



NEWS RELEASE

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*“The Jet” Award Dinner, Ceremony Moves to Ralston Arena
Organizers sign 10-year contract, opening event to local fans, national audience.*

August 14, 2013, Ralston, Neb. – The organizers of the Johnny “The Jet” Rodgers National College Football Return Specialist Award have signed an agreement with the Ralston Arena to hold the event at the Arena on the second Thursday in April for the next 10 years starting April 10, 2014. The announcement was made during a news conference Wednesday, August 14, at the Ralston Arena.

The Jet Award has been given for the past two years to the most outstanding College Football Return Specialist. Organizers have been looking for a venue with the capacity they need, and with some permanence, according to Rodgers. “The Ralston Arena has the capacity and the cache we have been looking for, and the staff understands the ambiance we are looking for as we move to make this one of college football’s premier award events,” Rodgers added.

“We’re excited to be chosen to host this event,” said Paul Hendrickson, general manager of the Ralston Arena. “We’re looking forward to showing off our facility and the expertise of our staff, Hendrickson added.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will go toward the Johnny Rodgers Career and Technical Education Scholarship fund at Metropolitan Community College. The scholarship program has the support of the Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, according to President Terry Moore.

The Jet Award event will feature a banquet dinner and award presentation on the floor of the arena, followed by a party after. Attendance at the dinner will be by invitation only.

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Tickets to view the award presentation from the Arena's main bowl, and to attend the party after the ceremony will be available to the general public. The dinner will serve 700 to 800 persons and seating for another 2,000 for the award ceremony and post-party.

The award event benefits the Johnny Rodgers Youth Foundation's charitable programs and funds the Johnny Rodgers Career and Technical Education Scholarship at Metropolitan Community College. The scholarships will fund technical training for low-income students.

"The Jet" Award is named for Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers, the 38th Heisman Award winner and the first Heisman winner from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. According to College Football News, Rodgers is "the greatest kick returner in college football history."

"The Jet" award trophy depicts Rodgers' escape from the University of Oklahoma's Greg Pruitt in the 1971 NU/OU "Game of the Century".

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