



102 Heisman Recipients July 2005

Four athletes with Nebraska ties who went on to immortality as recipients of the Heisman Trophy, college football's highest award, were honored: Eric Crouch (2001 winner), Mike Rozier (1983), Johnny Rodgers (1972) and the late Nile Kinnick (1939). Rodgers, Crouch (who were present) and Rozier (who sent a taped message) played for Nebraska. Kinnick played for the University of Iowa, but attended Omaha Benson High school. He was killed in action during World War II. With four honorees to toast, the ceremony went into overtime (three hours) in front of a thrilled crowd. The evening began with a video tribute to the Heisman winners. Crouch and Rodgers responded. Among roasters was retired Omaha Northwest High School Principal Jack Hallstrom in a tribute to Kinnick. Former Nebraska sports information director Don Bryant talked about Rodgers days at Nebraska. KETV sports anchor John Schuetz remembered Crouch's stint as an analyst for KETV.