



ED HOCHULI NAMED 2024 NFLRA HONOREE

WASHINGTON – The NFLRA is proud to announce Ed Hochuli as the 2024 NFLRA Honoree.

Over the years, Ed became a name synonymous with NFL officiating and one of the most recognizable figures in football. While well-known by the public for his detailed call explanations on the field, he cemented his legacy in the NFLRA family not just by leading the union as President but by teaching others, including the tireless hours he spent ensuring officials stayed sharp during the 2012 Lockout.

Born on December 25, 1950, in Milwaukee, Edward G. Hochuli, Jr.'s journey to NFL officiating began with his passion for sports. Growing up, he excelled in both football and wrestling, displaying a competitive spirit and a keen understanding of the games' intricacies. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he played linebacker, he went on to attend the University of Arizona School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 1976.

While in school, he picked up officiating to stay connected to the game and earn money, starting at the high school level. Hochuli soon moved to the NCAA, working college football games in the Western Athletic Conference and then in the Pac-10 Conference from 1983 to 1989. His on-field demeanor and exceptional knowledge of the game caught the attention of the NFL.

In 1990, Hochuli was hired by the NFL as a back judge, wearing No. 85, and quickly moved to referee before the 1992 season. Over the years, he officiated two Super Bowls (XXXII and XXXVIII) and was an alternate for three more.

He earned widespread respect from his officiating peers and was first elected to the NFLRA Board of Directors in 1996. He was elected President in 1999, where he served for three years.

During the 2012 lockout, Ed was instrumental in assisting many officials in continuing their preparation for the season. The New York Times wrote, "The fact that officials were prepared to return seamlessly on such short notice is largely because of Hochuli, who essentially did during the lockout what the league's office of officiating does under normal conditions... He spent dozens of hours each week making up rules tests, collecting and circulating game film, presiding

over conference calls and organizing e-mail round tables. During the lockout, Hochuli acted as a personal coach and cheerleader for his colleagues while they waited for a settlement.”

In 2017, after 28 seasons in the NFL, Hochuli announced his retirement from on-field officiating. He went on to work as an NFL Trainer for the next two seasons.

When asked about his officiating career, Hochuli offered, “I’m the incredibly proud and fortunate friend of hundreds of NFL officials – the best officials and best friends in the world!”

Off the field, Hochuli had a long and successful legal career as a trial lawyer and partner at Jones, Skelton, & Hochuli in Arizona. He now enjoys spending time with his six children, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and his better half, Cathie.