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Cretin-Derham Hall Announces Resignation of Football Coach Mike Scanlan; Brooks Bollinger Named Head Coach

Scanlan's Football Career at CDH lauded for winning records and strong player development

For Immediate Release

St. Paul, Minnesota -- Mike Scanlan'70, has announced his resignation as head football coach at Cretin-Derham Hall. Head coach since 2005, Scanlan leaves the CDH football program with a legacy of wins and strong player development.

Scanlan, who celebrated his 100th career win as coach this past September, has been an integral part of the football program's success since 1987. He was named Head Football Coach in 2005 and has amassed a record of 104 wins and 22 losses while head coach, making CDH one of the most successful high school football programs in the state. In recent history, CDH won two state championships – in 1999 and 2009, both while Scanlan was either co-coach or head coach.

In addition, the football program is widely respected for producing high caliber football players that have been well-prepared in prep sports for both the collegiate and professional level.

"It was a pleasure playing for Coach Scanlan. We had a tremendous team with players that went onto play college and NFL," remarked Mark Alt'09, Quarterback for the 2009 State Championship team and currently playing hockey for Leihigh Phantoms. "He created a fun environment to play and be competitive at the high school level, yet also prepared players for college."

During Scanlan's years on the coaching staff, Cretin-Derham Hall has produced four players who were later on Super Bowl teams: Matt Birk'94 (Current NFL Director of Football Development and former Baltimore Raven and Minnesota Viking), Marcus Freeman'02 (New York Giants),

Derek Engler'92 (New York Giants), and Corbin Lacina'89 (MN Vikings, Buffalo Bills, Carolina Panthers). In addition, the CDH football program has sent an impressive list of players to the NFL, including Seantrel Henderson'10 (Buffalo Bills), Michael Floyd'08 (Arizona Cardinals), Ryan Harris'03 (Denver Broncos and Houston Oilers), Chris Weinke'90 (Carolina Panthers, Heisman Trophy Winner).

This past fall, the NFL awarded Cretin-Derham Hall the Golden Football for the school's long history of contributions to the game of football and the Super Bowl. All four former Raiders who played in a Super Bowl were coached by Scanlan, either as assistant or head coach at CDH.

As noteworthy, dozens of accomplished athletes have played at all levels of college football. In Friday's Stagg Bowl for the D-III Championship, four former Raiders played for University of St. Thomas, who came in second.

Scanlan will remain at CDH in his primary position as Guidance Counselor.

"Mike's contribution to the CDH football program is significant on so many levels," noted Frank Miley, J.D., President of Cretin-Derham Hall. "We are so grateful for his dedication to our student athletes which has produced an impressive winning record and created a program that is widely respected for supporting students to maximize their full potential, both on and off the field."

Brooks Bollinger Named Head Coach

Brooks Bollinger has been named CDH's new head football coach. This past season, he worked with Scanlan to coach the quarterbacks.

Bollinger brings impressive football credentials to CDH. He spent six years in the NFL as quarterback for New York Jets, Minnesota Vikings and Dallas Cowboys. He also played two years for the Florida Tuskers in the UFL.

In college, he was a four-year starting quarterback for the Wisconsin Badgers, and is the winningest quarterback in Badger history, a collegiate career highlighted by a 2000 Rose Bowl victory. He was known for his ability to both pass and run.

After retiring from professional football in 2011, he embarked on a coaching career, including two seasons as quarterback coach for the University of Pittsburgh Panthers, and one year at Hill-Murray as Head Coach.

"We are thrilled to announce Brooks as our new Head Coach," noted Miley. "He will continue our outstanding tradition of excellence in CDH football, and brings a deep commitment to a supporting a culture of football that reflects the CDH values for hard work and integrity in all areas of a student athlete's life." Bollinger is proud to be coaching at his wife's alma mater, Cretin-Derham Hall. After Brooks and Natalie Roedler Bollinger'98 settled in the Twin Cities to be near family, Brooks was well aware of the impressive football program at CDH and he jumped at Scanlan's invitation to join the coaching staff at CDH last year. "I can't imagine a better fit for me and my family than to be a part of the football program at Cretin-Derham Hall," Bollinger commented.

Jodi Loeblein-Lecker'95, CDH Athletic Director notes that Bollinger has already created strong relationships with players over the past season and has established himself as a strong coach of fundamentals and strategy.

Bollinger states that he has the utmost respect for the proud tradition of excellence at Cretin-Derham Hall, particularly in the football program. The leadership by Mike Scanlan, as well as Mal Scanlan and Rich Kallock before him, has been instrumental in CDH's long history of success. "I am humbled for the opportunity to work with a great staff at CDH," he said. "I believe we can use the game of football to positively impact the lives of the young men in our program and in our community as a whole."

As he looks forward to coaching at CDH, Bollinger is quick to point out that he has been fortunate to be around the game of football at every level, but he believes the high school level is particularly important. "I know that the game of football is most impactful at the high school level and it is a great honor and a privilege to coach at Cretin-Derham Hall as these players develop not only as athletes, but as men."

Cretin-Derham Hall, a co-educational high school located in St. Paul, MN, is the largest Catholic high school in the state with 1,200 students. The school is the result of the 1987 merger of Derham Hall High School and Cretin High School and is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

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