

## AARON TAYLOR TO SPEAK AT 2005 DINNER

HOUSTON-Aaron Taylor Aaron Taylor, the winner of the 24th Rotary Lombardi Award and the co-host of ABC's College Football studio show, will return to Houston on December 7 to served as the featured speaker at the 36th Rotary Lombardi Award Dinner, presented by Wachovia Bank. This year's event will be held at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Downtown Houston. Tickets are currently on sale through the Rotary Club of Houston office (713) 973-9936 Taylor is the second consecutive past winner of the honor to return and serve as the guest speaker at the Rotary Lombardi Award. Chris Spielman, the 1987 winner, returned to speak to last year's event. A standout offensive tackle at Notre Dame, Taylor was the fourth Irish product to win the Rotary Lombardi Award when he was selected over Sam Adams of Texas A&M, Derrick Brooks of Florida State and Rob Waldrop of Arizona. He was a first round selection of the Green Bay Packers and became one of only seven winners of the Rotary honor to also win the Vince Lombardi Trophy when the Packers won the Super Bowl in 1997.

Taylor is one of four Notre Dame products to win the Rotary Lombardi Award. After injuries cut short his NFL career at the end of the 1999 season, Taylor spent time teaching, including stints in Peru and Chile teaching English to teenagers, and as a substitute second-grade teacher in his hometown of San Diego. He joined the fledgling College Sports Television as a co-host of their studio show in 2003 and one year later found himself a part of ABC's college football coverage.

In addition to his work with ABC, Taylor has established the Aaron Taylor IMPACT Fund, a non-profit endowment designed to serve as an intermediary between philanthropically motivated individuals and potential beneficiaries.

Founded in the weeks following the death of legendary football coach Vince Lombardi from cancer in 1970, the Rotary Lombardi Award presented by Wachovia Bank has annually delivered upon the mission set forth by Marie Lombardi when she first granted the use of her late husband's name. Her only stipulation was that all net proceeds from the event be donated to the American Cancer Society and over \$3.1 million has been generated since that time.

Former Texas A&M All-American and Houston Oiler All Pro Ray Childress is serving as the event's Honorary Chairman of the 36th Rotary Lombardi Award presented by Wachovia. Randy McIlvoy, Sports Director of KPRC, Local 2 in Houston returns for a second year as the emcee. Tables and individual tickets are now on sale through the Rotary Club of Houston office (713) 973-9936.

This year's Rotary Lombardi Award is being presented by Wachovia Bank, which announced in October a two-year presentation sponsorship agreement with the Rotary Club of Houston Foundation to support the event and its fund raising component.

The Rotary Club of Houston, in operation since 1912, is an association of more than 350 successful business professionals, all prominent in their individual fields of endeavor, who volunteer their efforts through the work of some two dozen club committees. Assistance is provided to such diverse groups as troubled youngsters, former prison inmates, business oriented high school students, families of cancer patients, deserving college scholarship candidates and the nation's cancer research efforts. The club's most recent community project is the East End Healthy Children's Collaborative which provides much needed access to primary health care for residents on Houston's East side.

All media inquiries regarding the Rotary Lombardi Award, presented by Wachovia Bank should be directed to Chuck Pool by email or by calling (713)973-9936. Media inquiries regarding other activities of the Rotary Club of Houston should contact Ken Scott.