

Holtz emphasizes values at DePaul benefit

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — As the keynote speaker was emoting, many in the audience may have been checking their heads for football helmets. Or looking around to see if they were in a locker room.

The man at the podium ranted and raved as if he were delivering one of his halftime speeches. He shouted about believing in yourself. Being your best. Being a team person. Doing the right thing.

And when Lou Holtz was done speaking at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center last Thursday evening, Dec. 12, he earned a standing ovation from the 930 people who were gathered for the DePaul Sports Celebrity Dinner.

Holtz, the University of Notre Dame's tremendously successful head football coach, is widely known for using the same motivational techniques at banquets and seminars as he does with his players. In an always-energetic and often-humorous style, Holtz used frequent analogies between the football world and the real world in last Thursday's presentation.

Commenting on the virtues of loyalty, he said, "Any family, business or football team, if it remains strong within, you have a chance ... you show me somebody who's disloyal, and I'll show you a loser."

On trust: "You cannot have a relationship with anybody if it's not based on trust ... and you can't generate trust if you don't do what's right."

On helping others: "The best thing we can do to raise somebody's self-image is make them contribute to the best of their ability ... when you help other people, you, in turn, help yourself."

On motivation: "You have to have a sense of purpose. That's all motivation is."

He also instructed his listeners that whenever they have trouble telling right from wrong, "Get out the Bible."

In his sixth season at Notre Dame and 22nd as a college head coach, Holtz has compiled an overall record of 46-14 with the Fighting Irish. They won a national championship in 1988



Notre Dame Football Coach Lou Holtz was the keynote speaker at the DePaul Sports Celebrity Dinner at the Rochester Convention Center Dec. 4.

and had a string of 23 straight victories between 1988 and 1989. This year's team is 9-3 and will next play in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day against the Florida Gators.

Alan Page, former star defensive tackle with Notre Dame as well as the Minnesota Vikings, joined Holtz at the head table.

"I challenge you to become more involved and do just a little bit more for the young people in this community," said Page, now an assistant attorney general for the state of Minnesota. "When you do that, you give them a chance for a bright future."

Young people were the focal point of this inaugural dinner. Proceeds went

toward the Adolescent Group Home Program at the Rochester-based DePaul Mental Health Services.

Earlier last Thursday, Holtz visited with teenagers who reside at DePaul's adolescent group home in the town of Gates. DePaul also has group homes in Scottsville and Williamson.

Peter Rosenthal, DePaul's public relations coordinator, noted that the success level of the day's events "went beyond our wildest imagination, not having done something like this before. It exceeded all expectations, not just for raising funds but also for raising awareness."

DePaul Mental Health Services, in its 33rd year of operation, provides re-



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sidential care and outpatient treatment for more than 1,600 people annually. The Adolescent Group Home Program furnishes residential and counseling services for teens with emotional or behavioral problems.

A special presentation was made at the dinner to Audra "Finny" Cooke, who was named the first recipient of the DePaul Community Service Award. Cooke served as a New York State assemblywoman for 13 years before retiring in 1990. Much of her work was directed toward prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents.

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