TODAY AT HALFTIME
“SPIKE” GARNISH CITATION & SCHOLARS

This afternoon’s halftime festivities are filled with traditional University of Rochester Homecoming presentations, headed by the awarding of the 14th Annual Lysle “Spike” Garnish Memorial Committee Citation and the Second Annual Lysle “Spike” Garnish Scholars.

The Garnish Citation, which today will be presented to Mr. William P. Blackmon, is awarded annually to an individual who has been instrumental in furthering the aims of University of Rochester athletics, and is named in the memory of the late trainer and coach of football, basketball, and baseball at the University of Rochester from 1930-1949.

Throughout his career and until his death in 1960, “Spike” was intensely interested in students and in athletics; his counsel and assistance helped many young athletes to persevere in sports and academics.

Mr. Blackmon’s Citation, which will be presented by Garnish Committee members Larry Palvino and Hal Johnson, reads “For over 50 years of devoted and untiring support of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Rochester, as a member of the Class of 1935, as a most-active alumnus in recruiting student-athletes, as a staunch and loyal critic, and in particular for his attendance at Yellowjacket football games wherever they were played.”

A native of Rochester, Mr. Blackmon played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the UR football team, sang in the Glee Club, and was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity before earning his degree in Economics in the Spring of 1935.

He joined General Motors with the Delco Products Division in 1948 as a plant paper editor, was promoted to Supervisor of Public and Employee Relations in 1950, and was named Director of Public Relations, Rochester Products Division, General Motors Corporation in 1966 . . . a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

Throughout his career, Mr. Blackmon remained active in UR alumni affairs, particularly in the areas of fund-raising appeals, the alumni association board, and the recruitment of student-athletes. In 1977, he received a Meliora Club Citation for his “outstanding contributions to University of Rochester intercollegiate athletics.”

Joining Mr. Blackmon at today’s presentation are his two sons, William R. and Charles A. Blackmon, and daughter, Laura Greene.

The Garnish Scholar is awarded “In Recognition of Combined Academic and Athletic Achievement Through the Junior Year at the University of Rochester.” Mr. Palvino and Mr. Johnson will present the Garnish Scholar plaques to the following three outstanding Yellowjacket senior student-athletes:

Josefa Benzioni: Neuroscience major . . . captain of women’s cross-country and track teams . . . won five state track titles as a junior . . . three-time NCAA Division III All-American in 1500 and 3000 meter runs in 1987.

John Deinhart: Political Science major . . . co-captain of football team . . . three-year starter at center . . . nominated for CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American Football Team.

Dave Vaccaro: Political Science major . . . co-captain of men’s soccer team . . . three-year starter at goalie . . . holds UR records for most shutouts in season (9 in 1986) and career (20).