

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

SENATE  
RESOLUTION 36

By: Leftwich

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising and commending 2003 Jim Thorpe Award Winner Derrick Strait; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Austin, Texas, native Derrick Strait arrived at the University of Oklahoma in 1999 for a redshirt season as part of the scouting team. He began in the University of Oklahoma Sooners starting lineup as a cornerback in 2000 and has played that position ever since; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Strait began the 2003 football season with the University of Oklahoma Sooners as the starting cornerback. In 2002 he was selected to the All-Big 12 first team and tied for the team lead in interceptions with six, which he returned for a total of 175 yards; and

WHEREAS, During the 2003 college football season, Senior Cornerback Derrick Strait was a two-time Big 12 defensive player of the week. He set the University of Oklahoma career records for games started and passes broken up plus ranked second in interception return yards and career tackles. Derrick Strait led the Big 12 in fumbles recovered and was fourth in the conference in passes defended. He had 69 tackles, seven of them behind the line of scrimmage; and

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma's Derrick Strait was named the nation's best defensive back, receiving the 2003 Jim Thorpe Award. The Jim Thorpe Award was presented to Strait on the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show on December 11, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Jim Thorpe Award for the best defensive back in college football was created in 1986, conceived by former Oklahoma City talk show host Ed Sossen and Jim Thorpe Association Executive Director W. Lynne Draper. The Jim Thorpe Association is a nonprofit charitable organization that encourages excellence in sports, academics, health and fitness; preserves our sports heritage and builds pride and positive lifestyles in the spirit of Native American legend Jim Thorpe. The Jim Thorpe Award was immediately accepted as one of the nation's top collegiate sports honors. Winners are judged on their performance on the field, athletic ability, and character; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Strait also captured the Bronko Nagurski Trophy as the nation's best defensive player on December 8, 2003, and was named to the Walter Camp-All American Team. Strait is the third Sooner to receive the Jim Thorpe Award following Roy Williams in 2001 and Rickey Dixon in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Strait will be honored at the Jim Thorpe Awards banquet on February 9, 2003, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises Derrick Strait for his athletic prowess, record-setting football career at the University of Oklahoma, and his reputation as a team player who is always striving to improve his performance.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Derrick Strait for his selection as the winner of the 2003 Jim Thorpe Award winner.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Derrick Strait and the Jim Thorpe Association.