

ECAC Announces Lannon, Levine and Viola as 2015 Red Hill Award Winners

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DANBURY, Conn. – The Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has announced Bill Lannon of the Boston Chapter, Tom Viola of the Connecticut Chapter and Steve Levine from the Metro Chapter as this year's recipients of the Red Hill Awards for football officiating. The 2015 Red Hill Award winners will be honored at the Annual Eastern College Football Awards Banquet, which will be held on February 19th 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 40 officials have been selected as the recipients.



Lannon, a member of the Association of New England Football Officials (ANEFO) for the last 34 years, began his officiating career in 1973. In 1990, Lannon also became a member of the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Football Officials, Boston Chapter (EAIFO). An avid member of both the ANEFO and the EAIFO, Lannon has spent his time as a Lecturer and Clinic Supervisor in both organizations, as well as a member of the Executive Board of the ANEFO. Over his career, Lannon has won numerous individual accolades, including the EAIFO Boston Chapter Brian Sullivan Award and the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston William Stewart Award. He has also worked numerous High School Super Bowl games from Division I to Division 5 levels, along with five ECAC Bowl games.

Over his career, Viola has made a name for himself as an umpire that brings great leadership and controls the middle of the gridiron. He has worked 10 NCAA Playoff Games in both the Division II and Division III ranks, including the 2008 Division II National Championship game featuring the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Northwest Missouri State. He has also been on the crew for three ECAC Bowl Games. In 2010, Viola was named the president of the EAIFO, Connecticut Chapter and has since established himself as a guide and mentor to new officials. He has participated in the chapter's mentoring program and has assisted in its New Candidates Classes. In addition, Viola has helped coordinate the yearly ECAC Clinic at Fairfield University each July.

Levine, who also began his career in 1973, has been a mainstay in football officiating in the New York City area and beyond. Serving most of his career as a line judge, Levine joined the New York City Public Schools Athletic League (NYC PSAL) in 1973 and has earned numerous playoff assignments throughout his career, including five city championship games. In addition to being named President of the NYC PSAL in 1982, Levine also has spent some time officiating semi-professional football as a member of the Metropolitan Football Officials Association. In 1988, he joined the EAIFO and assists the board in recruiting, training and mentoring new officials. He is also the co-founder of the Metro High School Football Officials Clinic.

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

About the ECAC

In the 76 years since its inception, the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has emerged as the nation's largest NCAA conference. The ECAC has grown considerably from its charter membership of 58, currently boasting over 300 members in Divisions I, II and III, ranging in location from Maine to South Carolina, and westerly to Missouri. At the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year, the ECAC will host nearly 100 championships in 32 men's and women's sports as the sponsors of over 5,800 varsity teams and 111,000 male and female athletes. For more information, visit www.ecacsports.com.