

Officials for ArenaBowl XXI announced

Thursday, 26 July 2007

NEW ORLEANS – The Arena Football League today announced the Officiating Crew for ArenaBowl XXI New Orleans. The Columbus Destroyers will meet the San Jose SaberCats in ArenaBowl XXI on Sunday, July 29 at New Orleans Arena. The game will be broadcast live in high definition at 3 p.m. ET on ESPN on ABC.

DAVE CUTAIA has been officiating football, basketball and baseball since 1968. He has been officiating in the AFL since 1997. Cutaia was appointed to the Pacific-8 Conference (now known as the Pacific-10 Conference) as a back judge in 1976 before moving to the referee position. As the 2007 PAC-10 Coordinator of Officials, Cutaia has worked several bowl games including: 1st BCS National Championship game in 1999, the Orange Bowl, Capital One Bowl, Humanitarian Bowl, Independence Bowl, Fiesta Bowl and East-West Shrine Game three times.

RICK LOWE began officiating in 1977 and has officiated college, af2 and AFL games. His collegiate experience began with the AIC/NAIA and as he worked with the Gulf South Conference (Division II), SunBelt Conference (Division I), and most recently, the Southeastern Conference (Division I). During that time, Lowe officiated the Silicon Valley Bowl Classic, the Peach Bowl, the Alamo Bowl and the GMAC Bowl. He officiated the af2 for two years and the ArenaCup in 2001. He has been with the AFL for six years and this will be his first ArenaBowl.

BRENT DURBIN has worked as an official on many different levels including high school, NCAA Divisions I and II, NFL Europa and the AFL. He has been licensed through the Indiana High School Athletics Association since 1983. He spent three years in NCAA Division II for the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference and four years in Division I at the Mid-American Conference where he officiated the 1999 Micron Bowl. Durbin's longest tenure is with the Big Ten Conference. He has officiated several Bowl Games including: Houston (2000), GMAC (2001), Holiday (2002), Orange (2004), Sugar (2005), Rose (2006) and Fiesta Bowls (2007). He has been with the AFL since 2001 and has officiated numerous playoff games, with this being his first ArenaBowl.

PAUL ENGELBERTS has been officiating AFL games since 1990, missing only the 2001 season to work for the XFL and the XFL Championship game. No stranger to the AFL's Championship Game, he has officiated ArenaBowls VII (1993) and XI (1997) and stood as an alternate in ArenaBowl VIII (1994). Engelberts has also officiated in the Gator, GMAC, Peach, Silicon Valley, and Holiday Bowls. He also worked in two Independence Bowls, as well as the World Bowl for NFL Europa in 1998.

RICH WILBORN has been officiating football for 16 years. He began officiating high school football in 1991, moving to the college level in 1996. His collegiate experience began with the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (Division III) where officiated for six years. Wilborn also spent three years in the Southern Conference (Division 1-AA) and has been with the Atlantic Coast Conference since 2005. After officiating in af2 for two years, Wilborn transitioned to the AFL in 2002. Most recently, he has officiated two collegiate championships as the back judge for the 2004 NCAA Division I-AA National Championship, and as part of the crew who officiated the Southern Division Championship in 2006. This will be his first ArenaBowl.

BILL ATHAN is a seven-year veteran of the AFL and a 25-year veteran of Division I-A collegiate officiating working primarily in the Western Athletic Conference. This is Athan's second ArenaBowl assignment, having officiated in ArenaBowl XVII. --AFL--