

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1850

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Smith Center Football Coach Roger Barta for being named the Field Turf Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, Roger Barta, Smith Center High School football coach for more than 30 years, was named the Field Turf Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year by a committee of the Army All- American Bowl for being not only a great coach, but also for being a leader of young men and an excellent example of Army values; and

WHEREAS, The Smith Center Redmen's stellar record while under the direction of Roger Barta includes seven state championships; four consecutive 4A and four consecutive 2-1A titles; only one losing season; playing in the state championship games in all but two years; and a record of 276 wins to 58 losses in 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Going into the 2008 season, Roger Barta's team has a 54-game winning streak which is the longest active streak in Kansas and just 12 games shy of the state record of 66 games; and

WHEREAS, Coach Barta's positive influence on his players is evident in that three former players currently teach and coach at Smith Center; Brock Hutchinson, Mike Rogers and Tim Wilson. Brock Hutchinson's father Dennis has also been an assistant coach for many years; and

WHEREAS, Four other former players now coach football at other Kansas high schools; Dave King, Russell; Tim Lambert, St. Francis; Clint Merritt, Hugoton; and Coach Barta's son Brooks, Holton; and

WHEREAS, One former Smith Center player, Mark Simoneau, now plays for the New Orleans Saints as a linebacker; Simoneau said of Coach Barta: "He looks and sounds like a math teacher, which he is, and is about as laid back as they come. As good a coach as he is, he's a better guy. He treats people like gold."; and

WHEREAS, Smith Center High School's recent increase in student enrollment is believed to be in part due to the reputation of Coach Barta and his football program; of approximately 125 male students, more than 60% play football: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the Field Turf Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year, Roger Barta, be congratulated and commended for implementing his ideal of sending Smith Center students into life knowing that every day means something, and for his years of excellence in teaching and coaching; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide 5 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Janis Lee for presentation to Coach Barta.

Senate Resolution No. 1850 was sponsored by Senator Janis Lee.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*