

» 6:28 p.m.  
Raymond James Stadium,  
Tampa, TV, Ch. 8

# SUPER BOWL XLIII



SCOTT KEELER | Times  
**Top Chef host and chef/restaurant owner Tom Colicchio signs autographs and takes part in festivities at Taste of the NFL.**

## Taste of the NFL all about worthy cause

The gathering raises money for hunger relief.

BY JANET K. KEELER  
Times Food and Travel Editor

ST. PETERSBURG — They came, they were seen and they nosed duck, shrimp and pork belly Saturday at the 18th Taste of the NFL, the annual foodie wing-ding that raises money for hunger relief.

"They" were the roughly 2,500 people who shelled out \$500 each to sample tasty food and wine, plus get their photos snapped with TV celebrities, star chefs and NFL players, both current and retired. VIP tickets, which allowed an hour more of tasting, were \$600.

Each NFL city sent a chef to show off its hometown fare and paired them with a football player to sign autographs. Chef Marty Blitz from Tampa's Mise en Place served up sauteed calamari in yuzu soy glaze in his 16th Taste of the NFL appearance. Retired linebacker Scot Brantley represented the Buccaneers. Over the years, the event, always held on the eve of the Super Bowl, has raised about \$8 million for hunger relief organizations.

Among the celebs roaming the artificial grass at Tropicana Field were the *Today Show's* Meredith Vieira, Ann Curry and Jenna Wolfe, *Top Chef* host Tom Colicchio and some contestants from his Bravo reality show, the new Miss America, Katie Stam, crown and all, plus lots of football players.

Former Dallas Cowboys great Roger Staubach hobnobbed with Jacksonville Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver while onlookers held their cell-phone cameras aloft to capture the moment. Max Weinberg, Bruce Springsteen's drummer, whose own band the Max Weinberg 7 was the night's entertainment, perused the auction items, mostly unrecognized.



SCOTT KEELER | Times  
**Pete Banaszak, who spent 13 years with the Oakland Raiders, signs autographs at Taste of the NFL.**

He paused longest at the rock memorabilia.

Tampa Bay Rays owner Stuart Sternberg and his son, Jake, chatted up folks — and Rays employees. The party was, after all, in his house.

"Let's get this football game out of the way and we can get to what's important — baseball," he said, smiling. "Seriously, though, this is a great event."

Carolina Panthers cornerback Richard Marshall was happy to be sitting and using a Sharpie on footballs, programs and souvenir aprons, while chef Blake Hartwick and crew dished out barbecue duck spring rolls with chow-chow. "Last night was something," he said. He rolled into bed about 8:30 a.m. Saturday after a jamming Friday night in Tampa. "I need a rest."

Janet K. Keeler can be reached at [jkeeler@sptimes.com](mailto:jkeeler@sptimes.com) or (727) 893-8586.



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN | Times  
**Buccaneers running back Warrick Dunn, right, receives the Bart Starr Award from the award's namesake at the Athletes in Action Super Bowl Breakfast at the USF Sun Dome.**

## Dunn awarded for his work within community

The Buc star is feted for his Home for the Holidays program.

BY JESSICA VANDER VELDE  
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — Bucs running back Warrick Dunn won the prestigious Bart Starr Award, which honors players who make a difference through community service, at Saturday's annual Athletes in Action Super Bowl Breakfast.

Dunn was lauded for his Warrick Dunn Foundation Homes for the Holidays program, which offers down payments and furnishing to single parents. It has provided 84 homes, the latest being awarded Tuesday in Tampa.

Dunn, 34, took the microphone and thanked God, his late mother and Tampa.

"You guys really supported me when I came here as a rookie (in 1997) and really throughout my whole career," he said.

Dunn played for the Bucs for five years before going to Atlanta. He returned to the Bucs in 2008.

Speaking to about 7,000 people at the sold-out Sun Dome, he said his mother was the inspiration behind his efforts to help single

parents become first-time home buyers.

"My mom's dream was to own her own home, and she never had the opportunity," he said.

Dunn's mother, a Baton Rouge police officer, was shot and killed in 1993, when Dunn was a high school senior.

He also talked about visiting the prison where his mother's killer waits out his sentence on death row.

"I told him, 'I forgive you,'" Dunn said.

Dunn also donates time and resources to Athletes for Hope, Boy Scouts and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

He was up against some tough competition for the award, named for the former Green Bay Packers quarterback, coach and Hall of Famer.

The two other finalists — quarterbacks Kurt Warner of the Arizona Cardinals and Drew Brees of the New Orleans Saints — also started their own foundations.

But Bucs fans in the audience were happy to have one of their own carry off the award, and they gave him two standing ovations.

## Dungy speech highlights Christian-themed breakfast

BY JESSICA VANDER VELDE  
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — Today, the glory will be gained on the field. But on Saturday, the accolades were for athletes' actions outside the stadium.

A star-studded lineup of past and present players spoke about the sport, God and community service to a crowd of about 7,000 at the Athletes in Action Super Bowl Breakfast at the sold-out Sun Dome.

And although it was held to honor football players for their community service, for a while, it seemed like it was all about Tony Dungy.

As the finely dressed attendees on the dome's floor finished their bacon, eggs and coffee, six of Dungy's friends and former players took turns speaking

highly of the former Bucs coach who recently stepped down as coach of the Colts. The crowd stood and cheered when Dungy took the microphone.

He said he's excited to be back in Tampa and plans to spend his retirement helping young people.

"There's a lot of kids ... that have great potential, that just need direction in life," he said.

Further fueling the Bucs fans' passions, the prestigious Bart Starr Award, which honors one player each year for his community service, went to Bucs running back Warrick Dunn. He was lauded for his work with the Warrick Dunn Foundation.

Emcee Brent Jones, a former 49ers tight end, got the crowd going by asking if there were any Cardinals fans in the dome.



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN | Times  
**Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks signs autographs at the Athletes in Action Super Bowl Breakfast.**

Clapping, whistling and whooping erupted.

Bucs fans? The loudest. But the most enthusiastic response seemed to be for Jesus, Steelers fans? Even louder.

not for any team.

The breakfast was hosted by Athletes in Action, a group started in 1966 to use athletes' platforms to talk about Christianity. When players spoke about their faith in God, they were applauded.

And the program ended with former Bengals star and Hall of Fame lineman Anthony Munoz leading a prayer for those who want to commit their lives to Christ.

That's the only reason Dunn said he was able to forgive the man who murdered his mother, a police officer, in 1993. He became a Christian in 2005, he said.

"I was so at peace. God became foremost in my life," Dunn said after receiving the award.

"Things do happen for a reason. I realize that."

### Prop bets

Some of the Super Bowl proposition bets being offered by various online gambling sites:

**How long will it take Jennifer Hudson to sing the national anthem? Clock starts as soon as Hudson sings first note and stops when she sings her last note.**

Over 2 minutes, 1 second -200  
Under +160

**Which Super Bowl commercial will have a higher rating on USA Today's annual Ad Meter?**

Anheuser-Busch/Budweiser	10-13
GoDaddy.com	17-2
Pepsi	15-4
Coca-Cola	21-4
McDonald's	29-4
Doritos	17-4
Other	9-4

**How many times will Al Michaels and John Madden reference Ben Roethlisberger as "Big Ben" during the game?**

Over 5 +135  
Under -185

**Which quarterback will John Madden mention by full name first after the opening kickoff?**

Ben Roethlisberger +170  
Kurt Warner -210

**How many times will NBC show Brenda Warner on TV during the game?**

Over 2½ +135  
Under -175

**Will Matt Millen pick the correct team to win during the pregame show?**

Yes -215  
No +175

**What color will Bill Bidwill's bow tie be?**

Red -700  
Any other +475

**Who will be tackled by his hair first in the game?**

Troy Polamalu +400  
Larry Fitzgerald -600

**What color will the Gatorade be that is dumped on the head coach of the winning Super Bowl team?**

Lime green	9-2
Yellow	37-20
Orange	3-1
Red	6-1
Blue	9-1
Clear/water	5-4

**What side of the ball will the players that perform the Gatorade shower be from? Players must be holding a part or piece of the bucket to be counted toward the wager. If there are players from both sides of the ball involved in the actual dumping of Gatorade then wagers are no action.**

Offensive +105  
Defensive -145

**What will happen with the stock market the day after Super Bowl? Will the NYSE index be up or down?**

Pittsburgh wins, up	13-10
Pittsburgh wins, down	13-10
Arizona wins, up	33-10
Arizona wins, down	33-10

**How many yards will the first touchdown of the game be?**

No TD	75-1
0-yard TD	25-1
1-7 yards	6-5
8-15 yards	33-20
16-25 yards	3-1
26-39 yards	5-1
40-59 yards	6-1
60-79 yards	14-1
80-95 yards	18-1
96 or more yards	10-1

**Will Troy Polamalu get an interception in the game?**

Yes +160  
No -200

**Who will complete more passes?**

Ben Roethlisberger +6, -110  
Kurt Warner -6, -120

**Will Kurt Warner break Joe Montana's career Super Bowl record of 1,142 passing yards? Kurt Warner must start game for wagers to have action. He needs 364 passing yards to break the record.**

Yes +400  
No -600

## The countdown is on!

Turn to [TampaBay.com](http://TampaBay.com), the **St. Petersburg Times** and our radio partner 620 WDAE-The Sports Animal for the best in local Super Bowl coverage. From pre-game publicity to post-game analysis, coverage begins —and ends— with the award-winning sports reporters of the St. Petersburg Times.

In print, online and on the radio, turn to the **St. Petersburg Times**, [TampaBay.com](http://TampaBay.com) and 620 WDAE-The Sports Animal for everything Super Bowl!

