



DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Band



# ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS

DFRC Newsletter ★ 2015 Edition

## DFRC....60-Year Diamond Jubilee

by Martha McDonough

We've all heard the saying, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend." Whether it be the sparkle, clarity, invincibility, rarity, beauty, innocence, strength...these or others of its many assets, to most, the diamond represents a strong and faithful symbol of love. DFRC's very heart and soul are born from a foundation of love and respect for all people. How absolutely fitting for the DFRC family to have reached our Diamond Jubilee through 60 years of caring and sharing!

And then there's a diamond that takes us to the very beginnings of DFRC. During the summer of 1955, two dads stood at a baseball diamond, watching their sons play ball and chatting about daily events. Baseball was a natural topic, as Bob Carpenter, owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, and Jim Williams, teacher, baseball coach and businessman, stood behind the backstop at that baseball game, watching sons Ruly and Pat play ball. Perhaps their conversation also included talk of their other children, Kemble and Mary Ellen, who were intellectually challenged. In those days, people really didn't speak much about having a child with an intellectual disability, but Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Williams realized the abilities of their children far more significantly than their disability, and sought to share that knowledge with others. Being major sports enthusiasts, they decided that an all★star football game would be a popular opportunity for high school students to compete, and at the same time, raise funds for services to support people with intellectual disABILITIES.

And so, it began! Mr. Carpenter was an especially strong powerhouse throughout the state of Delaware, and his influence gave him access to nearly unlimited resources. He identified the needs of this endeavor and began to recruit those he knew could fulfill each task. Planning meetings were held at

the home of the Carpenters, and not only was it an honor to be asked to volunteer, committee members would covet the opportunity to be a part of the "chosen" ones. Plans were made, and committee members joined forces to sell tickets, solicit ads for the program/yearbook, identify coaches and players, and move forward with plans for this competition that would vie players from northern Delaware against players from southern Delaware for an all★star football game.

*"Fear was very quickly replaced with joy, as players discovered unconditional love from the buddies they met."*

On May 11, 1956, DFRC was incorporated and four Trustees, Bob Carpenter, Jim Williams, Ed Pechin, and John DeLuca, were identified. The state of Delaware suffered Hurricanes Connie and Diane that same year, which caused the Great Flood of the Delaware River. The average cost of a home was \$10,950 and the typical breadwinner earned an annual salary of approximately \$4,137. Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States, where a gallon of milk cost 92¢, a loaf of bread was 18¢, and drivers could fill their 20-gallon gas tank for \$4.60. Money was tight, but the pioneers of DFRC understood how important it was to go the extra mile to provide support for people who needed more opportunities to have meaningful roles in the community.

As plans for the football game were finalized, the football players checked into a two-week training camp and the teams met on Saturday, August 25, 1956, for the very first DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game. That first game, and each one thereafter,

was played on the University of Delaware football field. In those very early days, the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game was simply that...a football game. In 1959, cheerleaders were added to the Game, and queen candidates and the marching band joined forces in 1965. Ambassadors, students identified by their schools as responsible leaders, replaced queen candidates in 1995. Following the mission of DFRC to enrich the lives of people who were intellectually challenged, folks began to understand the importance of getting to know some of the people for whom the Game was played and becoming more aware of their needs. They believed there were many lessons to be learned, so each year, volunteers transported children who were intellectually challenged to football training camp to spend a few hours with the players. For some, this was the first time they'd ever interacted with someone with an intellectual disABILITY, and more than one of the young men admitted anxiety as they anticipated how they would act and what they would do. Fear was very quickly replaced with joy, as players discovered unconditional love from the buddies they met. Even in those early days, it was obvious that there was much to learn from experiences together, but little did we know just how far those lessons would take us in these 60 years. Creative minds realized the value of providing opportunities to spend time with people who were intellectually challenged, and in 1974, the Hand-in-Hand Program was born, since recognized as a model for other awareness and fundraising events in the United States. In this endeavor, high school Game participants are offered the opportunity to be matched with a child or young adult who is intellectually challenged, their buddy, throughout the five-month program.

*Diamond Jubilee continued on page 4*

# Being Part of the Family

by Coleen Popp

How do you spell family?

In the Popp household, family is spelled with a capital D, a capital F, a capital R and a capital C. DFRC officially welcomed the Pops into the family in 2005 when Brendan turned 4 years old. That is the magic number or the age that people with intellectual disabilities are old enough to participate in the Hand-in-Hand Program. The Hand-in-Hand Program changed our lives. When Brendan was born back in June of 2001, we had no idea that he would have Down syndrome. We were expecting our first child and were just hoping for a healthy delivery. Dad was secretly hoping for a boy, which he proudly shouted in the delivery room when Brendan made his debut! Not knowing about Brendan's disability was the best gift we could have received. Not knowing allowed us to dream about his future. What sports he would play? What schools he would attend? What would his life be like? So when Brendan was born, we had questions and concerns and fears but we still had our dreams. And DFRC showed us that Brendan would still play sports, go to school and create a life for himself. DFRC gave us hope and friendship that no other organizations can provide. By including him and our family in the Hand-in-Hand Program, DFRC made our dreams a reality.



*"DFRC gave us hope and friendship that no other organizations can provide."*

Coleen Popp

To date, the Hand-in-Hand Program has brought 11 new people into our family and created bonds that will never be broken. The high school seniors paired with Brendan have gone above and beyond year after year, making him feel included and accepted! Almost all of them still call, email and send Christmas Cards. Some still come by and hang out with Brendan or cheer him on at



his sporting events. But all of them have left their mark on Brendan and our family.

Those friendships are what it's all about for DFRC. The programs, events and fundraisers they produce year after year make these experiences real for families like ours. Because of DFRC, our children, not just Brendan, have a deeper appreciation and understanding of what's important in life. As March approaches, excitement builds about who will be our buddy this year...a football player...a cheerleader...a band member...or an ambassador. It doesn't matter which, because no matter who we get, they all become forever friends.

The Hand-in-Hand Program is just one initiative that sets DFRC apart from other organizations in Delaware. Holidazzle, Hockey for a Cause and their school disability awareness programs are others that have impacted our family. Through these programs, DFRC builds a bridge between people with and without disabilities. That bridge opens doors, hearts and minds in schools, sports teams and our community. It allows conversations to happen that otherwise would not. It allows Brendan the opportunity to be himself and to be proud of that.

DFRC is so much more than the amazing football game every June. DFRC is a family. DFRC is our family and I would not trade that for anything in the world.



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DFRC is a 501(c)(3) charity  
www.dfrc.org

**2015 DFRC BLUE-GOLD  
ALL STAR FOOTBALL GAME  
LEADERSHIP**

Stacey Stickel – Game Chair  
Marc Latulippe – 1st Vice Chair  
Mary Lenhoff – 2nd Vice Chair

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*Join us in the DFRC Family Fun Zone! Bring the family to the game early for face painting, balloon creations, games, bouncy houses, and a train!*

**DFRC Family Fun Zone opens at 3:00 pm  
on Game Day, June 20, 2015!**

Sponsored by 

# C.E.R.T.S.: providing opportunities for choices and self-expression

Once out of the public school system and turning 21, there are few options for adults with severe, multiple disabilities that are “graduating” or transitioning from school to adult life. In response to this dilemma, C.E.R.T.S., Inc. was founded in 2006 by a group of concerned parents of children with disabilities and professionals in the field. C.E.R.T.S., Inc. operates today as an activity based, therapeutic day program for adults of all ages with multiple, severe disabilities legally known as Collaborative Effort to Reinforce Transition Success.

With a humble start in 2006 serving four young adults in the borrowed Sunday school room of a supportive church, participant population quickly doubled in the first year. Today, C.E.R.T.S., Inc. has 37 participants enrolled at two locations (New Castle and Kent County) with an additional four participants scheduled to join us



growth plan which was developed so we can continue to address the needs of eligible individuals.

Building physical strength is a critical part of the programming offered at C.E.R.T.S., Inc. Guided by the MOVE® (Mobility Opportunities Via Experience) Program,

participants use adapted walkers called Pacers® to give them a greater degree of independence in moving to where they wish to go. As a MOVE® for Adults model site, we see every day how MOVE® helps our attendees acquire increased

independence in sitting, standing and walking in order for them to experience better health and enhanced personal dignity. MOVE® produces results through hard work, repetition and the dedication of our trained staff.

State contracted funding provides 91% of the operating dollars needed at C.E.R.T.S., Inc. but the 9% that we fundraise makes a critical difference in the quality of the program. These extra dollars fund adaptive equipment as well as art, pottery, music, storytelling activities and community outings. All these options obtained as a result of these dollars put the “active” in our adult center and provide enhanced self-expression and individualized choices for each of our participants.

C.E.R.T.S., Inc. is a living example of the saying “it takes a village.” DFRC is a major devotee



in our village. From the start, DFRC believed in our mission “to support the lives of adults with multiple, severe disabilities and in turn, their families through an active, personalized day program” that continues today. C.E.R.T.S., Inc. has received \$100,000 from DFRC since we opened our doors 9 years ago. These funds are not only greatly appreciated but have been critical to the growth and diversity of our current programming and the overall success of our organization.

Congratulations to DFRC for 60 years of enriching the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES as we look forward to working with you in the 60 years to come. Thank you!



soon! Currently, we are conducting a feasibility study to aid in determining the best choice for our third site (either in New Castle or Sussex County). The upcoming site is the next step in our strategic

sion and individualized choices for each of our participants.

C.E.R.T.S., Inc. is a living example of the saying “it takes a village.” DFRC is a major devotee



*One small touch that lasts a lifetime... your gift makes this possible*

DFRC has touched hearts and enriched the lives of Delawareans since 1956. Key to our success has been the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game Hand-in-Hand Program, which celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2014.

Your gift of support to DFRC helps create opportunities like the Hand-in-Hand Program, as well as other programs and community services that maximize the potential, independence and enjoyment of life for Delawareans with intellectual disabilities.

Visit the DFRC website – [www.dfrc.org](http://www.dfrc.org) – and click on the DONATE button to make your gift today.



## DFRC THANKS ITS 2015 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS



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### *Diamond Jubilee continued from page 1*

Together, they attend planned DFRC monthly events, and they're also encouraged to spend leisure time together, hanging out, listening to music, attending sporting events, and doing all the typical things friends do together. Many meaningful relationships have resulted from these partnerships. High school participants who begin the program hoping to help their buddies, actually end up gaining far more from their buddy than they could ever have given. It's our buddies who teach us the really important things in life, and the Hand-in-Hand Program is the very heart of all the efforts of DFRC. The relationships that develop and the lessons we learn are the true reasons we do what we do. We learn that people of all abilities want the same basic things in life...friends, fun, involvement, and inclusion.

While the DFRC Blue-Gold Football Game was growing, learning and reaching more and more people, it became clear to Mr. Carpenter that more needed to be done. In the early 1970s, there was a gas shortage, the economy faltered, and profits began to decline. The Trustees put forth concerted efforts to expand public relations, advertising and overall exposure of DFRC within the community. In the fall of 1974 at a dinner at the home of the Carpenters, the idea for a gala fashion show was initiated, and on December 17, 1974, the very first Holidazzle fashion show was held at Longwood Gardens. Holidazzle joined the DFRC Blue-Gold Football Game as DFRC's second awareness and fundraising event. Over the years, Holidazzle has expanded to numerous genres of entertainment, and profits from Holidazzle have significantly boosted the funds raised by the Foundation.

As community need increased, volunteers discussed new ways to spread awareness and raise funding. In 1988, the first DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic took place in New Castle County at Hercules Country Club. A new group of people was ---now part of the DFRC family and the opportunities of this new endeavor were energizing and lucrative. As the excitement of a golf classic spread throughout the state, Kent County held their first DFRC Blue-Gold Golf Classic in 1993, and Sussex County followed with representation the following year. With the golf classics in place, DFRC grew from a simple football game to five statewide events.

DFRC's outreach encompasses the entire state of Delaware, and as we grew, we knew we needed more involvement in the southern part of the state. Thus began the DFRC Blue-Gold Run/Walk in 2004 and the DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex Auction in 2006. Again, members of the DFRC family reached out to new and different

folks to spread the word about DFRC and our mission to enrich the lives of people who are intellectually challenged. Adding yet one more group to the mix, the hockey community created Hockey-for-a-Cause. In 2007, the hockey teams from Saint Mark's High School and Salesianum School sponsored hockey games to raise funding for several different charities, including DFRC. Two years later, the teams wanted to continue the games, but asked DFRC to take over as exclusive sponsor, adding one more event to DFRC's outreach.

For the first six years of the Foundation's existence, the funds raised by DFRC were distributed to community programs by DARC, now known as the ARC of Delaware, and from 1962-1970, a DARC committee worked directly with DFRC to identify needs and distribute funding. Since 1970, DFRC has had a designated Beneficiaries Committee whose members review grant requests and make recommendations for distribution to the Board of Trustees. Subsequently, members of the Board of Trustees review the grant requests, consider the recommendations from the Beneficiaries Committee, and designate actual amounts for each request. The review process follows specific guidelines and each request is given serious consideration. Grant requests are accepted two times each year, once in the spring and again in the fall. The entire DFRC family takes great pride in the support granted to many programs throughout the state. By the end of 2015, that total for funds in support of programs for people who are intellectually challenged will surpass \$6 million!!

Even as far back as 1961, DFRC realized the need to recruit dedicated volunteers to avoid burnout and turnover of veteran members. The anticipation of opportunities to serve increased and volunteers continued to seek ways to keep DFRC growing. In 1996, DFRC hired the first Executive Director, who then resigned in 1998.

With very limited paid office staff, volunteers helped to keep DFRC moving forward. The by-laws and policies of DFRC were consistently reviewed and altered to keep pace with the demanding needs of the community. As the Game and multiple events expanded, the complexity of the needs also increased. In 2001, DFRC was suffering a declining commitment from volunteers and there was major concern regarding the future of the Foundation. The Trustees met and unanimously determined that we needed a dedicated leader who could renew DFRC's prosperity by identifying strategic goals, guiding with patience and passion, and forging partnerships that would bring DFRC back to a position of growth, understanding and visibility.

Volunteers needed to be empowered to fulfill the roles they accepted and experience sincere

gratitude for the difference their efforts made, not only for DFRC, but also within the community. Fortunately, Dr. Tony Glenn accepted DFRC's plea to relinquish his job as President of the Board of Trustees and take on the role of Executive Director.

DFRC needed an outstanding leader to guide with faith, inspiration, passion, compassion, innovation, sensitivity, and love. Dr. Glenn was the perfect fit, and since 2001 when he took over the reigns of the Foundation, DFRC has made amazing strides in all areas, and the respect earned for DFRC during these 60 years has been renewed with great enthusiasm and conviction.

In 2002, DFRC initiated an Education Awareness Program in elementary and middle schools throughout Delaware to spread awareness and understanding about the abilities of people who were intellectually challenged. That program has blossomed, and literally thousands have learned that abilities and disabilities are a natural part of the human experience, and people with and without disabilities are far more similar than they are different. Interacting with each other builds bridges that would likely never have happened without the knowledge, encouragement, and opportunities provided by DFRC.

As you can see, DFRC was born from the inspiration of two children who had intellectual disABILITIES, and developed by the innovation and determination of many. The events and growth of DFRC are the very basis of the Foundation, but even more important than the "things" we've done are the lessons we've learned. All the efforts and events have led to the extraordinary success of DFRC in supporting community programs for people who are intellectually challenged, surpassing a total of \$6 million in 2015 in funds being invested in these programs throughout Delaware. \$6 million in 60 years!! Quite an accomplishment for this Foundation with such simplistic beginnings. We've learned a great deal in these 60 years, most significantly realizing that we are all people first, and our abilities and characteristics are merely a part of our person and a natural part of the human experience. Each person is differently-abled, and we dedicate our efforts to building consciousness about the value of each life and sharing valuable lessons about diversity and acceptance. The success of DFRC is the direct result of the love and respect each member of the DFRC family has for each other and for all those who come into our hearts and lives. Join the crusade. The rewards are far more valuable than diamonds!!



DFRC THANKS ITS 2015 DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME SPONSORS



# A Word from the Game Chair

by *Stacey Stickel*

## Happy Birthday DFRC!

As we celebrate 60 years of DFRC, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as the 2015 Game Chairperson. I want to congratulate all of the participants, buddies and their families for making the 60th anniversary a memorable one! Thank you to the DFRC staff and committee for your passion and leadership. It has been a wonderful experience to work with such kind-hearted people.



This game was established to raise awareness and money to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities. It has grown into so much over the past 60 years...from the Hand-in-Hand Program, where high school senior participants are matched with a child or young adult with intellectual disabilities, to the ambassador program and the game itself. The first games were played in August; now the game



is played in June under the lights at UD Stadium. From the buddy charge during the pregame festivities, to the sportsmanship of our football players, the leadership and support of our ambassadors, to the band's amazing half time show and, of

## Awareness ★ Tradition ★ Family

course, the amazing spirit brought by our cheerleaders, the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game is a must-do event in Delaware!

My DFRC Blue-Gold experience started when I was in high school. I was a participant, as were my mom and sister. The experience was life-changing. The relationship I had with my buddy was amazing and the memories of the game will be with me forever. My sister is a past Game Chairperson and now a Trustee for DFRC, and my mom is the Band Coordinator, a commitment she made with my dad who passed away a year and a half ago. It was and still is a family affair! My dad's passion for DFRC was evident in everything he did and wore – he always wore a Blue-Gold shirt. His legacy will continue through us! DFRC is part of our family and now, hopefully yours too.

As we prepare to celebrate the 60th DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game on June 20th, three words come to mind when describing the Blue-Gold experience; Awareness. Tradition. Family. These words have been our 2015 slogan to remind everyone that we are raising Awareness throughout Delaware, as well as through the entire country. The DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game is a Tradition, and many other traditions are started because of the game. And of course, Family. We are one family united by the desire to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities. We are 60 Years of Playing More than a Game.

On behalf of the executive committee, we look forward to seeing YOU on Game Day!



# DFRC Hand-in-Hand Party Celebrations



*Buddies Forever!*





## 60th ANNUAL DFRC BLUE-GOLD ALL★STAR FOOTBALL GAME

### Awareness ★ Tradition ★ Family

*We need your support to ensure the success of the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Program and Game and our mission to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES. In 2015, we ask you to join us as we celebrate DFRC's 60th Year Diamond Jubilee...60 years of caring and sharing!!*

There are three ways you and your family can support DFRC programs which mean so much to so many. Please use the order form on the back of this page - you may mail your order with this self-mailer, or send your order by Fax to 302-454-2755 (credit card orders only, please).

#### **Become a DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Patron**

*and your name will appear in the 2015 Football Game Yearbook (if you respond by May 26, 2015).*

**Purchase tickets and plan to attend** this year's 60th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Game. Bring your family and friends and get discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more. Even if you cannot attend the game, please know your ticket purchase will help us provide opportunities for many.



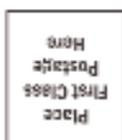
#### **Order 2015 DFRC Blue-Gold AllStar Game Day T-shirts**

*for yourself and your family. Alumni Football Players may also order replacement jerseys featuring correct team colors and game numbers.*

# Go Blue, Go Gold, Go Blue and Gold!



DFRC  
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**In 2014, DFRC provided 23 Delaware agencies and organizations with grants totaling \$78,000.00**

The Arc of Delaware  
Statewide

Art Therapy Express  
Hockessin

Center for Disabilities Studies—  
University of Delaware  
Statewide

CENTER for Therapeutic  
and Educational Riding  
Townsend

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Statewide

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4-H Club  
Newark

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Wilmington

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Wilmington

Kent-Sussex Industries, Inc.  
Milford

Mancus Foundation  
Wilmington

The Mary Campbell  
Center  
New Castle

Milford Central Academy—  
Milford School District  
Milford

The Nemours Foundation  
Wilmington

Pet-Assisted Volunteer Visitation  
Services (PAWS for People)  
Newark

The Pilot School  
Wilmington

Practice Without Pressure  
Newark

VSA Delaware-  
Dover

Waggies by Maggie and Friends  
Dover

Young Life Capernaum  
Dover



**In 2015, DFRC will break \$6 million in funding to programs serving Delawareans with intellectual disABILITIES**

Annual DFRC awareness and fundraising events include: DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Football Game, DFRC Hollidazzle, DFRC Hockey for a Cause, DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Golf classics in New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties, DFRC Sussex Auction and the DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star Run/Walk

## 2015 All★Star Buddies



Kennedie Arthurs, left, is the 2015 Blue DFRC All★Star Football Buddy and Ryan Bradford, right, is the 2015 Gold DFRC All★Star Football Buddy.



Smiles from the Hand-in-Hand Party



## Friends, friends, friends!



Victoria Marsh, one of the vibrant and loving Buddies in the Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Program, could not attend the Hand-in-Hand Party in Dover this year. After the party, with more than 500 in attendance, Victoria's high school buddies and friend, Brendan Popp, took their own party to her in the hospital. Victoria is battling cancer, but her Spirit and Light never diminish! She teaches so many of us each and every moment. Thank you, Victoria.

## Mark Your Calendars

### June 6 — Saturday — 7 AM

DFRC Blue-Gold Run/Walk  
at Irish Eyes in Lewes

### June 8 — Monday

DFRC Blue-Gold New Castle County Golf  
Classic  
White Clay Creek Country Club

### June 17 — Wednesday — 5:00 PM

Gold Football Scrimmage  
Milford High School, Milford

### June 17 — Wednesday — 5:00 PM

Blue Football Scrimmage  
Tower Hill School, Wilmington

### June 20 — Saturday

GAME DAY 60th Annual DFRC Blue-Gold  
All★Star Football Game  
University of Delaware Stadium, Newark  
Family Fun Zone — 3 PM  
1965 & 1990 Alumni Reunions — 4 PM  
Opening Ceremonies on the field - 6 PM  
Kickoff — 7 PM

### June 26 — Friday

DFRC Blue-Gold Kent County Golf Classic  
Maple Dale Country Club

### September 17 — Thursday — 7 PM

DFRC Blue-Gold Kickoff Classic Football  
Games

### October 2 — Friday — 5:00 PM

DFRC Blue-Gold Sussex County Golf Classic  
Sussex Pines Country Club

### November 14 — Saturday

DFRC Holidazzle  
Delaware Museum of Natural History

### June 18, 2016 - Saturday

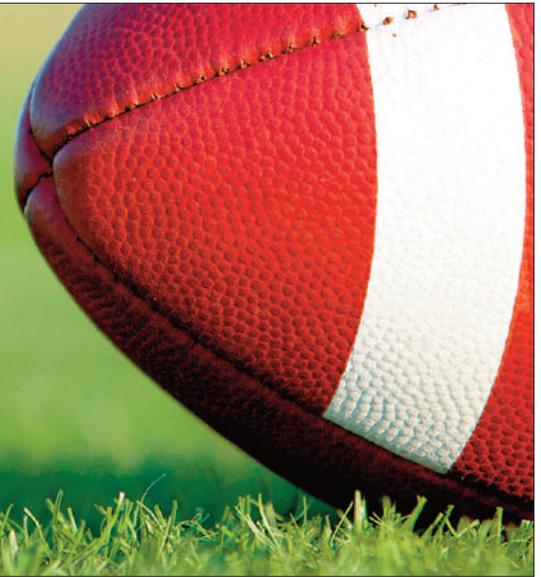
61st Annual DFRC Blue-Gold All★Star  
Football Game  
University of Delaware Stadium, Newark

*Join us in supporting the hundreds of high school students, volunteers and community members who make this game happen every year!*



**Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 7:00pm**  
**University of Delaware Stadium**

Parking Opens - 2:00pm  
Family Fun Zone - 3:00pm  
1965 and 1990 Reunions - 4:00pm  
Stadium Gates Open - 5:00pm  
Opening Ceremonies - 6:00pm  
Game Kickoff - 7:00pm



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