

ALBANY FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPS PLAY IN TEXAS

by Rick Bonacorsi



A STIFF ARM BLOCK ADDS A FEW MORE YARDS TO GAIN

The Capital District Flag Football League (CDFFL) has now grown more than five times the size and is one of the premier leagues in the nation, with over 60 teams, three separate divisions and a few National Champions. This year's championship was played in February in Irving, Texas, the home of the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Stadium.

One of the local CDFFL teams that played in this year's tournament was the Scale Service. After finishing the regular Spring 2003 season 8-0, the Scale Service won the New England Classic Regionals over the summer in August, and 17 players earned a ticket to the National Championships in Dallas. The players in this tournament got the opportunity to compete on the same field as Troy Aikman, the great quarterback from the 70s, Roger Staubach, and also the all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith.

Some history about the CDFFL. In the 1980s, a man by the name of George

Higgins started a Flag Football League on Long Island. By 1990, Higgins decided that his Long Island league needed some out-of-town competition. That summer, he held a "New York State Flag & Touch Football Championship" and decided that Albany would be the best place to host the tournament.

In September 1991, CDFFL was created and Peek became the first commissioner.

In 1994, Frank Rogers took the helm after Peek left. Rogers had brought the 8-team AFFL (Albany Flag Football League) to the league when he met with Higgins in 1991.

Back to the first round in Dallas, the Scale Service played C.L. Construction, a Long Island-based team. Texas Stadium had a field that was covered with 3 inches of snow. Going into halftime, the two teams were tied at 13. But the Service wound up losing by a score of 26-13.

"They had a very smart quarterback, who just picked apart our defense in the second half", A.J. Court said, who coaches and plays for the Scale Service.

It is obvious that the players were upset with the outcome of the game, but they appreciated the opportunity to play in such an incredible environment like Texas Stadium.

"It was a really good experience", said Court. *"We ran out of the tunnel before the game. It was really neat."*



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