

Biden, Former Steelers Honor Dan Rooney at University Event

By Ken Walters

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden delivered the keynote address at *Slainte! Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dan Rooney*, a daylong symposium honoring the life of former Pittsburgh Steelers Chairman and U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Dan Rooney. A Duquesne alumnus, Rooney died last year at the age of 84.

“He’d always look you in the eye, shake your hand and he’d say thank you,” Biden said of Rooney. “It didn’t matter whether you were his star quarterback or one of his fellow North Siders passing on the street. This is a guy who stood in line to get his own hot dog at halftime even though he owned the whole damn team.”

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley delivered the symposium’s opening remarks and later introduced Biden to the crowd of 700 people in the Union Ballroom at the March symposium.

“Dan Rooney was one of my own personal heroes,” Gormley told the audience, adding that Rooney and his wife, Patricia, attended his inauguration as Duquesne’s 13th president. “His presence [at the inauguration] underscored the magnitude of the position I was accepting, but most of all, it was so touching to me because it reflected his own deep love and respect for his alma mater, Duquesne University.”

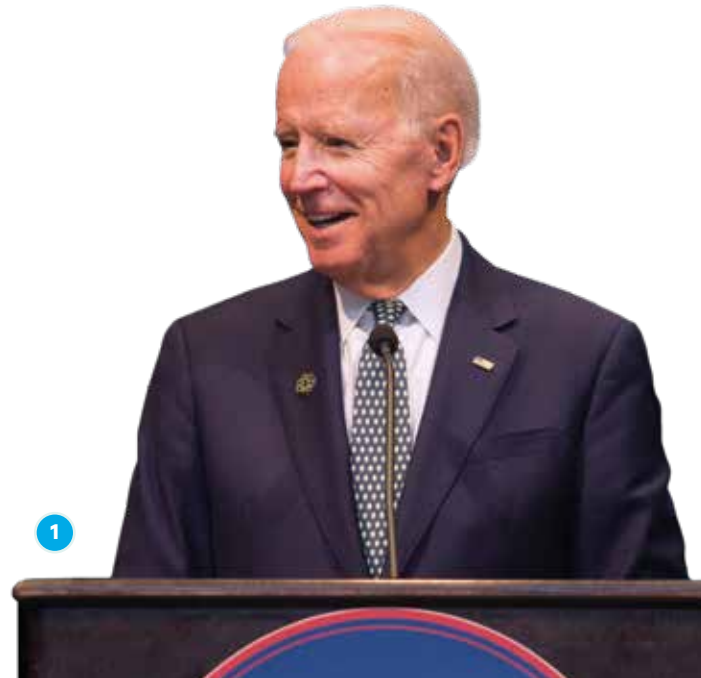
“This is a guy who stood in line to get his own hot dog at halftime even though he owned the whole damn team.”

The symposium explored Rooney’s impact on Pittsburgh, Ireland, the Catholic Church and the National Football League, and included panel discussions focused on various aspects of his career.

Event moderators and panelists included Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin; *NFL Today* Analyst and former Steelers Head Coach Bill Cowher; former CIA and NSA Director General Michael V. Hayden; Worldwide Ireland Funds President and CEO Kieran McLoughlin; NFL Vice President Jeff Pash; and former Steelers players Charlie Batch, Franco Harris, Mike Wagner and Rocky Bleier.

The symposium was hosted by Duquesne and The Ireland Funds, which was co-founded by Rooney. ♦

➔ To learn more, visit duq.edu/rooneysymposium to watch a video produced by recent Duquesne graduate Sydney Bauer, A’18.





6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

- Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden delivered the keynote address at the Rooney Symposium.
- Former Pittsburgh Steelers Charlie Batch, Franco Harris and Mike Wagner reminisced about Dan Rooney's leadership and compassion during a panel discussion.
- NFL executive Jeff Pash participated in a panel discussion about Rooney's influence on the NFL.
- NFL Today* Analyst and former Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Bill Cowher delivered the closing remarks at the Rooney Symposium.
- More than 700 people packed the Union Ballroom at the event honoring Dan Rooney.
- Pittsburgh Steelers President Art Rooney II made remarks during the event.
- Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden took the stage with Patricia Rooney, wife of the late Dan Rooney, at the symposium.
- Duquesne alumnus General Michael Hayden, former NSA and CIA director, spoke of Dan Rooney's legacy.
- Gene Collier of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* moderated the former players panel.
- Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park University; Jack McGinley, chair of Duquesne's Board of Directors; and President Ken Gormley are shown at the symposium.
- Dan Rooney's son Jim Rooney, ESPN commentator and Duquesne alumnus John Clayton, University of Pittsburgh professor Rob Ruck and Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin participated in a panel discussion about Dan Rooney's impact on the NFL.
- The symposium included a discussion on Dan Rooney's commitment to his faith, family and the region.
- A panel discussion on Dan Rooney's work as the U.S. ambassador to Ireland was part of the symposium.

The Ireland Funds Gala

Dan Rooney was also honored in March at The Ireland Funds Gala at Heinz Field, where Duquesne University President Ken Gormley moderated a panel of distinguished speakers. The panel included former Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Bill Cowher, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, and former Chairman and CEO of PNC Financial Services Group Jim Rohr. ♦



Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Steelers/Karl Roser