



Derek Wolfe selected for Lou Holtz/Upper Ohio Valley HOF award

EAST LIVERPOOL – Beaver Local graduate Derek Wolfe – a member of the 2016 Super Bowl winning Denver Broncos – has been selected by the Lou Holtz/Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at its June 13 banquet.

Wolfe joins a class of honorees including the late Calvin Jones, a legendary football player; Gen. Robert P. McCoy, a highly decorated lieutenant general; Jerry McKenna, a world-premiere sculptor; Pete Wooley, a producer/director and production designer; and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who will serve as this year's guest speaker and also is slated to receive the Distinguished American Award. The Hall of Fame will also present the Family Heritage Award to the Lomba Family, who pioneered a private school in San Francisco, incorporating social-emotional behavioral rehabilitation into the teaching process. Receiving a brand new award this year – the MVP Award for outstanding volunteer work to benefit the local community -- is Team Mojo Foundation.

Wolfe came from what might be considered hardscrabble roots until he was taken in by the Hoppel Family (2007 Family Heritage Award winners.) While staying at the Hoppel farm in Negley, he worked hard to achieve his goals through grueling wrestling and football workouts as well as contributing to work on the farm.

He also gained greatly from the influence of James Pastore (Holtz Hall of Fame Class of 2012), who shared with him an interest in the discipline of mixed martial arts. Wolfe is represented by Vantage Management Group and Ohio Valley native Mike Simon.

With the help of these mentors, he became a football standout at Beaver Local and was a two-star recruit by Rivals.com. He remains the only player in Beaver Local history to be drafted into the NFL. While studying at the University of Cincinnati, during his junior year he considered entering the NFL draft but decided to continue his work in the classroom. Over the course of his four years there, he posted 162 total tackles, 37 tackles for loss and 19.5 sacks. He was named Co-Big East Conference Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. He then was selected fourth pick in the second round (36th overall) in the 2012 NFL draft by the Denver Broncos.

His NFL career has not been without difficulties. He endured a spinal cord injury, two bouts of food poisoning that led to him losing 20 pounds, and a seizure on the bus ride to the airport for a Bronco game at Kansas City. Despite these struggles, he persevered and is now regarded as one of the best run stuffers in the NFL. His honors include AFC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against the then-undefeated Packers in week 8 of the 2015 season.

Most importantly, he and his team won Super Bowl 50 against the Carolina Panthers, 24-10.

Tickets for the Holtz Hall of Fame induction banquet to be held Monday, June 13, at the St. Florian Hall in Wintersville, are \$150 – half of which is tax deductible. They can be purchased at the Hall of Fame between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or by sending a check and self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to the Hall at 120 E. Fifth St., East Liverpool, Ohio 43920. The price includes admission to the appetizer and dinner portion of the evening, the ceremony, a keepsake program, an event favor and a ticket for a chance to win one of a number of prize giveaways to be held during the evening. Prizes will include autographed sports memorabilia and fan packages featuring game tickets. The event will be concluded with remarks from East Liverpool's favorite son, legendary football coach Lou Holtz.

Those interested in being event sponsors or taking advertisements in the printed program may contact Rosemary Mackall, director of development, at 330-386-5443.