Montana Chapter of National Football Foundation announces awards

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HELENA -- The Montana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has announced the 2011 winners of its 14th annual Scholar Athlete Award.

Rocky Mountain College's Mark Desin and former Miles City star Pat Regan were among 13 honorees. University of Montana safety Erik Stoll and Montana State safety Jordan Craney were also named.

Nominations were solicited from Montana's five high school football classifications, its five Frontier Conference football-playing colleges and the state's two universities. Academics, football prowess and school and community leadership are the criteria for selection.

Other winners included: David Meis of Helena High, Gavin Hagfors of Great Falls CMR, Alex Ritter of Butte Central, Shiloh Kerr of Missoula Loyola, Tyler Molyneaux of Chinook, Matt Trzinski of Savage, Casey Varner of Montana State Northern, Skyler Knuchel of Montana Tech and Coltin Weber of Montana Western.

Five others have also been honored for their contributions to football in Montana: Dillon assistant coach Rick Nordahl; the late Gary Ekegren, former head coach at Missoula Big Sky; MSU sports information director Bill Lamberty; UM sports information director Dave Guffey; and Billings referee Harold Olson.

An awards banquet is scheduled for April 16 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel. To purchase tickets, contact the chapter office at 459-9123.