



Dear Athletic Director/Coach/Senior Counselors,

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. Derrick's longtime friend and team mate, Neil Smith co-founded the Third and Long Foundation and later after Derrick's tragic death, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Neil is a 13-year NFL career player as a Defensive Lineman with 105 sacks, 30 forced fumbles, 12 fumble recovers, 19 return yards, 4 interceptions, returning them for 68 yards and a touchdown. He is a two-time Super Bowl Champion-**Super Bowl XXXII** and **Super Bowl XXXIII**, 1997 and 1998 respectively. Steller statistics, **YES!** But more importantly he has served our community through his work with the Third and Long Foundation with its Reading Program and fund raisers. Neil also, in his own right, established the "**Neil Deal**", a program with Ozanam Home for Boys in Kansas City. They serve underprivileged young men in south Kansas City MO. As National Spokesperson for the "**Yes I Can**" program, Neil supports with the Foundation for Exceptional Children, young people with disabilities to accomplish great things in the areas of academics, the arts, athletic and community service.

Neil Smith has proven to be an exemplary athlete and a man about the community he shares here in Kansas City. The **Third and Long Foundation** Board announces the new **Neil Smith Community Service Award** presented to a graduating **female athlete** this year. Nominees for this award should show their athletic skills in any sport along with outstanding community service. The Foundation, in partnership with Michael Carter, President/CEO of the **Carter Broadcast Group** will sponsor the scholarship award January 2025.

With your submission of the enclosed application, female athletes will compete for a 1<sup>st</sup> Place award of \$2,000. The winner will also receive a traveling **trophy** to display for one year in the winner's high school. Second and Third place winners will be given \$1000 each. Encourage your senior young women to apply immediately and have all documentation submitted to our Foundation office submit your nomination to our office or email to [charleszetta@thirdandlong.org](mailto:charleszetta@thirdandlong.org). Questions or concerns call our office at 816 931 5855. It is imperative we have all applicants' forms for consideration **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024.**

Regards,

Betty Brown, President of the Board of Directors