

GREATEST COACHES OF MINIATURE ELECTRIC FOOTBALL'S FIRST 64 YEARS **The Top 20!**



We are back with the next installment of the Greatest Coaches of Miniature Football's first 64 years. This list was started in 2010 and was intended to come out in the final edition of the Tweak magazine in 2011. That issue never happened. In the Winter 2010, Issue 15 of the Tweak, we listed coaches 64-21. Some of the coaches ranked 64 through 21 liked their ranking and others didn't. Everyone has an opinion and this is just that, an opinion. What makes this list so special is that we have judges from every region of the MFCFA. We used old vets and we picked some of the new blood that is now in the hobby. Every judge submitted his top 20 and points were awarded. Today we will find out the top 20 voted by our esteemed panel of judges. Here are the final Top 20 Coaches.

#20 LAVELL SHELTON

Presented by Ray Fanara

This remarkable Coach is grounded by sound Christian principles and began his lifelong love of the hobby in 1967 when he received his first Electric Football game as a gift. He started his first Miniature Football League three years later when he began perfecting his playing style, and mentoring those interested in learning the game. He helped to perfect the use of the "Scrimmage Screen", a style of play most notably played in the Norfolk and Tidewater areas of Virginia, where he won numerous championships in the 70's and 80's. He is a two time Miggle champion and a seven time champion in the SC Electric Football League and has many other league Championships to his credit. He is married and has two children. Here are some of his career highlights:

- Multiple Championships in Tidewater, Virginia during the 60's and 70's
- 1980's, Hunton YMCA – Five time Super bowl Champ in Norfolk, Virginia
- Seven time Champion SC Electric Football League
- Seven time NFC Champion of the SC Electric Football League
- Two time Miggle World Champ in 1997 & 1998 in Chicago, Illinois and Cleveland, Ohio respectively.
- Carolina Classic EFL in 2001 and 2002
- Dixie League Offense Rusher in 2006
- Dixie League Offense Rusher in 2007
- Dixie League Offense Rusher in 2008
- Palmetto EF Championship in 2008
- Palmetto Offensive MVP of the year 2008
- DCEFL Outback Bowl runner up in 2009

#19 DON SMITH

Presented by Matthew Culp

He has built boards, made custom figures, and tweaked bases by the thousands. He has won tournament and league championships, as well as the Green Room Rumble. He has been the Miggle Coach of the Year along with his son D.C., and winner of an MFCFA Strongest Man competition. He founded the Seawall Brawl and, along with his good friend Bryan Nutt, started the Miniature Football Coaches forum that ultimately became the MFCFA message board. "OldSchool" as he is known, is also responsible for all of us having different colored bases in our hobby; he was the one who originally gave the idea to the Landsmans to increase sales and to help curb cheating when the Miggle used the out-of-the-bag format.

The first Seawall Brawl was held in June 2006 for the benefit of the Police Unity Tour. There were 55 coaches playing in that first gathering, and Don's son, DC Smith, took home the trophy. The following year, the Brawl saw over 90 players competing for the title.

In 2000 Don went to the Miggle convention in Canton, Ohio and made it into the final four in his first tourney. Then in 2002 he competed in a Buzzball tourney and placed in the final four there as well. Six months later, during the summer, he brought home the Buzzball Championship title. In 2003 he won Tom Ruesink's National EF Tournament in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in 2004 won the Pepsi & Cold Pizza Lightning Tournament held at the Mall of America in Bloomington Minnesota. In 11 championship games between 2001-2008, Don has an impressive 10-1 record.

#18 EDGAR DOWNS

Presented by Frank Johnson

Edgar has won back-to-back Miggle Championships. He has won a Texas Shootout Championship. He has won a Bama Blast Championship. He has won several league titles. Edgar's game has no weaknesses. He always plays solid defense and rarely makes mistakes during a game. He has the ability to consistently hit clutch passes. Edgar may not get the recognition he deserves because he does not usually post on the forums or self-promote as many other coaches do.

#17 JOE GRECO

Presented by Ed Roche

Joe has been involved in the hobby since he and his son Zack showed up for the Miggle Convention in 2006. He first played competitively in the NHFL and dove headfirst into becoming a rules guru and dedicated league member. His attendance at conventions and tournaments and ever pleasant demeanor quickly made him known throughout the country. If we were to look to any coach to be an ambassador of our hobby as a whole, it would surely be Coach Joe Greco. When he is in the house, someone will look for him to consult on a rule or with help setting up a field or something to keep things moving along.

He is always on the move if he is not competing. Once you meet him, you know right away that he is someone who loves the game and the coaches who play it. So it is easily understood why he has been the recipient of the 2009 NEFL David Fox award, the 2009 CBSMF MVC, and most recently the 2011 Miggle Good Vibrations award. These reflect his sportsmanship, fellowship, and leadership qualities that he so freely shares with those he comes in contact with. His career takes him all across this country and he has often used his free time to play coaches in the area he is doing business in.

Currently competing in the NEFL, BAM, and CBSMF, he is easily addressed as Coach, but to those of us who know him in a deeper sense, it has come to mean friend. The top 20 would only be the top 19 without him.

#16 JAMES CREWS

Presented by Corey Johnson

I was angry and honored that Crews would ask me to present him. I was angry because I know I have never beaten him. He set the NEFL scoring record on me 52-30...52pts!!! And I was a perennial playoff coach. In the NFC championship game he beat me 30-0. When he stopped playing, I lost a little bit of my desire and even dropped out of the playoffs once I knew he was done. He was my 'bar'. One night, we were all over at "SmokeStack's" house, as always, scrimmaging. Crews didn't have his team. I saw him take some bases that were laying around in my box and another coach's box...leftover stuff. He put them on some figures that were just laying around and he beat everybody that was there. And we all had our league teams!

I was honored because you will never find anyone who has a bad word to say about James Crews. He never argued a call. He was never a guy that you would feel like he was going to cheat or anything. He could blow the doors off the best coaches in the country, but this same person would win a tournament game over a not-so-good coach 14-7 or 10-7. I watched him play Ray Fanara in a Buzzball event. He made sure he used up all the plays before he scored so that he wasn't embarrassing Ray. He could have easily won the game 80-0, but you know what the score was....14-7!

That's class, that's James Crews.....

#15 KELVIN LOMAX

Presented by Lomax

Kevin Lomax's Career Highlights:

- 2000 – Won 1st MEFA (Metropolitan Electric Football Assoc). Played with the Broncos and defeated Big Keith 7-6
- 2001 – Won 2nd MEFA Title using the Rams and defeated Big Keith 23-16 for his first “Back-to-Back”.
- 2001 – Won 1st CFL (Championship Football League) with a 28-10 win over Dale Smith.
- 2002 – Lost 1st Championship of BWCFL (Beltway Washington Championship League) to Big Keith on the last play of the game. Played with the Titans.
- 2003 – Lost Winterfest Tournament Championship to Big Keith 3-0.
- 2003 – Won the 1st BEFL Championship (Beltsville EFL) by defeating Tom Johnson 14-13.
- 2003 – Won Dulles-Washington league. Defeated Larry Sharpe 23-7
- 2004 – Won Winterfest Tournament Championship over Big Keith 21-14.
- 2004 – Won 1st BEFL College league. Defeated Dearell Brevard 14-0.
- 2005 – Lost Winterfest Tournament Championship to Paul Bartels 24-14.
- 2006 – Won 2nd BEFL Championship. Defeated Big Keith.
- 2007 – Won 3rd BEFL Championship and 2nd back-to-back titles. Defeated Warren Jefferson 28-14. This was the one season where some coaches could use 2 teams. Both of my teams went 9-1 through the season. I had to pick one for the title run.
- 2008 – Won 4th BEFL title (going back-to-back-to-back) Undefeated season. Defeated Big Keith again. 1st time I used the same team in back to back seasons.
- 2008 – Lost Beltway Bash to Adrian Baxter in double elimination. Won the first game and we flipped a coin on the 2nd game.
- 2009 – Won Beltway Bash going undefeated; defeated Big Keith for my first Bash title.
- 2010 – Won 5th BEFL league title. Defeated Big Keith 14-12.

#14 VINCE PEATROS

Presented by Vaughn Marqui

I was there when Vince put up 80 points on Mike Turner. I had never seen anything like that in my entire electric football life. I mean the game was over by the second series and nobody could stop him. He dominated the LAEFL. His teams were so strong that he could push three of your men with one guy! As time went on I felt bad for the guy. When he played, he had to go against the ref, the guy he was playing, the two guys playing next to him and he would still be up by 50 points. Most times he would just quit the game because he was getting cheated. I was like “dude why quit”, and you’re winning? But Vince wants “perfection”. He plays the game for perfection. Everything he did, the league banned. He would just reinvent himself and keep going. I’m here to tell you that Vince is a living legend in this hobby and there “ain’t nobody” even close.

#13 BRYAN NUTT

Presented by Joel Pritchard

Beenutt is known for his decals. He is also an accomplished coach and loves to detail teams. Beenutt has been successful playing many styles as he has won 7 Bama blast championships. He was the 2008 Texas Shootout Champion, the 2007 Miggle Runner-up and the 2010 Dixie College league Champion. Beenutt is a mainstay in the south where he is the founder and commissioner of the Dixie League/Tourney in South Carolina. Beenutt founded and still funds the miniature football forum to allow coaches to express their opinions and show off their teams. Beenutt has provided the miniature football world with “pre-cut” decals to help painters save time and effort when detailing teams. Beenutt also details teams and is currently near the end of a five year project to detail 23-figure teams for each of the 120 major college teams for his solitaire collection. He is at team number 98 with 22 more to go! Lastly, he is the most generous coach in the hobby. He gives so much to everyone around him and without any expectations of anything in return, except fellowship in the hobby.

I am so proud to be his friend and that he got me back into this great hobby.

#12 REGINALD RUTLEDGE

Presented by Barry Stevenson

Where does one start when describing Reginald Rutledge? He can be best defined as a God fearing, devoted husband, father and friend. Oh yeah, he is also the “God Father” of Electric Football. He is the mad scientist of sculpting and creating. You can not open a drawer in Reggie and Rose’s house without finding a piece of a player, such as an arm or half a pose or a base or piece of a stadium or some tool to create something with. There are more figures and bases on the floor of his man cave than many have in their whole collection.

Reggie belongs in the top rankings of EFL Coaching History. He is a daunting coach. Rules have been created just to hem in his creative coaching mind. That only would serve to slow him down, however, as he would create some new strategy or idea to further challenge his opponents. Eventually, everyone just quit trying to slow him down and started their own creative juices flowing, giving credit to the adage, “Fight Fire with Fire.”

I have played Reggie many times and most of those were games for the ages. We had another one the other night as a matter of fact. My Eagles went ahead by 4 points with 45 seconds to go and all I had to do was stop him...Ha....easier said than done. Reggie’s Vikings stalled on my 11 yard line after a vicious assault on my defense. Randall Cunningham goes down on a sack as time expires with Robert Smith standing wide open in the end zone. We love playing each other, though I am usually sleepless the night before fretting over it...I love it.

Reggie is a cerebral coach; he plays fair and expects the same from his opponent. He is quick to help others and believes in the pageantry of the game. He has created his own miniature line, which we know as footballfigures.net. He has created so many stadiums he has forgotten how many. Who in this EFL hobby hasn’t been touched positively by Reggie’s groundbreaking influence early on? Perhaps it was directly or they were inspired later to do their own thing in the hobby.

Reggie will drop everything and come running to help a friend in need. Who in the hobby or in life can rival his vision and passion? I am proud to name him my friend, and he’s a conservative deep down inside, he just has not found his inner Palin yet.

#11 MIKE TURNER

Presented by Jeff Eby

I first met Mike Turner at the 2001 “Duel in the Desert” tournament. I had just gotten back into miniature football, and decided to try my hand at some competition. When I first saw the speed of Mike’s team and the way he threw that ball, I knew I had to raise my game. Mike Turner is one of the greats of miniature football. He’s an excellent player, a smart coach, and a legendary passer; he’s accomplished it all on the field. He is also an ambassador for the game, traveling around the country to play, share knowledge, and fellowship with other miniature football coaches. It is safe to say that Mike has personally met more people in the hobby than anyone else.

He has got a sharp eye for the game. He will spot your tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses, and then take advantage of them. And that distinctive thumb passing technique is one of the most accurate around. Mike is fearless; when you have seen him throw into a crowd just to pick up four yards, you know he has got confidence.

Mike has played in at least 14 championship games, spread across seven different leagues or tournaments. This includes: Duel in the Desert (won 2000 & 2001, 2nd place 2002), Bama Blast (2nd, 1999 and 2005), Miggle (2nd, 2002), LAEFL (2nd, 2000, 2001, and 2008), Open Run (won 2010, 2nd 2008), CBSMF PAC-10 tournament (won 2010), Green Room Rumble (2nd in its first two years). But beyond his playing skills, Mike is a great representative of the hobby, logging more miles than anyone. He is a strong and fair competitor, and a great coach. And when the game is all over, he’s a good friend to just hang out with. Some of my most memorable moments of Mike have nothing to do with miniature football - just the good times and laughs when relaxing after the game.

#10 COREY JOHNSON

Presented by SmokeStack

(Appeared on 19 of the 24 ballots turned in)

It is easy to blindly accept the voting results from our esteemed peers that Corey Johnson is indeed, worthy of recognition as a top electric football coach and contributor to the hobby. Some would argue that the Top 20 is a merely a popularity contest. Nothing could be further than the truth. You see, I have been around the hobby long enough to have personally witnessed the capabilities and sheer greatness of many of these coaches. By this measurement I can confidently and without obvious bias conclude that Corey is, without a doubt, worthy of this distinction. There are three themes centered on key words that will help us better understand the legitimacy of this recognition. The first word is greatness. The second is consistency. The last is impact to the hobby.

Greatness is sometimes defined as what people say about you when you are not in the room. Some look at greatness in terms of deeds. On this count many of you can recall a random act of kindness or tip that Corey has passed on to you that made you a better coach or helped you market your product or idea. Consistency means performance over the long haul - which encompasses league play, competitive play using different styles and rule sets, etc. Lastly, the word impact is appropriate when we look at his entire body of work. While we can readily list many of his enormous contributions to the hobby and the association, you need to step back and ask yourself where the hobby would be without him. Taken alone one could argue that Corey be given strong consideration for HOF recognition. That is a story for a different time.

For more foundation and color about Corey, I strongly urge you to revisit past issues of MFCA's Tweak magazines. I have written extensively about Corey in articles about the Philly EF scene. Of course, you can simply turn to the MFCA message board where he has been a prolific writer and contributor since its inception.

Great coaches are highly accomplished and organized. They win because they size up their opponents and identify their tendencies and weaknesses at a high level. They do it better than most of us. They are expert at clock management and keeping things organized during the game. They are prolific passers and always aggressive and attacking in their style of play. They are expert in moving the defensive chess pieces around during the game. They are superb talent evaluators. Spending or making calculated moves to stockpile the right figure or bases. They have highly accomplished listening and interpersonal skills. What does this mean? They watch every nuance of you from the time you walk into the hall including your time socializing.

They are continuously picking up on verbal and non-verbal cues. What does this have to do with miniature football? Everything. If you walk around to the right side every time you want to run or pass to the right, Tron is logging this. If you meticulously place your TTQB 30 centimeters from your player box with an array of different balls...you guessed it...Optimus is watching...and if you are self-assured and decide to take cell phone calls during the game...he reads this. If you get frazzled at the prospect of making a tough pass over Fred Dean's head with a clock countdown, he is on it. If you are cool as a cucumber, but can't hide the underarm or nape of neck sweat stains on your shirt...you guessed it...at this point it is too late. My point is this, Corey doesn't just play the game at a high level. He seeks, attracts, processes, and retains information better than anyone I know. Look at any of the other 19 coaches and you will find similar characteristics. Most of us are operating in the moment. Great players create the moment.

I have seen how this proficiency has benefited him across a broad spectrum of competition. It has served him extremely well over the past decade and more. It has served him not only with his own teams, but within his league. I can also relate countless stories of how Corey has welcomed and embraced new coaches into the hobby. Many of them have gone on to achieve greatness in their own right as coaches, league mates, innovators, or hobbyists. With his infectious and outgoing personality and keen sense of the human condition, Corey has quietly approached new hobbyists at events or responded (at length) to their questions off-line on his own dime. The result of all this is countless new opportunities and moments for the hobby to expand its sphere of influence.

For those who have known Corey as long as I have you can appreciate and value the growth of the man and his ascendancy in the hobby. He started as "Pretty Boy". With his boyish looks, exceptional grooming, and chiseled features, it is no wonder that he was featured as a model in major publications for hair and consumer products. This morphed into the "Gamesman". Having played with or against Corey for almost 15 years, I can attest to his exceptional coaching prowess. Let's be real. He doesn't win every game he plays. He does, however, win the vast majority of them, whether we are talking 3.0 to 4.0 or unlimited; Pro or Arena; Tournament or Free-Style (Green Room Rumble). He currently maintains the highest winning percentage (over 90%) in the very competitive Philadelphia Electric Football circuit. Face of the Hobby is a term (okay nickname for the uninitiated, he was called F.O.T.H.) that is also appropriate and fits him nicely. The question isn't where has Corey been, but rather, it is where hasn't he been for the hobby? In case you always wanted to know the derivation of the nickname "National", let's put it this way, Corey often flew or drove to outer regions of the country to participate, support, or add legitimacy to an event. The truth is he logged so many frequent flyer miles over time he flew for free. He probably has a half a dozen or so other nicknames that he has picked up over time. But I haven't checked his Facebook page to know for sure...

#9 JIM DAVIS

Presented by Don Lang

(Appeared on 18 of the 24 ballots turned in)

If you have been a part of the miniature football community the past 10 years or so, then you have probably heard the name even if you haven't met him personally. You usually hear him before you see him at EF venues around the country. He is Jim Davis, a.k.a. the Hulk. We will get to his Marvel Comics moniker in a minute but first here is his story...

Born and raised in Detroit, Jim and his younger brother, Skeet, got their first electric football set for Christmas in the late 60's. The Tudor 500 board, which came with the Chicago Bears and New York Giants provided the two siblings fun for hours on end. In 1968 it seemed like all the kids in the neighborhood received 620 boards for Christmas so it was only natural that a league would form. Jim, Skeet, along with Kenneth Dunn, Zeff Kennedy, Barnett Brown, and several others played with 33 man teams consisting of offense, defense, and special teams. The group played every year well into high school. They were usually found fitting EF time around school and playing actual sports. During that span, Jim managed to win 3 Super Bowl titles. As many did, they put the game away as high school seniors to pursue other interest.

Big Jim gained work as a body guard/driver for the R&B group, the Dramatics, of which he has maintained a friendship with over the years. He eventually became their road manager, which I'm sure if you pressed Jim he could come up with some wild and crazy stories about the group's tours. He later worked 15 years for Ford Motor Company before taking a medical retirement. Jim met his lovely wife Renee and the two were married in 1993. They have two beautiful daughters Shyenne and Jaya. Jim's family played an instrumental part in his involvement in electric football which continues today.

Jim rediscovered electric football in 1994 when Renee showed him an article of a Miggle convention held in Chicago. With a little coaxing from Renee, Jim went to his mom's house to retrieve all his electric football stuff from years gone by and the rest was EF history. He eventually met up with Ken Allen, Tony Jones, Tim Jackson, Eric Thompson, and Al Jones and began playing once again. Those guys, along with Pat Casey, Chuck Lawrence, Greg Hardmon, and a few others formed the Ann Arbor League during the 1999/2000 season. In that first year Jim beat Ken Allen in the league's first Super Bowl. In 2001, they combined with guys from the Detroit League to form the Great Lakes Electric Football League.

Jim eventually developed a reputation for being able to "tweak" some of the strongest bases around. Many coaches from around the country contact Jim in hopes of getting their hands on some of his bases. That reputation helped to foster the emergence of his alter ego... "The Hulk"! His strong style of play and loud voice left many adversaries quaking, as Jim often told his opponents that he was running straight at them and there was nothing that they could do about it (he didn't have a choice as he could not pass if his life depended on it). Jim seemingly leads the league in rushing almost every year. He often backed up his bragging with outstanding performances on the electric gridiron, which has netted him the following championships: The aforementioned 2000 Ann Arbor League Championship, The 2005 Akron League Championship, The 2009 Great Lakes Championship, The 2009 Miggle Championship, and along with making the playoffs or finishing in various leagues and tournaments upper echelon year in and year out.

His two daughters are chips off the old block as Shyenne has won two championships, and Jaya has made it to the championship game twice at Miggle's annual Sparks Bowl, which is held for youth alongside the tournament for the rest of the hobby's big kids. Today, Jim still has a lot of enthusiasm for the hobby, as he can always be found playing someone, somewhere. He states that his toughest foes in his area are Greg Hardmon, Simmie "Tookie" Lassiter, and Norbert Revels. The Hulk also loves to take his show on the road, traveling to support many leagues and tournaments around the country. He says that his toughest competitors on the road have been Adrian Baxter, Paul "Raiderman" Bartells, and Mike Robertson, to name a few.

Always laughing, joking around, and playfully giving someone a hard time, he is known to many as Jim "The Hulk" Davis, but he is recognized by more than a few, as a big teddy bear with a heart to match who is always at the ready to assist a friend in need. But remember, don't make him angry. YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM ANGRY.....AARRRRRRRGH!

#8 GREG HARDMON

Presented by Michael Robertson

(Appeared in the top 5 on 6 of the ballots turned in)

When you speak about Greg Hardmon you are talking about one of the greatest leaders this hobby has ever known. A true ambassador of the game, couple this with his unique ability as a player, Greg Hardmon will go down as one of the greatest of all time. At the highest level of this sport Greg Hardmon is a star! His unique ability to be spot on accurate passing the ball is a quality unmatched in the game today. Very few in this hobby can pass the ball with the level of accuracy in which Greg displays. He has won multiple Great Lakes titles (which are widely recognized as one of the toughest leagues in the country), a Miggle National title and made a CBSMF “finals” appearance. At the very mention of his name you think championship, nothing less and that is how he approaches the game. His killer instinct and must win philosophy can be taken for over the top at times, but if you know Greg then you know he doesn’t do anything half way. This guy is a winner! You can rank him where you want in the top 20 but anything short of #1 is an injustice. Greg Hardmon is a class act and is the top of his generation.

Greg is now the commissioner of the CBSMF (College Bowl Series of Miniature Football), the only tournament in the country to date that has come close to recognizing a national champion. He has put in countless hours behind the scenes improving the product of this tournament so that it may be enjoyed by all. A true legend of the game! Greg Hardmong...EFL Hall of Famer!

#7 DIRK THOMAS

Presented by Mark Klingbeil

(Second most 1st place votes of the entire countdown)

Dirk Thomas was a charter member of the MFCA Hall of Fame. We lost this legend of the game many years ago, but he’s still regarded as one of the greatest to ever base them up. Dirk Thomas was a quiet competitor. The first time I met Dirk was at the very first Texas Shootout where, among nearly 50 coaches, he finished in the Championship Game.

His unassuming style, combined with his love of the fellowship for this game, and his deep respect for other coaches, made Dirk seem to others as perhaps less than competitive. Nothing could be further from the truth. Dirk Thomas was a GREAT coach BECAUSE he was competitive. I am told that earlier in his life he was the neighborhood’s Vince Lombardi...winning all the time. In fact, it was his drive and competitive nature that pushed him to learn to tweak well and win often. During this time, he became known as “Doctor Base” for his ability to simply look at a tweak and accurately predict the performance of that base. Later, Dirk started the “In the Huddle League” where he would help coaches by tweaking bases on their team for maximum performance for free. While there was an element of altruism in this act, do not underestimate the notion that Dirk did this so he would have to beat exceptional teams, which he often did. His humble nature underlied the competition that drove Dirk to become the great EF coach, which is celebrated once again by his recognition today as one of the finest EVER to play this game!

#6 RON BELL

Presented by Dave Hydell

(Consistently ranked in the top 5 on all ballots turned in)

Ron Bell has attended 11 Miggle tournaments, and has appeared in 5 Super Bowls, winning 4 of them. The format of the Miggle tournament, as well as, the New Orleans leagues, has changed regularly and dramatically over the years, but he has won under several different formats and rule sets, including straight out of the bag.

He has participated in the Louisiana-based leagues since 1999, winning the league title 9 out of 12 years in an extremely competitive veteran group, which includes coaches from Louisiana and East Texas, such as John Oubre and yours truly. The stories of his successes in the Louisiana leagues (New Orleans Electric Football League and the Jefferson-Orleans Electric Football League) are not very widely publicized, but let me illustrate a versatility which many peers have claimed he lacks. The Louisiana league has changed from an unweighed, Miggle-equipment only league to a 4.0g, all modern equipment, with a wide open rules set similar in style to many of the current 4-gram rules. He has yet to lose a game under the 4.0g rules set, which the JOEFL adopted back in 2009. Ron Bell has not lost a regular season league game since 2008.

How does he continue to win? When it comes to passing the ball, Ron Bell is acknowledged as a man with few equals. His “thumb-slinger” approach is deadly accurate. In a league where ricochets can become interceptions, he is the master of putting a ball in the right

place. But it's more than throwing a ball. It is the innate sense of timing in his offense. He has a sort of radar to know when to turn off a switch, to know his man will be open. In most cases, someone usually is. Ron Bell holds the JOEFL record for career passer rating with a whopping 103.

He is not one of the coaches who obtained his legendary status by myth or the number of posts he makes online. He is an MF legend because he has earned it on the field. Does merely attending numerous tournaments make you great, or does winning those that you attend indicate greatness?

Comparing Miggle Tournament wins among top coaches:

Ron Bell – 4, Edgar Downs – 2, Lavelle Shelton – 2, Norbert Revels – 1, Jim Davis – 1, Greg Hardmon – 1, Keith Chalmers – 1, Jamel Goodloe – 1, Adrian Baxter – 0, Mike Turner – 0, Vince Peatros – 0, Mike Robertson – 0 and Joe Greco - 0

No other coach has won 4 major tournaments in so few appearances. It is widely accepted that Miggle is the hardest tournament to win, which is clearly why not everyone participates. Ron Bell has won as many Miggle tournaments as Norbert Revels, Jim Davis, Greg Hardmon, Mike Turner, Keith Chalmers, Joe Greco, Vince Peatros, Mike Robertson, and Adrian Baxter combined!!! I have talked at length about Ron Bell, the coach. I would be sorely mistaken if I didn't mention Ron Bell, the man. He is a hard-working father of three, who gives of his time and efforts to his local community, as well as this great hobby. Ron was the first coach I contacted about joining the New Orleans Electric Football League, fresh off his first Miggle national title. He took me and many other coaches under his wing, and mentored us in this great hobby. He selflessly gives his time to help promote the hobby and has spoken on several radio programs, including the nationally syndicated Dan Patrick show, making the phrase "played their plastic butts off" a "buzzworthy" catch-phrase.

If you're going to elect coaches based on their on-field accomplishments, you must consider Ron Bell at the top of the list.

#5 PAUL "RAIDERMAN" BARTELS

Presented by Mike Guttman

(Appeared on 19 of the 24 ballots turned in)

Who is Paul Bartels? Not many really know his name, but if you said "Who is Raiderman"? You'll hear the "buzz" all over the room. What Raiderman does for the hobby usually goes un-noticed by many. As many know, he is the main driving force that keeps the hobby alive and well in Harrisburg, PA. While he recruits all the coaches he can, what many don't know is the generosity he puts forth for the new youth, and older coaches. You need a team to play with in the league? Raiderman will let you borrow one of his teams, or paint and decal you one to use. He is always giving without ever asking for anything in return. Running a league takes a lot of work, and usually takes up most of your time on a given day. Loading up the van can be a chore, especially when you are providing most of the boards for the league. Also making sure that the league has a place to play each week, and the most tedious job around, which is updating the stats on the league websites he has set up. He is also one of the better coaches in the hobby. Sometimes we wonder if he is really trying 100%!

Outside the hobby, Raiderman is a hard working individual at his job and a family man. He provides and takes care of his wife (Corbyn) and his four children (Karmyn, Mya, Eli and Randy). If you need anything, he will do his best to help. If you need a ride, he will take you where you need to go. If you need a place to sleep, he will give you the couch. Of course, you will get the pleasure of listening to him sleep as well. LOL! He does all this without complaints, and more than likely without a lot of sleep. Someone who puts forth this effort in all aspects of life, really should be recognized as more than one who can just play the game. I believe it is safe to say that everyone owes Corbyn Bartels a "Thank You" for buying him an EF game.

#4 KEITH CHALMERS

Presented by Kelvin Lomax

(Appeared on 19 of the 24 ballots turned in)

To hear people talk about "Big Salty", one of the first things they speak of is his speed. For those who do not know, Keith "Big Salty" Chalmers is one of the best EF/MF coaches to ever play this game. One of my main opponents to have to defeat in order to win any league or tournament, he is truly one of best I have ever lined up against. He first stepped into the resurgence at looper speed to come a point short in his first season in the MEFA from winning it all. This is the year that I meet him. In our first meeting, he gave me a real beat down, that I was not looking for. We would learn a few things that day. The more we play each other, the more our rivalry grows. He has since gone on to win several league titles and was one of the 1st coaches to win a Championship Ring! These are the things that we play for today.

Big Keith is mostly known as a Colts fan. His teams are hands down the fastest teams you will ever face. Sometimes I see his opponents getting hit before they knew the play was just getting started. Keith would use that speed to get up on you quickly, to force you into playing his game. If you get caught up in the action you might fall into the trap.

He gets his nickname from the many “tirades” he would have during one of the early tournaments. The name just stuck. I have faced off with this legend many times over the years and I cannot remember a season or tournament that he had a losing record or was not successful.

Furthermore, Big Keith remains one of the best “tweakers” in the country and his talent is “sought after” because you know they will be faster than your team. Although he has the name, he is a well respected coach and is quite respectful of others who play this game. One of the true measures of is tweaking is using passing sticks. During the height of the BuzzBall Pass Placement era, his players were so good, so straight that he would try passes that were beyond the sticks and would run 620’s on a rope...so goes the Legend of Big Keith Chalmers...

#3 MICHAEL ROBERTSON

Presented by Greg Hardmon
(Appeared on 21 of the 24 ballots turned in)

Mike Robertson is the most creative coach I have ever faced in electric football. The thing that makes him so good is his willingness to try the unconventional way to run plays. The coaches I have faced rely on power as a necessity for them to win, not Mike. He is an information gatherer in his approach to playing the game. What I mean by that is he does not run plays to hit homeruns. He runs plays to get valuable info on how the coach attack his formation. To him if they lose yards on plays he does not care, he only cares in the info he gathers that he can use later in the game. Mike’s offense is the most diverse I have ever seen. He keeps you off balance with all the different players and formations that he uses.

His approach to defense is what I call a calculated high risk, high reward defense. It’s basic design is to put a lot of pressure on you, but maintain a safety net in case something does not work the way he wants. He pays attention to everything that you do, bring in different lineman that do something different he knows, the arc of looping running backs he pays attention to, and he does not forget.

He is one of the most thinking man coaches out there, that is why he could win in any style that he plays in, he adapts to the person he plays and tries to keep constant pressure on them. He puts the time in to become great. He will practice plays to get the timing down, how far back does the running back have to be to hit the hole just right etc. He is one of the toughest coaches that I have played. He keeps me on my toes with his style, the way he plays the game. That challenge is why I enjoy playing against him.

Here are some of his career highlights: 1 -ACEFL title, 6 -DFW titles, 1-“Open Run” title, 2 -“Texas Shootout” titles, 1-“Bama Blast” Title and 2 - CBSMF titles. He is 13-1 in games where the championship is on the line. He has received the “DFW rookie of the year” award in 1999. He is the only coach in DFW history to win 3 titles in a row and only one to do it twice. He has a perfect 22-0 in CBSMF national competition. He has defeated the top coaches in almost (but not all) every league in the country. He has defeated the following coaches out west: Perry Burke, Celo, Marty, Mike Turner and Eric Thompson. Of the northern coaches he has defeated Kenny Allen, Greg Hardmon, Toookie and Jim Davis. Of the eastern coaches he has defeated Keith Chalmers, Joe Greco, Mozeek, Joel Pritchard and Kevin Boddie. However, there are still many coaches that he hopes on playing someday including Adrian Baxter, Al Harvey, Vince Peatros, Corey “FOTH” Johnson and Beenutt. Mike Robertson...one of the greats!

#2 NORBERT REVELS

Presented by Tom Ruesnik
(Appeared on 20 of the 24 ballots turned in)

How do you know you have made an impact on a hobby? Well, for starters, I cannot turn over a base and look at the prongs without my mind wandering to Norbert Revels. There were guys who made prongs a little wider and then there was Norbert. His tweaked bases took the hobby by storm in the mid-2000’s. Unbelievable combinations of strength and speed...man those prongs seemed wide yet every time I tried to do the same thing they would end up thinner than a Swedish Pancake. As with any leap ahead, guys catch up, but one of the reasons guys like Norbert stay on top is that they do not just rely on bases. People really underestimate what a complete coach he is. Most people will think “run” for Norbert because of his strength, but this cat is one of the best passers in the business. You don’t have his impressive list of accomplishments by being one-dimensional.

Anytime I have been on the board with Norbert, he has been a class act. We laugh a lot, he always seems to have that Red Wings cap on, needs to have a smoking break at halftime, and there are at least a few utterances of, “Don’t do it” or “Beauuuuutiful”. There is never any swearing, trash talking, or drama and it is just fun to line up, throw down, and be challenged to the nth degree by a top-flight coach who I am glad to call friend.

One of my favorite little stories about a game we played is when he played Kansas City and I played Notre Dame. I had Andy Heck as a blocker and he had a blitzer just named “Hell”...so every now and then I’d line up Heck versus Hell. I would like to say that Heck got the best of Hell, but he took it to my QB. Maybe I needed a Chris Angel figure instead!

#1 ADRIAN BAXTER

Presented by Joe Greco

(11 1st place votes and appeared on 22 of the 24 ballots turned in)

When speaking of the late great Bear Bryant, Bum Phillips once said “Bryant can take his’n and beat your’n and then he can turn around and take your’n and beat his’n.” I believe the same can be said about Adrian Baxter. Adrian wins by being a superior coach, not because he has the strongest or fastest players on the field.

Adrian has risen to the top of the Miniature Football world by being a true student of the game. He is meticulous in his preparation and can play at the highest level in any rule set with an unmatched determination. Adrian sees the game as few coaches do, and like a grandmaster in chess, he always seems to be looking several steps ahead as he plans and works his game strategy. Since coming on the scene in 2004 Adrian has shown his versatility by participating in numerous leagues and tournaments throughout the United States and amassing an astounding 24 Championships while earning the respect of his peers for not only winning, but for the way he does it – with class and dignity.

Included in Adrian’s 24 titles are: Buzzball Championship (5 titles in 2 different weight classes), Bama Blast Championship, Dixie League Championship, Seawall Brawl Championship, BEFL Beltsville Bash Championships (numerous titles), the Capital City Clash Championship, CBSMF ECC Championship and MFCA Championship (2 times). He has a resume like no other and the breadth of his victories in different venues, rule sets and weight classes is what sets Adrian apart from other coaches.

When asked what he is most proud of Adrian goes outside of electric football to the days when he played football growing up. After playing little league football as a Center for 5 years, a Nose Guard for 1 year, a Linebacker for 2 years and a Defensive End for 1 year, Adrian earned the starting running back position for his high school team.



As he looks to the future Adrian would like to obtain his CPA license and ultimately own his own business. He would also like to be able to travel more both within and outside the United States. As far as electric football goes he would like to one day start his own electric football league comprised of mostly new coaches.

Adrian Baxter (left) wins the first TOC Championship against another top 20 coach, Greg Hardmon, at the MFCA CON.5.