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## THE KEN KUNKEN MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD



At the conclusion of today's Collegiate Sprint Football League contest, the Allegiance Bowl Committee, Inc. will present the Most Valuable Player Award in honor of Ken Kunken, a Cornell University sprint football player who sustained a paralyzing injury in 1970 while defending a kick off against Columbia. In presenting the award in his name, the Committee recognizes Ken's personal accomplishments, contributions to society, and extraordinary courage as examples worthy of emulation.

Despite his quadriplegia, Ken has achieved what few people could even imagine. Following his devastating injury, Ken graduated from Cornell and thereafter earned two masters degrees, one from Cornell and another from Columbia. He initially pursued employment as a rehabilitation counselor, helping the disabled cope with the demands of life. Ken then went on to law school, obtaining a Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University in 1981. He has served with distinction for the past 26 years with the Nassau County District Attorney's Office where he is Deputy Chief of the County Court Trials Bureau, overseeing nineteen other attorneys as they prosecute felony cases in the criminal courts. Ken also travels the country giving motivational speeches, encouraging others to overcome obstacles in the pursuit of their dreams. In fact, he was the keynote speaker at the 2006 Allegiance Bowl Kick-Off Banquet where 250 Ivy League sprint football players, coaches, and guests gave him a standing ovation.

In honor of Ken's indomitable spirit, extraordinary record of public service, and inspirational life, the Allegiance Bowl Committee, Inc. annually presents the Ken Kunken Most Valuable Player Award to a deserving sprint football participant of the Adirondack Trust Allegiance Bowl.

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