

Eagles Honor 'Reading Champions'

December 14, 2004

The Eagles paid tribute to a different kind of champion on Tuesday night, as they honored Philadelphia's 100 Book Challenge Reading Champions with a recognition ceremony at the NovaCare Complex.



Reno Mahe with one of the Reading Champions

Eagles players, Reno Mahe and Quintin Mikell, were the special guests in a program hosted by Eagles Youth Partnership. The event saluted 20 elementary school students recognized as

Reading Champions for having logged more than a combined 550 hours of reading time.

The 20 students that have been named 100 Book Challenge Reading Champions represent 20 city schools that have read the most out of the 75 Philadelphia schools that participated in the 100 Book Challenge program.

Both players congratulated the youngsters and encouraged them to keep reading.

"I think what you guys are doing is truly remarkable and really outstanding," Mikell said. "At that age, I don't think I could have read that much. I wish I could have done more of that when I was a kid. I think you're on track for great things."

Just as the players must keep in shape all year long, Mahe stressed the importance of exercising the mind through reading.

"We have to practice to keep ourselves in shape," Mahe said. "For you kids, it's the same thing. Reading is important, especially when you're at home and you want to hop on that PlayStation game or you want to shoot hoops with your friends."

"All of those things are important, but it's also important to remember to practice reading."

The students received certificates and medals of honor, as well as books. The students also received footballs autographed by Mahe and Mikell.

The 100 Book Challenge is a reading program designed to improve the reading skills of students throughout Philadelphia by challenging them to read more often and encouraging students to read independently every day, both at school and at home.

Eagles Youth Partnership has invested more than \$500,000 in literacy grants in support of the 100 Book Challenge program in the School District of Philadelphia.

Eagles Youth Partnership, the charitable wing of the Philadelphia Eagles, has been a proud supporter of the 100 Book Challenge program since its inception, having provided more than \$500,000 worth of seed-funding to help establish the program throughout Philadelphia.

Currently, Eagles Youth Partnership and the Eagles provide the exciting added incentive for schools and students to participate and excel in the 100 Book Challenge, by hosting the ceremony honoring the program's Reading Champions at the NovaCare Complex, along with Eagles players.



Reno Mahe and Quintin Mikell salute Reading Champions