



GOLDEN BEAR TOUCHDOWN CLUB

June 2, 2009

At the Golden Bear Touchdown Club's first public meeting on June 2 at UAHS, President **Kirk Herbstreit** and Vice-President **John Epitropoulos** introduced UAHS alumnus **Jack Graf**, UAHS Class of 1938, as the club's first Honorary Member. Mr. Graf epitomizes the concept of "tradition" in Golden Bear sports, and the Touchdown Club takes pride in his membership.



L-R: President Kirk Herbstreit, UA Football Head Coach Mike Golden, Jack Graf, Kay Graf, and Vice-President John Epitropoulos

Mr. Graf was the captain of the 1937 Golden Bear football team and also played basketball for UAHS. An All-American, Graf went on to play both football and basketball at The Ohio State University, where he earned the title of Big Ten MVP in 1941 and he later became a basketball coach at OSU, a career that spanned more than 25 years.

More than 100 people attended the June 2 meeting. The club is a 501 C (3) [pending] support group consisting of alumni, past, present and future parents of players, as well as fans of the Golden Bear Nation.

The goals of this club are to increase enthusiasm for and support of the team, maximize attendance at the games, and provide funding to continually improve and enhance the High School Football program. The founders of the Touchdown Club believe in the concept of paying forward, and recognize that the Golden Bear Football Program is a vehicle for the development of strong character, achievement, and the future success of our players. The members' dedication and contributions will make it possible to continually improve and enhance the football program experience at Upper Arlington High School. Among other projects, the Club plans to institute a Spirit Day to encourage all students from elementary school all the way to the High School to wear gold and black on Fridays.

President of the Club, Kirk Herbstreit, Coach Golden, Vice President John Epitropoulos, and student body presidents George Koutras and Erin Williams addressed the group explaining the mission of the club.

The Club is also promoting the Kirk Herbstreit Varsity Football series. In a nationally televised game on ESPN, the Golden Bears will be playing against last year's defending National Champions, Ft Lauderdale's St. Thomas Aquinas, on Saturday, August 29th at noon at Ohio Stadium in the "Horseshoe."

The Club's Web site, www.GoldenBearTouchdownClub.com, offers more information about the Club, its purpose, projects, and membership opportunities.