

EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEVE SARKISIAN, STEVE SMITH, JR. SELECTED TO EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL HALL OF FAME

Both will be recognized during the 99th annual East-West Shrine Bowl on Feb. 1



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FRISCO, Texas (January 22, 2024) — The East-West Shrine Bowl, the nation's oldest college football all-star game, will induct Steve Sarkisian and Steve Smith, Sr., into the prestigious East-West Shrine Bowl Hall of Fame on January 31 during the game's official media day event. Both Sarkisian and Smith will be in attendance and honored during the game on February 1 at the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco.

The East-West Shrine Bowl Hall of Fame is home to some of the greatest names ever to play the game including Bob Lilly, Randy White, Dick Butkus, Larry Csonka, Joe Greene, Gale Sayers, Brett Favre, Troy Vincent and Will Shields to name a few.

"We're thrilled to add Steve Sarkisian and Steve Smith, Sr., to our distinguished group of East-West Shrine Bowl Hall of Fame members," said Bob Roller, Vice President of Sports for Shriners Children's. "Both men have had incredible success on the football field following their college careers – Sarkisian as a head football coach at iconic football programs like Washington, USC, and now Texas, and Smith as a five-time Pro Bowler

with the Carolina Panthers. The East-West Shrine Bowl was an important step in their journey and we are excited to honor them this year.”

Steve Sarkisian

Steve Sarkisian is a former quarterback, playing two seasons at Brigham Young University and two seasons professionally in the Canadian Football League. Sarkisian played in the 72nd annual East-West Shrine Bowl in 1997.

While at BYU, Sarkisian threw for nearly 7,500 yards and 53 touchdowns. As a senior in 1996, he led the nation in passing efficiency (173.6, then the fourth-best mark ever) as the Cougars went 14-1, won the conference championship, and won the 1997 Cotton Bowl. Sarkisian’s stellar season helped the Cougars become the first team in NCAA history to win 14 games in a single season. He was the WAC Offensive Player of the Year in 1996.

Sarkisian first became a head coach in 2009 at the University of Washington. He led the Huskies for five seasons before heading to the University of Southern California for two seasons. Sarkisian has been the head coach at the University of Texas since 2021, leading the Longhorns to a Big 12 Conference championship and the College Football Playoff in 2023. The Longhorns posted their fourth season of 12 or more wins in school history and finished No. 3 in The Associated Press final poll — it’s best finish since 2009 — last season. In 10 seasons, Sarkisian is 21-14 in three seasons at UT and has amassed a record of 71-49 with seven of his teams earning bowl bids.

Steve Smith, Sr.

Steve Smith, Sr., is a former wide receiver who played two seasons at the University of Utah before a long, successful career in the NFL. Smith played in the 76th East-West Shrine Bowl in 2001 where he caught two touchdown passes and was named offensive MVP after leading the West to a 20-10 win in San Francisco.

An all-conference selection in both seasons with the Utes, Smith caught 78 passes for 1,603 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also returned four punts for touchdowns in his college career.

Smith was drafted in the third round of the 2001 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers. Smith played 16 seasons in the NFL, 13 of those with the Panthers, and finished his career as Carolina’s all-time franchise leader in career receiving yards (12,197), receiving touchdowns (67), total touchdowns (75), scrimmage yards (12,584), all-purpose yards (16,614), and 100-yard receiving games (43). The five-time Pro Bowler also spent three seasons with the Baltimore Ravens and is currently eighth all-time in NFL history in total receiving yards (14,731).

[Click Here](#) to apply for credentials for the 2024 East-West Shrine Bowl.

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ABOUT EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL

The East-West Shrine Bowl is the longest running college all-star football game in the nation. Since 1925, the game has benefited Shriners Children's and its mission to provide innovative pediatric specialty care to improve and transform the lives of children. The East-West Shrine Bowl is known for being the starting point of many noteworthy NFL careers, including nearly 100 members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. For more information, please visit shrinebowl.com.

ABOUT SHRINERS CHILDREN'S

Shriners Children’s is changing lives every day by providing innovative pediatric specialty care, conducting research to improve the quality of lives, and of care, and offering outstanding educational programs for medical professionals. We provide patient-centered care in several areas. All care and services are provided regardless of the families’ ability to pay or insurance status.

Shriners Children’s is a nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of donors. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. For more information, including the full range of care available, please visit shrinerschildrens.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jonathan Deutsch | Tony Fay Public Relations | jonathan@tonyfaypr.com | 469-534-8525

Tami Carr | Tony Fay Public Relations | tami@tonyfaypr.com | 469-525-8850



Tony Fay PR | 2626 Cole Ave, Ste 300, Dallas, TX 75074

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