

HONOURING A ROUGH RIDER LEGEND



Over the years, many members of the Saskatchewan Roughriders have established a special relationship with football fans in this province but, every so often, one player forms a particularly lasting bond. This summer, one of these players returned "home" to receive both Hall of Fame honours and a special designation, organized by SaskEnergy staff.

As a tribute to one of Saskatchewan's greatest sporting legends, Thursday, August 12th was designated Don Narcisse Day across Saskatchewan. To mark the occasion, SaskEnergy organized an outdoor celebration at Regina City Hall. Among the hundreds of people in attendance were Dustin Duncan, Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy, local officials, other former Riders including Roger Aldag, Gainer the Gopher and, of course, the guest of honour himself, along with family and friends who accompanied him from his home state of Texas.

Narcisse was a wide receiver with the Saskatchewan Roughriders from 1987 to 1999. Throughout his 13-year career, Don won the hearts of Rider fans across the nation with his incredible plays on the field and his big heart off of it. One of Don's most recognizable contributions began in 1997 when he joined forces with SaskEnergy to create the "Catch For Kids" program in support of KidSport.

With every catch Don made, SaskEnergy donated \$100 to KidSport. The "Catch For Kids" program was the start of a solid 12-year relationship between SaskEnergy and KidSport.

Although distance limits Don's ability to be involved with KidSport these days, he recently auctioned off numerous pieces of his football memorabilia as a way to raise funds for the charity. Together with proceeds from Don's other fundraising and a generous donation from the Insurance Brokers Association of Saskatchewan, the efforts generated a total of \$24,005 for KidSport. Narcisse was on hand to present the funds at the October 17th Rider home game.

Since Don Narcisse brought SaskEnergy and KidSport together, our organizations have continued to develop other successful fundraisers together, including the annual Roughrider Calendar. Since 2006, over 23,000 copies of the calendar have been sold worldwide, raising nearly \$180,000 for KidSport in 2009 alone.

Chris Chepil, Provincial Coordinator for KidSport, recently spoke of their relationship with SaskEnergy saying: "We always hope for longevity with any partnership we establish. We've been extremely fortunate that SaskEnergy has raised significant funds for us over the years and look forward to continuing that relationship with the 2011 Roughrider Calendar, which features Don Narcisse."

2011 marks the fifth consecutive anniversary for the Roughrider calendar, which was officially launched September 29th at the Northgate Mall Rider store. As an added incentive, the first 100 fans to purchase calendars received limited edition Roughrider Centennial loonies.