

**Nominations for the 2011  
Madison Area Service Clubs Olympics**

**2011 OLYMPIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Olympian of the Year Award is presented to a person in the Greater Madison area who, over the years, has given freely of his/her time to further athletics in the Greater Madison area.

Criteria for consideration for the award should include:

- ✓ A person who lives in the Greater Madison area.
- ✓ What has the person contributed and/or given back to the community.
- ✓ What activities involving athletics has the person been associated with and what role did the person undertake with respect to these activities.
- ✓ What accomplishments were achieved.
- ✓ What time did the individual contribute, including span and quality of time.
- ✓ What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth.

Award Nominee's Name:	Thomas Grantham	
Nominee's Address:	4918 Bayfield Terrace <span style="float: right;">Madison WI 53705</span>	
Nominee's Phone / E-mail	608 233-0983	thomas_grantham@mli.com
Employer:	Merrill Lynch	
Employer Address:	2 E. Mifflin St., Suite 900	
Work Phone / E-mail	same	✓
Nominating Party: If Service Club, Name:	Rotary Club of Madison	
Contact Person:	Pat Jenkins	
Phone Number / E-mail	608 255-9164	pat@rotarymadison.org
If former Award Winner, Name:		
Phone Number / E-mail		

Please complete this page and remainder of document, print off

and return by June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to:

Contributions to the Community:

- Tom has served as Crazylegs general chairman, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. The event now has over 20,000 as compared to just 1,500 runners in 1982. The Crazylegs "Fun & Fitness" program has been taken to the corporate workplace to encourage employee exercise, fitness and camaraderie - and some 166-company teams totaling 2,868 participated in 2005, contributing to the city's national reputation as a vibrant, active and "fit" place to live.
- President of the Queen of Peace School and Family Association
- President of the Edgewood Athletic Association, and with his wife, Ruth Ann, past co-chairs of EdgeFest.
- Served as a national board member of the U.W. Alumni Association and in leadership positions as a member of the National "W" Club.

**Description of the athletic activities and the Nominee's role with respect to those activities:**

He has spent countless hours in his community service roles. Most notable is his leadership in youth sports as a football referee for 30+ years and being one of three co-founders and the annual general chairman of the Crazylegs Classic.

What accomplishments were achieved as a result of the Nominee's involvement:

Tom Grantham has contributed many long hours of service to further athletics and healthy exercise in our community. Since himself receiving a football scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, Tom has guided not only thousands of young athletics at the Pop Warner, High School and College/University levels, but has personally encouraged several hundreds of thousands of area residents to better health, exercise and fun by co-founding the Crazylegs Classic. As for leadership, Tom not only originated the fund-raising proposal, but named it as well, asking one of his idols, then-Athletic Director Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch, for permission to name the event in his honor. The rest is history.

Summary of time period of involvement, including span and quality\* of time:

For more than four decades, Tom, First Vice President of Investments for Merrill Lynch in Madison, has paid back his community and university for his scholarship literally thousands of times, drawing recognition and praise from such leaders such as Athletic Director/Former Football Coach Barry Alvarez.

Adding up all this dedicated service, refereeing 3 or 4 games every weekend for 10 weeks for 30+ years, Tom helped the development of youngsters in at least 1,000 games involving an average of 80-100 players in each game. Tom dedicated himself to this extraordinary "pay back" service for all the training, guidance and coaching he received as a youth.

**\*Quality of time examples: Was the Nominee's involvement volunteer or salaried time; leadership or passive role; monetary commitment or time commitment.**

See previous responses. Tom's involvement in these activities has been primarily on a volunteer basis.

**What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth\*:**

He has been an active volunteer for countless youth through his involvement with high school sports. In addition, there are many youth who participate in the Crazylegs event each year.

## Other Comments:

Tom Grantham, a member of the Rotary Club of Madison since 1981, came from Ohio to Madison on a UW football scholarship in 1956, played on the 1959 Badger Rose Bowl team, and upon graduation felt a strong "obligation" to repay the University of Wisconsin and the Madison community for his good fortune. Speaking about his U.W. scholarship in a "Know Your Madisonian" article in the Wisconsin State Journal, Tom said, "That was my opportunity to go to school. Because of what it did for me, I feel an obligation to the U.W. and its Athletic Department to stay involved and help it raise funds. We have a great university and community here and we have an obligation to give something back to it."

**\*While contributions to athletics for all ages are recognized, youth is an area of emphasis by the evaluation committee.**