

March 10, 2014

ECAC Announces Gazaille, Patry and Rutkowski as 2014 Red Hill Award Winners

CENTERVILLE, Mass. – The Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has announced that Mark Gazaille of the Western New England Chapter, Ron Patry of the Connecticut Chapter, and Rich Rutkowski of the Metro New York Chapter have been selected as the recipients of the Red Hill Awards for football officiating, presented by the ECAC. The Red Hill Awards will be presented on Thursday, March 27 at the Annual Eastern College Football Awards Banquet, which will be held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Red Hill Award is named for the former ECAC football official of 29 years. Hill served as the Director of the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Football Officials (EAIFO) Boston Chapter for a dozen years. He served as vice president and president of the EAIFO, and was responsible for instituting many of the EAIFO policies. Over his career, Hill made numerous contributions to the EAIFO and collegiate football officiating in general. The award has been presented since 1999, and only 37 officials have been selected as the recipients.

Gazaille began his career officiating high school football in Berkshire County in 1983 as a Head Linesman. In 1992, he was elected president of the Berkshire County Football Officials. Gazaille joined the ECAC Western Massachusetts Chapter in 1994, officiating various Division II and III games as a Head Linesman. He has officiated seven ECAC Postseason Bowl games, five Williams-Amherst games, the 2009 NCAA Quarter Final at Mount Union College and the 2013 NCAA first round game at Hobart College. Gazaille was president of Western New England Chapter in 2003, and became one of its directors in 2013. He currently remains active officiating ECAC and Berkshire County Football, while also serving as a mentor.

Patry joined the Central Connecticut Association of Football Officials in 1982 and began working varsity assignments as a line judge in a four-man crew in 1984. He was instrumental in implementing five-man mechanics in 1990, effectively changing to the back judge position. In 1990, Patry joined the ECAC as a back judge in a five-man crew for Division II and Division III Football. After switching to a seven-man crew in 2000, Patry has worked every position with the exception of umpire. He has worked four ECAC Postseason Bowl games and three NCAA Postseason games.

Rutkowski began officiating football at the high school level in 1995. He has been associated with the same high school crew for the last 18 years, and began his collegiate officiating career in 2005. Rutkowski has worked his entire nine-year collegiate tenure with Bill Ward and the ECAC and has also worked as a supplemental official in the Eastern Collegiate Football Officials Association in 2007 and 2008. In his nine years with the ECAC, Rutkowski has worked an NCAA Division III first round game in 2007, a Division III Quarterfinal in 2009 and another Division III first round game in 2013. This past season, he worked his final collegiate game - the Division III semifinal game at Mount Union in Ohio. He has also worked two ECAC Southeastern Bowl championship games, in 2010 and 2012.

To register for the Annual Eastern College Football Awards Banquet, [click here](#).

