



## FINALISTS NAMED FOR 2008 'THE HOME DEPOT' NFL YOUTH COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Winner of national grassroots program to receive \$5,000 in new equipment and a \$1,000 gift card from The Home Depot for their football program; Runners-up to receive \$2,000 in new equipment and a \$500 gift card from The Home Depot*

**Toronto, ON** – November 11, 2008 – Five finalists have been named for the 2008 *The Home Depot NFL Youth Coach of the Year Award*, the NFL announced today. The award, now in its tenth year, is designed to recognize community or high school level coaches across Canada who share a passion for football and dedicate themselves to the development of young players both on and off the field.

The following **5** youth coaches (coaching organized teams of tackle football players under the age of 19) are this year's finalists:

<b>Coach</b>	<b>Team/Program/Community</b>	<b>Nominating CIS Player</b>
Bruce Haddow	Hugh Boyd SS, Richmond, BC	Serge Kaminsky, DT, University of British Columbia
Dave Black	Oak Park HS, Winnipeg, MB	Tye Noble, DB/ University of Calgary
Quinn Skelton	Medicine Hat HS, Medicine Hat, AB	Reed Alexander, OL/University of Calgary
Kevin Barnes	Mother Theresa Catholic Secondary School, London, ON	Colin Murray, OL/Acadia University
Dave Diluzio	Notre Dame High School, Calgary, AB	Craig Adamson, LB/University of Calgary

CIS football players from across Canada submitted short essays recognizing the positive impact their former high school, community, or varsity coach had on young players. Players were asked to consider how their coach taught respect, safety, motivation, leadership and appreciation for the game of football when drafting their nominations.

Over the past nine years the program has contributed more than \$110,000 in equipment to deserving programs, and put the spotlight on the grassroots-level coaches who are the backbone of football in Canada.

“This award is not about wins and losses, it is about the positive impact volunteer coaches can have on young players,” added **Mike Danischewsky**, Coordinator of Events and Development at NFL Canada. “Together with the Home Depot we are proud to turn the spotlight on the deserving coaches who truly bring ‘know-how’ to life in their communities.”

The winning coach will be selected by a panel of journalists from across Canada, NFL and The Home Depot representatives. The winner and runners-up will be announced via press release on **Monday, November 17, 2008** in Toronto.

**\$5,000 of new football equipment** will be donated to the winning coach’s program. The winning coach will also receive a \$1,000 gift card from The Home Depot (for ‘football program related renovation projects’, such as field repair, fixing bleachers, painting a locker room, etc.). If required project assistance will also be provided by local The Home Depot associates through Team Depot.

Two runners-up schools will each receive **\$2,000** in equipment and \$500 gift cards from The Home Depot, and a total of **\$3,000** will be awarded to the CIS football programs currently attended by the successful nominating players. Each of the five short-listed coaches will also receive \$100 gift cards from The Home Depot.

The winning coach will also win a trip to Hamilton as a guest of the NFL at this year’s Desjardins Vanier Cup celebrations, and will be honoured at the CIS coaches breakfast on Friday, November 21, 2008, and attend the Desjardins Vanier Cup, scheduled to be played the following day at Ivor Wynne in Hamilton.

The NFL is a long-time supporter of the game of football at the grassroots level in Canada. Other grassroots initiatives include community ‘Flag League’ and Junior Player Development. For more information visit [www.NFLCanada.com](http://www.NFLCanada.com).

For more information on **The Home Depot NFL Youth Coach of the Year Award**, or to receive copies of the essays used to nominate the above listed coaches, please contact:

-30-

**Brian Findlay**  
**Stellick Communications/NFL Canada Communications**  
**(416) 802-4062**