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Doug Flutie Day declared in Boston

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To much of the Boston College community, Doug Flutie is the ultimate celebrity alumnus. In 1985, Flutie led BC to a Cotton Bowl victory over the University of Houston. He is the first and only Eagle to win the Heisman Trophy, an award for the top college football athlete. And of course, Flutie is the quarterback who launched "The Pass," a last second, 42-yard touchdown throw that won BC an exciting victory over a favored University of Miami team.

Freshmen are taught that "Doug Flutie Loves Girls" is a way of remembering the names and order of Devlin, Fulton, Lyons, and Gasson Halls in the Quad. And many an upperclassman has gone out of his or her way to shake Flutie's hand on his frequent returns to campus. BC has always celebrated Flutie and the legacy that he has brought to the school. In November, though, Flutie's contributions to the community will be celebrated outside of the BC.

The city of Boston has recently announced that Nov. 13 will be Doug Flutie Day. Flutie is to be awarded the 2006 Red, White, and Blue Award for his work in promoting awareness and support for families with autism. The award is given each year to one of Boston's "local heroes."

The award was given to Bruce Springsteen in 2004 and Oscar Robertson in 2005. In addition to receiving the award, a concert will be held at Symphony Hall featuring Keith Lockhart and the rock group Boston. All benefits will go towards The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism.

In 1998, Flutie and his wife, Laurie, began raising funds for autism. In 2000 they

established the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism to honor of their son Doug, Jr., who has autism.

The foundation, which to date has raised over \$8 million, strives to provide aid for disadvantaged families affected by autism, fund education and research about autism, and serves as a forum for new programs and services relating to the disease.

Though primarily known for what he has done on the football field, Flutie's contribution toward autism has not gone unnoticed by the BC community.

"I really hope this award helps him get more attention for the work that he has done and is doing for autism. Sometimes his foundation work has been overshadowed by his spectacular football career, so likely this award will bring more publicity to his cause," said Vanessa Careiro, A&S '08.

As Flutie has proven through his work with the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, he is not just a famous BC football alumnus, but someone who exemplifies the BC spirit. Still, many people at BC are unaware of some of his greatest accomplishments.

"Doug Flutie embodies the motto 'ever to excel.' He has done it in his great play on the football field, but people often times forget that he did it in the classroom as well," said Reid Oslin, senior media relations officer in the Office of Public Affairs. "He was the University's Rhodes Scholar candidate in his senior year. Everyone remembers the famous Hail Mary pass that he threw against Miami, but a week later he was going through the interview process for a Rhodes Scholarship. ... So when we at BC use the word 'excel' we are talking about Doug Flutie."

Though he graduated more than two decades ago, he has had tremendous success in the National Football League and in the Canadian Football League, and thrived in his recent stint as a NFL prime time analyst, Flutie still frequently visits the campus. Whether he is playing basketball at the Plex, or making a guest appearance on drums with the BC band at basketball games, his presence is greatly enjoyed by the BC community.

"I really like seeing Doug Flutie on campus because it shows how down to earth and comfortable he is with his BC roots. By being on campus frequently it shows that he not only cares about BC's past, but also cares about its present and its future," said John Oates, A&S '08.

Many people feel that Flutie's receiving the Red, White, and Blue award from the city of Boston and being honored for his contributions to autism are well deserved.

"It's really exciting and it is a great honor for BC because not only was he a tremendous leader on the football team, but he is also an honorable person in the community and it's really great that he's still around and still being recognized," said Abigail Hasebroock, A&S '08.

Though Flutie is one of the school's most appreciated alumni and his name will always be synonymous with BC football, it is clear that his plethora of accomplishments reach farther than the BC community.

"Obviously, Doug Flutie is a big hero on the Boston College campus, but it is great to see that it extends farther than that. It's not just that he's a local hero on the Heights, it's that he's a hero of Boston itself," said Oates.