



Fairfield College Preparatory School



A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

Message of Bob Skoronski, '51

For presentation of golden football at Fairfield Prep

(Delivered by his brother, Gene Skowronski, '61)

September 23, 2016, Rafferty Stadium, Fairfield University

To the members of the Fairfield Prep family and football team, please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to be with you in person tonight. I am with you in spirit and extend to you my warmest greetings and best wishes.

I am deeply honored to be part of this NFL Super Bowl golden football celebration. This award belongs to Fairfield Prep, its wonderful priests, teachers, coaches and football players and to my teammates while here at Prep.

I would never have been able to learn and grow without their never-ending support, encouragement, help and inspiration. Fairfield Prep gave me my start. It all began here on this playing field and at McAuliffe and Berchmans. It was here that I got that great, classical, Jesuit education with its strong emphasis on Latin, English, foreign language and religion. It was here that the Jesuit priests tried valiantly to teach me how to think critically and independently. Occasionally they had modest success. This education and the values I learned here were transformative and guided and sustained me throughout my life.

On the Prep football field I learned the importance of conditioning, good fundamentals, perseverance and sportsmanship. These ideals and values were carried on and strengthened by my later coach, Vince Lombardi, himself a product of Catholic and Jesuit education.

I am profoundly grateful for the start I got here at Prep. There is a famous song entitled, "You never walk alone." I know I never walk alone. I know that as I walk, the priests, teachers, coaches, students and athletes of Fairfield Prep, past, present and future, are always with me. They are my companions on the journey. Without their help, I could not have had whatever success I did have, and we would not have this beautiful golden football.

I hope this golden football will inspire future generations of Prep students and athletes to follow and fulfill their dreams. Thank you.