



# GRINDSTONE AWARD



**1990**

**Louis R. Groza**

To Berea and the rest of the world he is known as “The Toe,” after the appendage that brought him early and lasting fame. He was installed in the National Football League Hall of Fame in 1974 as “Lou Groza.” Now, in recognition of a long career as a distinguished athlete, businessman, a helper of youth, a civic leader and supporter and a devoted family man, Lou “the Toe” Groza can now be known as the twenty-fifth winner of the Grindstone Award and Berea’s Outstanding Citizen for 1990.

Lou was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio, into a decidedly athletic family. He was, believe it or not, the smallest (at 6’3) of three brothers, one of whom was an outstanding basketball player. Lou received his degree from Ohio State in 1949 and became a professional insurance counselor and left tackle / place kicker for the Cleveland Browns, a position he held for 21 years.

1950 was also a big year for Lou, for it was then that he married Jackie. They made their home in Berea, where they have lived for 41 years, raising a family of three sons and a daughter.

Lou lives by a personal creed which goes “always support a

good cause in any way you can.” His athletic skills led him to help and advise young athletes, as he has done for many years at both Berea High and Baldwin-Wallace College, as well as at Punt, Pass and Kick competitions and school seminars. His interest in youth also has been reflected in support and inspirational activities for Boy Scouts, Indian Guides, Jaycees and at football banquets and awards programs far and wide.

Though he has given unstintingly of his time to young people, Lou also has quietly served the citizens and the government of Berea in a number of important ways. He is a longtime member and past director of Berea Rotary and he has chaired many charity fundraisers, drives and banquets. He signed autographs (Lou modestly declines to estimate how many thousand autographs he’s signed over the years) for the Berea Library levy kickoff and he was a member of a fund raising committee for Mahler Museum expansion. Lou also has served on the Mayor’s Environmental Control Advisory Committee.

As an emissary of good will all over the land, Lou brings credit to himself and to Berea. As a friend and neighbor he’s humble and sincere. He’s a warm and sensitive family man and churchgoer. In an era in which we badly need role models without clay feet, Lou Groza stands out like a beacon for young and old alike.

Presented April 6, 1991

Holiday Inn Hopkins Airport, Cleveland, Ohio