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Immediate Release : Portrait of Heisman Trophy Painted by Former Football Player

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The official portrait of Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie was painted by former Illinois Wesleyan University football player Robert Stephen Simon.

The portrait, measuring 20 by 24 inches, was revealed at the Heisman Trophy Luncheon at the sponsoring Downtown Athletic Club in December.

Simon, a member of the class of 1962 and a second-team all-College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin choice as a tackle, painted the portrait from photos. He met Flutie in person for the first time at the award luncheon.

The original will remain at the Downtown Athletic Club, but Boston College has ordered 1,000 eight-by-ten copies. The painting was ordered to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award, which goes to a player voted the most outstanding college football player of the season.

Simon, who lives and works in Flushing, N.Y., on Long Island, has done recently or will do soon portraits of Olympic boxing star Mark Breland and baseball greats Peewee Reese, Duke Snider, Mickey Mantle, Pete Rose and Reggie Jackson.

He attracted national attention in 1983 when New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner commissioned him to paint portraits of stars taking part in an old-timers' game in Yankee Stadium.

Simon was commissioned to do the Flutie portrait by Andrew Corbett Jr., who is chairman of the Heisman Trophy Committee and is a friend of Steinbrenner. Corbett and Steinbrenner both are in the shipping business.

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