

## Dooley Selected As Recipient Of 38th Corbett Award

**May 11, 2004**

**Cleveland, Ohio** - Vince Dooley, director of athletics at the University of Georgia, has been chosen by the Officers and Executive Committee of NACDA to be the recipient of the 39th James J. Corbett Memorial Award.

The Corbett Award is presented annually to the collegiate administrator who "through the years has most typified Corbett's devotion to intercollegiate athletics and worked unceasingly for its betterment." Corbett, athletics director at Louisiana State University, was NACDA's first president in 1965. The award is the highest honor one can achieve in collegiate athletics administration.

Additionally, Dooley will receive an honorary degree from the Sports Management Institute (SMI), an educational institute sponsored by NACDA and the universities of Michigan, North Carolina, Notre Dame, South Carolina, Southern California and Texas.

Dooley's extensive career in collegiate athletics began when he returned to Auburn University, his alma mater, after service in the Marines to take on assistant football coaching duties. He was soon hired as the head football coach at Georgia (1963-88) where he has since remained, devoting more than 40 years of service. As head coach, Dooley led the team to six Southeastern Conference (SEC) championship titles, 20 bowl games and a national championship in 1980, one year after being named Georgia's athletics director.

Dooley continued to manage the dual role of head football coach and athletics director until 1988, during which time he earned two National Coach of the Year distinctions (1980, 1982). When he stepped down as coach to focus his energies on the athletics director's position, Dooley's 201 career victories ranked third among active coaches and led to his induction into the College Hall of Fame in 1994.

The Georgia athletics program realized immense financial growth under Dooley's guidance, as the budget increased from \$3 million to its current total of \$43 million. This boost also facilitated the extensive construction and renovation of athletics facilities that accompanied Dooley's tenure, most recently with the opening of a new softball stadium in February. The construction of new football facilities in the Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall and the Rankin-Smith Sr. Student Athletic Academic center are also among the new additions to campus under Dooley's leadership, while the university's baseball stadium, track and field complex and basketball arena received significant enhancements as well.

Dooley has been recognized with numerous distinctions. The United States Sports Academy presented Dooley with an honorary doctorate, the Carl Maddox Management Award and invited him to address the graduates as the keynote speaker (2003). As a testament to the respect and stature he has achieved among industry leaders, Dooley's peers selected him to chair the National Sportsmanship Behavior Summit (2003). Inducted into both the Alabama and Georgia Sports Halls of Fame, he is also listed among Georgia Trend's Top 100 Georgians of the Century (2000) and received the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award from the American Football Coaches Association (2001). In 1984, Dooley was named the Georgia Association of Broadcasters' "Georgian of the Year" and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame's "Sports Administrator of the Year."

Dooley served as NACDA's president in 1999-2000, and has also led the Division I-A athletics directors (1995) and the American Football Coaches Association (1985). Additionally, he chaired the NCAA Football Rules Committee (1994-99), the NCAA Recruiting Committee (1991-94) and the College Football Association (1972-80).

He has also been very active in the university and greater Georgia communities. By means of his \$100,000 gift to the library, the Vincent J. Dooley Library Endowment Fund was created and has since accumulated \$2.3 million. He was also instrumental in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Olympic Organizing Committee, and continues to donate his time generously to community organizations including the Boy Scouts, the Heart Fund and the Salvation Army. In 1987, Dooley's extensive work with the Easter Seals Society merited his selection as the society's Volunteer of the Year.

Although the end of the 2003-04 academic year marked Dooley's final year at the helm of the Georgia athletics department, his service to the athletics community will be sustained by a new role as consultant to the Arena Football League's Georgia Force.

On receiving word of his award, Dooley said, "Receiving the James Corbett Award is a wonderful honor for many reasons and I am grateful to those who named me as a recipient. I had the great privilege of knowing Jim Corbett, the individual the award memorializes and the one who spearheaded the formation of NACDA and served as its first president. Jim was a highly respected athletics director at LSU and was a real leader in the Southeastern Conference when I first became the head football coach at Georgia. The Corbett Award is also special because it allows me to be in the company of so many outstanding leaders in intercollegiate athletics whom are past recipients. I am proud to be mentioned in the same breath with those who have given so much to intercollegiate athletics. Lastly, it is always meaningful to be recognized by your peers, and to be recognized with the Association's highest award is both a heartfelt and humbling experience."

Past winners of the James J. Corbett Memorial Award and their affiliation at the time:  
2003 - Gary Cunningham, director of athletics, University of California-Santa Barbara  
2002 -- Roy Kramer, commissioner, Southeastern Conference  
2001 -- Jack Lengyel, director of athletics, U.S. Naval Academy

2000 -- Cedric Dempsey, president, NCAA  
1999 -- Chuck Neinas, former executive director, College Football Association  
1998 -- Jim Frank, commissioner, Southwestern Athletic Conference  
1997 -- Gene Corrigan, commissioner, Atlantic Coast Conference  
1996 -- Carl James, commissioner, Big Eight Conference  
1995 -- Elizabeth (Betty) Kruczek, director of athletics, Fitchburg State University  
1994 -- Richard Schultz, former executive director, NCAA  
1993 -- LeRoy Walker, president, United States Olympic Committee  
1992 -- Homer Rice, director of athletics, Georgia Tech  
1991 -- Joe Kearney, commissioner, Western Athletic Conference  
1990 -- George King, director of athletics, Purdue University  
1989 -- Scotty Whitelaw, commissioner, Eastern College Athletic Conference  
1988 -- Mike Lude, director of athletics, University of Washington  
1987 -- John Toner, director of athletics, University of Connecticut  
1986 -- Carl Maddox, director of athletics, Mississippi State University  
1985 -- Cecil Coleman, commissioner, Midwestern City Conference  
1984 -- Bud Jack, director of athletics, University of Utah  
1983 -- Wiles Hallock, executive director, Pacific?10 Conference  
1982 -- Edgar Sherman, director of athletics, Muskingum College  
1981 -- Bill Flynn, director of athletics, Boston College  
1980 -- Stan Bates, commissioner, Western Athletic Conference  
1979 -- Harry Fouke, director of athletics, University of Houston  
1978 -- Bill Orwig, director of athletics, Indiana University  
1977 -- Bob Kane, president, United States Olympic Committee  
1976 -- Walter Byers, executive director, NCAA  
1975 -- Jesse Hill, executive director, PCAA  
1974 -- Al Twitchell, director of athletics, Rutgers University  
1973 -- Ernie McCoy, director of athletics, University of Miami  
1972 -- Bill Reed, commissioner, Big Ten Conference  
1971 -- Tom Hamilton, commissioner, Pacific?8 Conference  
1970 -- Dick Larkins, director of athletics, Ohio State University  
1969 -- Asa Bushnell, commissioner, Eastern College Athletic Conference  
1968 -- Fritz Crisler, director of athletics, University of Michigan  
1967 -- Bernie Moore, commissioner, Southeastern Conference