

The Class of 1964 Outstanding Leadership Award

Eugene F. “Buddy” Teevens III, Class of 1979. All great leaders have one trait in common: the ability to make others believe in their dreams and the ability to motivate a team of diverse talents to achieve those dreams for the benefit of all. And so it is you, Coach Teevens, who has shown us the meaning of great leadership.

Sports have been in your blood from an early age. Your late father, Eugene F. Teevens II '52, was a hockey letter winner. You too lettered in hockey at Dartmouth, helping the team to a third place finish at the 1979 NCAA championship. But your favorite sport has always been football. An honorable mention All-American quarterback in 1978, you led Dartmouth to the Ivy title that year, serving as co-captain, and were named not only the team's most valuable player but also Dartmouth's most outstanding athlete.

Your success as a player has translated to similar success as a head football coach at multiple colleges and universities including the University of Maine, Tulane, Stanford, and notably two stints at Dartmouth, winning three Ivy League titles. You are highly regarded in football circles and have been an integral part of the famed Manning Passing Academy since its inception 18 years ago. As an associate director of the camp, you oversee all aspects of the on-field operation and coaching staff.

In all these positions, your commitment has been to mentor the whole person, not just the athlete, and to train the next generation of leaders. You are a legendary recruiter, always reaching out to the families of young athletes to show them you will look out for the welfare and development of their sons and help them achieve success in all aspects of life. The message you convey to the young men in this process is that a great education should be their primary goal because it is their ticket to a worthwhile and fulfilling life. Yes, Coach Teevens, you get it. Football, it turns out, is your vehicle for teaching the value of teamwork and instilling the belief that hard work and perseverance can lead to success.

In addition to restoring Dartmouth's rich football tradition, you have been instrumental in implementing a series of major improvements to Dartmouth's football facilities including installation of a turf field surface on Memorial Field, the opening of the new Floren Varsity House that includes training, dressing and meeting facilities, the addition of lights on Memorial Field, and the replacement of the West stands and press box.

With your wife Kirsten who has always been your biggest fan and a true partner in your life's work, your two children, Lindsay and Buddy IV, and your five grandchildren (including a grandson named Buddy V), you have always demonstrated how much you care for those in need of a helping hand. The values you teach as a coach are the values that you learned as a young boy and that form the cornerstone of your close family: respect for others, a commitment to doing what is right, a desire to make the world a better place, hard work, learning from one's mistakes, and the value of teamwork.

You once prophetically said “if we don't change the way we coach the game, we won't have a game to coach.” Thus, you have taken on the greatest challenge of your life, a challenge that may well save football for generations to come. As both a player and a coach, from youth football to major programs in collegiate athletics, you have been deeply concerned about injuries, especially head injuries, many of which you thought were unnecessary and preventable.

As negative publicity mounted and as more scientific studies highlighted the lifelong complications from concussions in football, you took the lead by developing a vision of teaching and coaching the game without the need for repetitive man-to-man contact in practice sessions and with safer tackling techniques in games. With that vision clearly articulated, you took the next step of a great leader and put together a team, led by your classmate and friend, John Currier, a research engineer at Thayer School, to build a prototype to implement the vision. And so the mobile tackle dummy was born and the rest is history.

First you proved that the concept would work here at Dartmouth. Today the entire Ivy League, many other colleges and several NFL teams are using your mobile tackle dummies. We understand that designing a scaled down version for youth football is next on your agenda. Statistics are proving that use of the dummies is greatly reducing the number of concussions and resulting in a safer sport. Your heartfelt and pointed testimony before a committee of the United States Congress has brought national attention to the problem of concussions and to the effort you are leading. You even made an appearance touting the dummies during the Super Bowl LI broadcast.

You are a visionary and gifted leader and we are proud to honor you both for your contributions in using the athletic experience to train a new generation of leaders and your innovations to create a better and safer future for our athletes.

Lead on, Coach Teevens!

Given this 2d day of April 2017, in Hanover, New Hampshire.