



MIKE RHOADES  
HOF CATEGORY OFFICIAL

Mike's football career highlights.

Mike Rhoades came to El Paso from Kansas. He was an all district football player and an honorable mention all state fullback and middle linebacker. He was recruited to UTEP by Bobby Dobbs (HOF 1977) to play football. He played in the 1967 Sun bowl game against Ole Miss with the UTEP Miners beating Ole Miss 14 -7 with Billy Stevens and Fred Carr on that team. That is the last time UTEP won a bowl game.

In 1973, Mike joined the El Paso football officials association and worked numerous district playoff games, regional playoff games and a 1975 state championship game. In 1978 he started working small college games. A notable game was an NAIA quarterfinal championship game between Liberty College and Sul Ross. The Back judge in that game was Phil Luckett (HOF 1998) who later went on to the NFL and has worked numerous Super Bowls.

Mike began his D1 football career in 1982 (recruited by Ben Collins (HOF 1970) after serving only nine years of high school/small college work. He had 2 game each debuts in the Southwest Conference and in the Western Athletic Conference. In 1983 he received a full schedule from John Adams in the WAC. John Adams was the rules guru for the NCAA Football Rulebook.. Mike's college supervisors included John Adams, Mike Pereira (former NFL official, former NFL supervisor of officials, and now Fox football analyst on rules), Bill Leavy (NFL Referee who also refereed a Super Bowl) and Jim Blackwood. Mike also worked games with Dotson Lewis (HOF 1999).

Mike's 35 year football career of which 25 years was in D1 college football included working 18 postseason assignments with the following notable postseason bowl games which are all based upon individual merit:

- Cotton bowl
- Outback bowl
- Alamo bowl
- Hula bowl
- Music city bowl
- Independence bowl
- 3 Sun bowl assignments

Mike was also the umpire in the Dallas Cowboys pre-season games held at the Sun Bowl in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Mike also worked alongside many officials who went on to have successful careers in the NFL which he helped mentor to include Phil Luckett (HOF 1998), Mike Pereira, Ed Hochuli, Shawn Hochuli, John Hussey, Greg Meyer, Gary Cavaletto, Keith Ferguson, Garth DeFelice, Mark Perelman, Jeff, Lambert, Bill Vinovich, and John Robinson. Mike also introduced me to Mike

Pereira, who wound up hiring me initially into the WAC. Mike also worked games with fellow HOF members Jack McGrath, Perry Huddleston, Bob Geske, Bernie del Heirro, Dow Farley, Bill Scott, Robert Hemphill, Jr., and Victor Firth.

Mike has also worked for many Hall of Fame Coaches to include;

Lou Saben Alabama  
Lou Holz Notre Dame and South Carolina  
Bob Osborn Nebraska  
Joe Paterno Penn State  
LaVelle Edwards BYU

Mike was always a frequent speaker at football clinics. He provided written materials dealing with mechanics of working the umpire position and he published the Umpire Keys Handbook.

Mike has been married to Carol for 33 years with four children and two grandchildren. In 2003 Mike retired from ABF freight after 25 years in management and moved to San Marcos, Texas.

Since retiring, Mike has become extensively involved in the San Marcos Lions Club. He is a past President, their treasurer for nine years, Executive Director of the San Marcos' Lions Club Tube Rental for nine years, was voted Lion of the Year in 2006 and received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, which is the highest award in Lionism. In 2025 the Mike Rhoades Scholarship was founded.. It was only the fourth time in the Club's 80 year history that an award was founded in an individual's name. The Scholarship will be awarded annually to a high school senior beginning in 2026.

Finally in 2011 Mike was ordained as a Deacon at the first Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas

**I asked Mike if he had ever been nominated before and he told me Don O'Neill (past president of the HOF in 1975 and inductee in 1990 as an official) had started the process as they were contemporaries in the WAC, but Don had some medical setbacks and did not get around to doing it. This induction of Mike is therefore long overdue.**



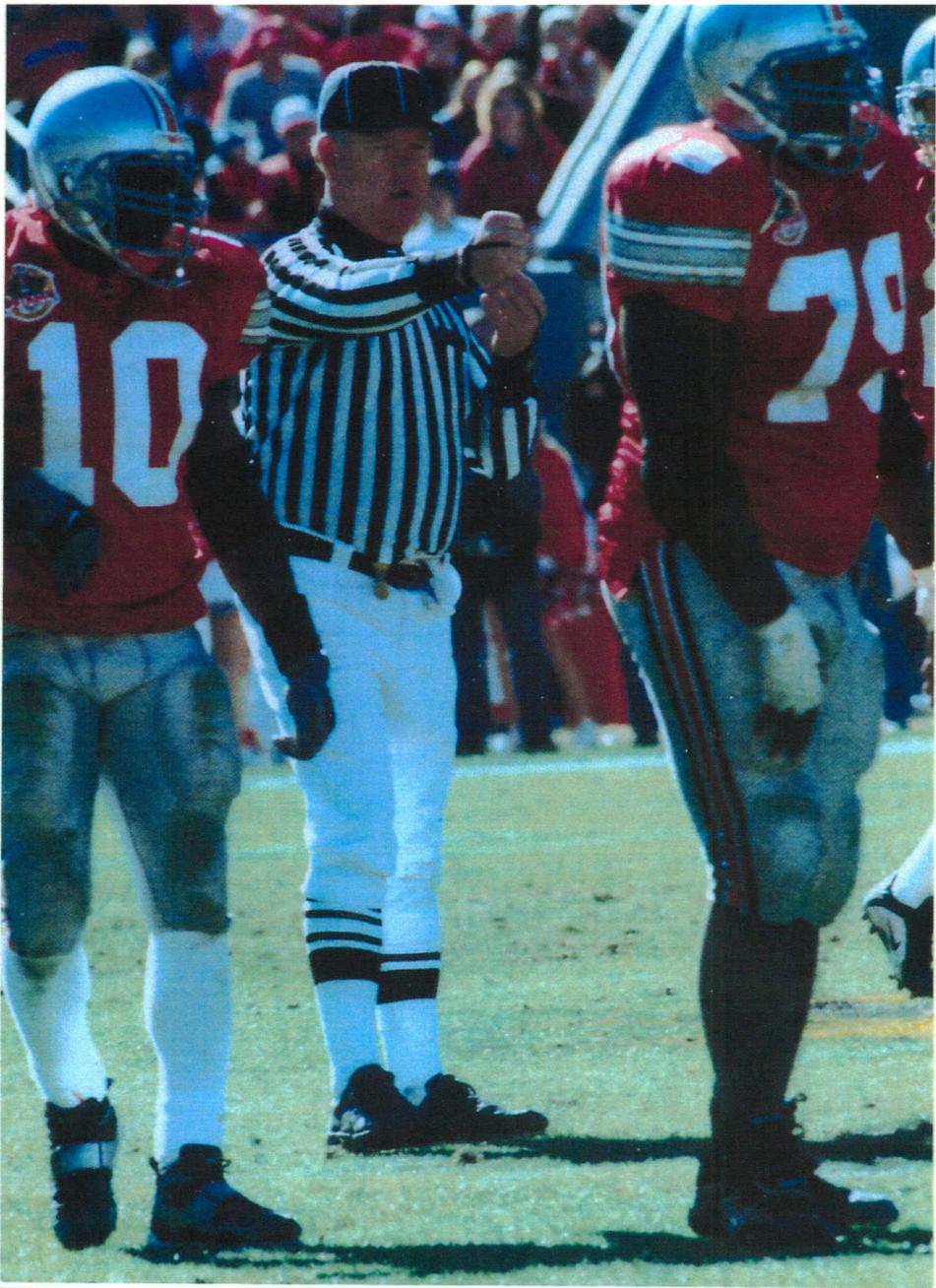




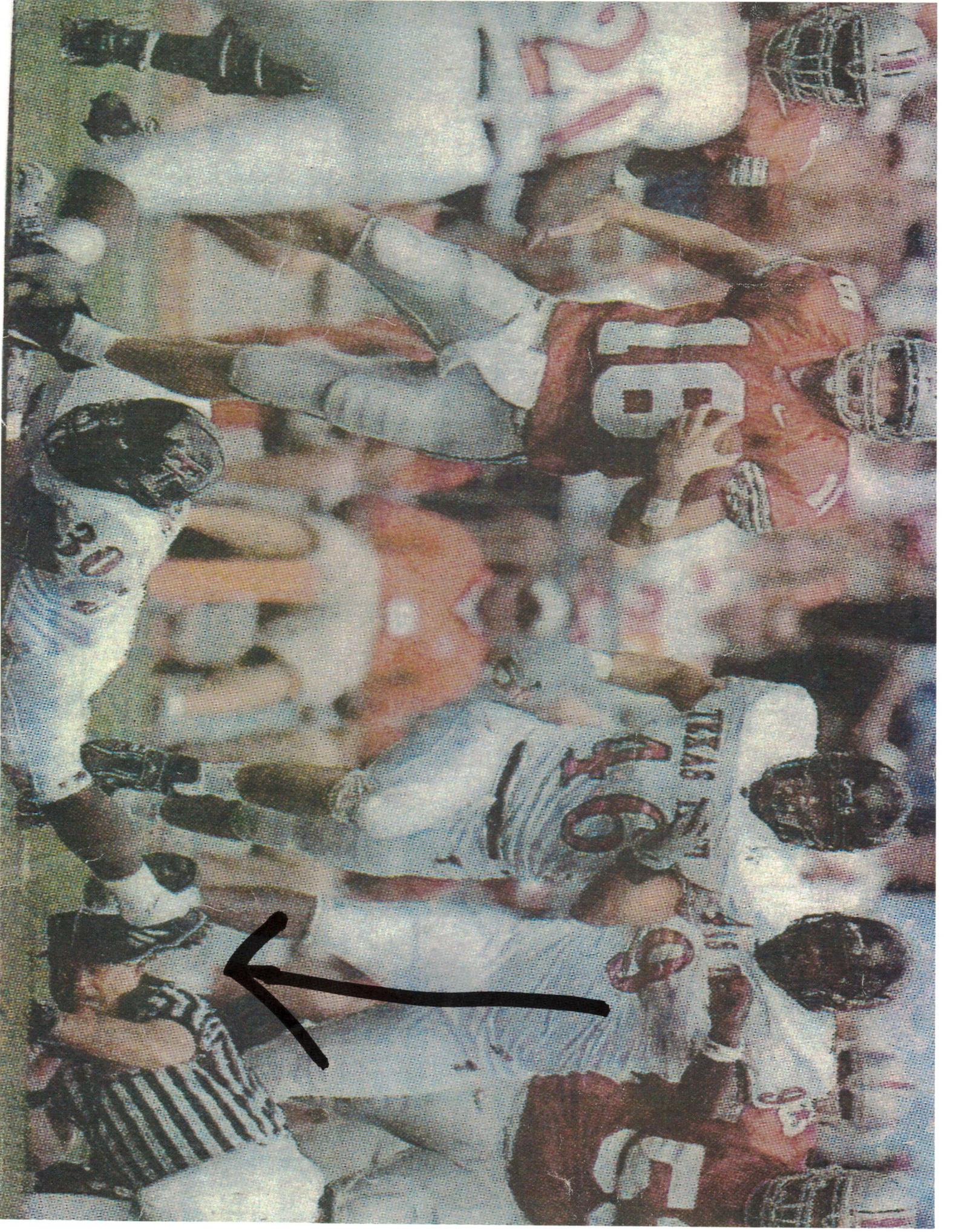


SUN BOWL









# P ROCLAMATION

## Mike Rhoades Scholarship

WHEREAS Lions Clubs International has long been committed to empowering communities and supporting youth through education and service.

WHEREAS the San Marcos Lions Club recognizes the critical importance of accessible and equitable educational opportunities for all tube rental students.

WHEREAS, the Mike Rhoades Scholarship has been created to support tube rental students who demonstrate academic promise, leadership, service to their community, and financial need.

WHEREAS this scholarship reflects the core values of the Lions—service, compassion, and commitment to a brighter future—and seeks to invest in the next generation of leaders.

WHEREAS the Mike Rhoades Scholarship will be awarded annually to deserving tube rental students who embody the spirit of community engagement and service.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the San Marcos Lions Club, do hereby proclaim the establishment of the Mike Rhoades Scholarship, to be awarded beginning 2026, and commend this initiative as a beacon of hope, opportunity, and positive change.

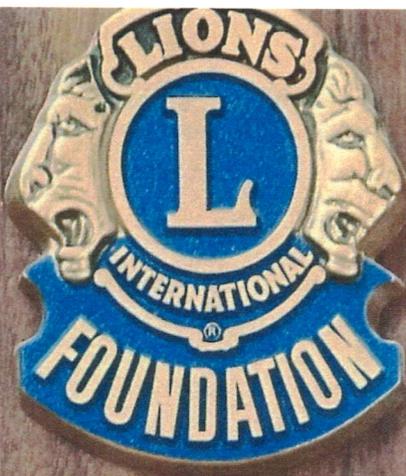
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express deep gratitude to all partners, donors, and community members who have contributed to making this scholarship possible and affirm our continued support for educational advancement in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and cause the official seal of the San Marcos Lions Club to be affixed this June 24, 2025.

Signed,

  
Corey Wheeler  
San Marcos Lions Club  
President





# MELVIN JONES FELLOW

PRESENTED TO

MIKE RHOADES

FOR DEDICATED HUMANITARIAN SERVICES  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

EBERHARD J. WIRFS  
PRESIDENT 2009-10  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

AL BRANDEL  
CHAIRPERSON 2009-10  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION





LION OF THE YEAR  
AWARD

MIKE RHOADES

SAN MARCOS

2006 - 2007