

## **All-Star Players, NFL Coaches Meet Shriners Patients**

**WHAT:** College all-stars competing in the East-West Shrine Game will team up with orthopaedic and burn patients from Shriners Hospitals for Children in Houston and Galveston. Patients and players will toss footballs, play wheelchair basketball and welcome former NFL coaches Dick Vermeil and Mike White. Activities also include karaoke and dancing. Each patient will take photographs with the East-West players and receive a football for autographs.

The Sam Houston High School band and cheerleaders will help patients welcome the East-West players as they arrive. Patient ambassadors Calder Hodge and Shyra Hayes will be introduced during the welcome. As patient ambassadors, Calder and Shyra will be present for the East-West Shrine Game coin toss. Patrick Henry High School's award-winning mariachi band will wrap up the welcome and play as patients and players enter the hospital.

**WHO:** Coaches Dick Vermeil and Mike White can comment on how Shriners Hospitals' patients will inspire East-West Shrine Game players and help them prepare for game day.

Doug Maxwell, vice president of Shriners of North America, can share how the East-West Shrine Game has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Shriners Hospitals for and educated the public about the specialty medical care they provide children at no charge.

**WHERE:** Shriners Hospitals for Children—Houston  
6977 Main Street (corner of Main and Pressler in the Texas Medical Center)

**WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 13  
Players arrive at 1 p.m.  
Activities begin after a short welcome and end at 3 p.m.

**WHY:** This is the 83rd annual East-West Shrine Game, a college all-star bowl game that raises money and awareness for Shriners Hospitals for Children. The 2008 East-West Shrine Game will be played at Robertson Stadium at the University of Houston on Saturday, January 19th at 6 p.m. The Game will be televised nationally on ESPN2 and tickets can be purchased at [www.uhcougars.com](http://www.uhcougars.com) or 713-GO-COOGS.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is an international system of 22 hospitals that has provided medical care to more than 835,000 children with orthopaedic conditions, burn injuries, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, all at no charge. Texas is home to two Shriners Hospitals for Children including the orthopedic hospital in the Texas Medical Center and the burn hospital in Galveston.

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