (Third place); Tim LeClair of St. Joseph Central H.S. (second place) and Gregory Baker of Minnechaug Regional H.S. (first place). The introductions by their athletic directors illustrated that these three young people epitomized the concept of a student athlete excelling in school work, community service and sports.

A panel discussion on the topic led by Sportscaster Wayne Soares as Moderator, included Jay Heaps of the New England Revolution, former Olympic rower Amy Baltzell of Boston University's School of Education, Peter Roby, a former collegiate basketball coach from the Center for Sport in Society at Northeastern, and Paul Stewart, former NHL player and referee from the Boston Bruins Foundation.

- ! "Treasure these years as a high school athlete, you will make friends for a lifetime" was the advice of Doug Flutie, former Natick H.S. and Boston College star, who played 18 years in the National and Canadian Football Leagues. Flutie was the recipient of this year's Ron Burton Community Service Award recognizing his many years of commitment and service to local charities including the Doug Flutie Jr. Autism Foundation. Steve Burton, sports anchor of

CBS4 TV, presented the Ron Burton Community Service Award, which is named after his father.

- ! William Reader, Commissioner of the Colorado High School Activities Association and current President of the National Federation of State High School Associations, congratulated the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee for once again producing a terrific event that is not duplicated anywhere else in the country. Citing a list of sportsmanship principles developed by the Colorado association he urged the students to live them on and off the field.
- ! The crowd gave an enthusiastic, standing ovation to Robert Kraft, CEO of the New England Patriots, who was hosting the Summit for the second year. Mr. Kraft pointed out the importance of being part of a team and subjugating individual egos for the success of the team. "It's amazing what can happen if no one cares who gets the credit," he said
- ! MIAA President Dr. Eileen Erwin, Principal of Danvers High School, and MSSADA President Buddy Carlson, Athletic Director of Wareham High School, presented District Sportsmanship Awards to Lowell H.S., Reading Memorial H. S., Dover-Sherborn H. S., Bourne H. S., Blackstone-Millville Regional H. S., Hampshire Regional H.S., Lenox Memorial H.S., and Boston College H.S.
- ! The day concluded with a panel discussion focusing on AThe New England Patriots' Commitment to the Community® presented by Andre Tippett, New England Patriots' Director of Player Development.

Reebok Corporation and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation were the principal sponsors of the Summit.