



DETROIT LIONS FOOTBALL EDUCATION DIVISION

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For Immediate Release

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JOHN SHILLITO OF ZEELAND WEST HIGH SCHOOL NAMED THE 2015 DETROIT LIONS/FARM BUREAU INSURANCE OF MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH OF THE YEAR

Detroit, MI—The Detroit Lions have named **John Shillito of Zeeland West High School** the 2015 Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan High School Football Coach of the Year.

Coach Shillito led his Dux to a 40-14 victory over Flint Powers Catholic on November 27 to win the Division 4 Michigan High School Football State Championship with a 14-0 record. This was Zeeland West's third State Championship in five years and their fourth State Championship in their 11 year school history. During his tenure as Zeeland West's head football coach, Shillito has compiled a 111-22 record (83.5% winning percentage) and has directed his Dux to the playoffs in nine of those 11 seasons with a playoff record of 29-5 (85.3% winning percentage).

Currently in his 34th year of coaching, Shillito has been a head coach for 32 years (Comstock Park- 3 years, Muskegon Orchard View- 14 years, and East Kentwood-4 years). Shillito's career record is 266-83 (76.2% winning percentage). He was named a Detroit Lions High School Football Coach of the Week in 2000 as head coach of East Kentwood High School. Shillito was also elected to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2005.

High School Football Coach of the Week/Year Program

Each week throughout the 2015 nine-week high school football regular season, one coach that best develops his players' character, discipline, and football skill in addition to emphasizing player health and safety in their program, was recognized for his commitment to the team, school, and community. The winners were selected by a panel of high school football media members—**Mick McCabe (Detroit Free Press), Hugh Bernreuter (Saginaw News), Bret Bakita (WOOD Radio-106.9 FM, ESPN 96.1 FM-Fox 17/Grand Rapids), James Cook (Traverse City Record-Eagle), and Scott Brandenburg (Mlive.com/Muskegon)**. Coach Shillito was selected as Coach of the Year by the votes of the aforementioned media members, as well as the public online vote at DetroitLions.com/coachoftheyear.

This season's program awarded \$22,000 to aid the development and promotion of high school football throughout Michigan, thanks to contributions from the Detroit Lions, the NFL Foundation and Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan.



Each winning coach during the regular season received a \$2,000 donation to his school's football program. Weekly winners will be honored at an awards ceremony during the Lions-49ers game on December 27. During the ceremony, the Lions will also recognize Shillito as the Michigan High School Football Coach of the Year. Shillito will receive a \$4,000 donation for his football program.

In addition to the monetary award, all winners will receive a certificate signed by Lions' head coach **Jim Caldwell** and NFL commissioner **Roger Goodell** and a personalized game ball. As a result of his Coach of the Year honor, Coach Shillito has been nominated for the Don Shula NFL High School Football Coach of the Year Award.

Currently in its' 19th year, the Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Week/Year program has awarded \$367,000 to high school football programs throughout the state of Michigan. For more information on the Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Week/Year program, contact Chris Fritzsching, Lions' Director of Football Education, at 313-262-2248.

All-Time Coach of the Year recipients:

1997-John Herrington, Farmington Hills Harrison, **1998-Thomas Mach**, Detroit Catholic Central, **1999-Don Durrett**, Saginaw, **2000-Herb Brogan**, Jackson Lumen Christi, **2001-John Schwartz**, Mendon, **2002-Mike Boyd**, Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, **2003-Scot Shaw**, Three Rivers, **2004-Noel Dean**, Lowell, **2005-Jack Pratt**, Flint Powers, **2006-Tony Annese**, Muskegon, **2007-Jim Reynolds**, Detroit King, **2008-Peter Stuursma**, East Grand Rapids, **2009-Rich Hulkow**, Marshall, **2010-Chris Bell**, Lake Orion, **2011-Thomas Wilcher**, Detroit Cass Tech, **2012-Terry Hessbrook**, Ithaca, **2013-Kurt Richardson**, Clarkston, **2014-Dan Rohn**, Grand Rapids West Catholic, **2015-John Shillito**, Zeeland West

2015 Coach of the Week recipients: **Week 1-Dale Harvel**, Detroit Martin Luther King, **Week 2-Clint Galvas**, New Lothrop, **Week 3-Matt Koziak**, Muskegon Mona Shores, **Week 4-Jamie Grignon**, Lincoln Park, **Week 5-Steve Uganski**, Jenison, **Week 6-Jason Couch/Curt Rienas**, Romeo, **Week 7-Josh Sellers**, Traverse City St. Francis, **Week 8-Eddie Ostipow**, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern, **Week 9-Bob Czarnecki**, Trenton