



Dear Athletic Director/Coach,

The **Derrick Thomas/Neil Smith Third and Long Foundation** was founded by Derrick Thomas in 1990. The Foundation has achieved prominence not only in the Greater Kansas City community but on a national level. In football, “third and long” is a desperate situation where a team must gain monumental yardage for a first down. The children supported by Derrick’s **Third and Long Foundation** face similar challenges when battling situations of delinquency, drugs, violence, crime and unemployment. Just as Derrick sacked many a quarterback in his day, Derrick built a foundation that “Sacks Illiteracy”.

The **Foundation** along with **Papa John’s Pizza**, would now like to recognize a Greater Kansas City high school senior football athlete who assumes the challenge of serving his community. If you have a senior player that reflects the commitment of service and who has shown outstanding service in the areas, e.g. tutoring, mentoring, aiding youth or the elderly or has made some civic impact, our Foundation would like to hear about it. Please submit the enclosed application by Friday, December 12, 2025. The winner will receive a **\$2,000** scholarship. Second and Third place winners will be awarded \$1000 each. Additionally, we will present a traveling **trophy** to display for one year in the winner’s high school. All nominees and the winner will be awarded a **Papa John’s Pizza** party for their football team. The final nominees will be awarded during our **Annual Holiday Luncheon, January 2026**. We are looking for the next young man who knows that value of meeting a “Third and Long situation” with personal service.

Please submit your nomination by mail to Third and Long Foundation (8301 State Line Road, Suite #116, Kansas City, MO 64114) or email to charleszetta@thirdandlong.org. Questions or concerns call 816 931 5855.

Regards,

Betty Brown, President of the Board of Directors