



Monday, May 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, May. 07, 2009

Mark Clayton's coach, mother give back to Sam Houston

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS

cjwilliams@star-telegram.com

ARLINGTON — Mark Clayton is a man of few words. So when the Baltimore Ravens receiver got word in January that his high school coach was one of five finalists for the NFL High School Football Coach of the Year award, Clayton said, "That's what's up!"

Arlington Sam Houston administrators could have said the same thing Thursday after Clayton's mother, JacQuetta, and the Texans' former coach, Ken Ozee, presented a \$5,000 check to Clayton's alma mater. The NFL awarded each of five finalists a \$2,500 cash award and a \$5,000 grant for their high school football programs.

Current Sam Houston coach Danny Edelman said the school would use the grant money to buy weightlifting equipment.

"It's something we desperately need," Edelman said. "We have a couple of types of equipment picked out. It'll be beneficial to all of our student-athletes."

Ozee was the head coach at Sam Houston from 1989-99, which included a 10-5 record and a state semifinal appearance in 1990. Edelman said he recently hung up a 1990 team photo to serve as motivation for current Texans players.

Clayton, too, has inspired the Texans. Principal Beverley McReynolds said Clayton still stops by the school when he is in town.

"I like staying in touch with my roots," Clayton said in a telephone interview from Baltimore. "It lets me see how far I've come and the journey that I'm on. That's where it all began. It's fun to reminisce."

Ozee, 64, is retired and lives in Aledo, where his grandson, Trey, is a quarterback for the Bearcats. Ozee returned to Sam Houston on Thursday to find that he still has quite a fan club.

"This is like my home," Ozee said. "I coached Texas high school football for 37 years, 15 of them here. So this really was a home to me. I left my heart at Sam Houston."



JacQuetta Clayton, mother of Ravens receiver Mark Clayton, and former Texans coach Ken Ozee reminisce. Special to the S-T/WILLIS KNIGHT