

Liam Donohue's speech for the 2013 Season Award Ceremony

I joined this league 3 years ago at the urging of a friend, and over these years I watched the organization grow and grow, constantly improving, constantly spreading its outreach wider and wider.

Carlos has a lot to show for his efforts put into this league, and if anything can demonstrate this fact it is the day I spent with him a couple weeks ago. On December 22 last year, Carlos and I got to attend the football game of the century, two fierce and competitive teams that you can always count on to go far in the playoffs, highly skilled teams you know will always win the game; the New York Jets and the Cleveland Browns.

All jokes aside, this game was truly incredible for both of us. The tickets we got were no regular tickets, no, only the best for YALD. Instead, we were granted access to the VIP coaches club of MetLife Stadium, where we met players, cheerleaders, ESPN reporters and even celebrities. Not only that, but there was an enormous buffet aligning the club, with everything from sour patch kids to filet mignon. Oh, and the whole establishment was on the edge of the field, which you could walk out on to, just a few yards from the Jets players stretching and hanging out between plays.

Now, I'm sure most of you are mumbling to yourselves about how you deserved this more than me or are wondering why you weren't selected to go.

I was selected to attend this game for my "leadership qualities", or something like that, but it should be made clear that I was not the original player selected to go. Rafael Moreno, where are you? Ralphie has been in the league from the beginning and has consistently been grabbing more sacks on disgruntled QB's than almost any other player. We all recognize Ralphie for his high-pitched voice, but we also all recognize him for the extreme dedication to the league and commitment to his teammates that he holds, and he was the league's first choice to go to this game. Let's give a big hand to Ralphie.

Unfortunately, Ralphie was not able to go to the game, (thank god) and the second guy on the list was chosen instead. (Point to self)

Finally, as impressive as Carlos' negotiation and business skills undoubtedly are, this phenomenal day would never have been possible if it were not for the extreme generosity and kindness of Tom Ludington, the man who gave us this opportunity. Let's give him a big round of applause.