



F. DON MILLER AWARD RECIPIENT GEORGE RYKOVICH

Manitou Springs High School football coaching legend George Rykovich is the 2007 winner of the coveted Col. F Don Miller Award, presented annually by The Sports Corp to an individual who best represents the commitment to sport and youth in the city which was a standard of the late former U.S. Olympic Committee Executive Director (1969-85) who helped relocate the USOC to Colorado Springs in 1978 after a distinguished military career as a decorated World War II combat officer in Europe and as a boxing official and athlete at the University of Wisconsin. Col. Miller retired from the USOC in 1985 and became the first President of the United States Olympic Foundation.

Rykovich coached at Manitou Springs for 36 years, using the nearly-extinct single wing offense on the way to two state titles (1987, 1990), and he led the Mustangs to a 222-129-1 mark. He came to the city in 1971 from his hometown, Gary, Indiana, where he had coached at his alma mater, Lew Wallace High School. Rykovich coached one of the state's greatest gridiron stars, Justin Armour, who became a Stanford All-American and NFL receiver for Buffalo, Denver and Baltimore, and who was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.