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Former NFL, Friars Point athlete guest speaker at 'Hoss' banquet

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Aubrey Rozell, a native of Rena Lara who was a Little All-American at Delta State and played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, will be the guest speaker for the 13th annual Ronald "Hoss" Bennett Awards Banquet 6 p.m., Feb. 10 in the Oakhurst Baptist Church activity center.

The banquet, named in honor of Bennett, who played and coached at Clarksdale High School, recognizes the top high school senior student athlete from Lee Academy, Coahoma County, Coahoma Agricultural and Clarksdale.

Each school nominates three athletes and the winner from each school receives a \$250 scholarship to the college of his choice. The overall winner will receive an additional \$750 in scholarship money.

Donald Green is president of The Bennett Foundation, Inc. Charles "Primo" Sbravati, is the vice president and Marvin Carraway is the treasurer. Carraway customarily serves as the master of ceremonies.

"Aubrey was a teammate at Friars Point High School," Sbravati recalled. "I was a halfback. Aubrey was a linebacker."

The charter sponsors are Clarksdale Exchange Club, First National Bank, Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce and Covenant Bank.

Rozell, 78, who lives at Quitman (Clarke County), was drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1957 and traded to Pittsburgh.

After Rozell returned to Mississippi from his brief pro career, he coached at Holmes Junior College, Delta State and Pascagoula High School.

After he left coaching, Rozell went to work for the Mississippi State Parks Service where he served under four governors.

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