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## Hall of Fame Trip a Great Experience



**THE WINNING TICKET** in the second SAFE Foundation Drawing provided a great experience for Dick Doyle, systems control analyst for Iowa State University in Ames. The package Doyle won was an expense-paid trip for two to Canton, Ohio, to join in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2002 Enshrinement Weekend celebration. Father of three sons, Doyle decided not to play favorites by choosing "just one" to join him for the trip. Instead Doyle's co-worker, Todd Boyd, another big football fan, filled the second slot.

Bob Patt, current SAFE (and past STMA) Treasurer and Civic Center Manager/Stadium Manager for the City of Canton, was the key force in putting together the Raffle package. Patt made sure Doyle and Boyd received their own VIP treatment with all the on-site arrangements in place and running smoothly. Doyle says, "With all the activities going on in Bob's facilities, he made time to meet us and really make us feel welcome. Everything was set up so we could just relax, take it all in, and enjoy."

Doyle and Boyd checked out the NFL Experience, an interactive set of challenges of such individual football skills as passing and receiving to see how one stacks up to the skills of NFL players. Doyle says, "Lots of families were taking part in this. It was fun to see how competitive most of the kids—and many of the adults—were in working through the challenges. They had one display of molds of the arms and hands of some key NFL players. It was pretty amazing to see how big some of the guys really are."

The Pro Football Hall of Fame (HOF) was even more amazing. Doyle says, "I hadn't imagined there would be so much on display for each of those in the Hall of Fame. It takes you through their entire football career. And there's so much more there about the game of football and its history. You could really spend lots of time there, taking it all in.

Having the opportunity to see that alone would be a great trip."

And there was more. On August 5, Doyle and Todd played in the 2002 HOF Golf Scramble at Shady Hollow Country Club. The fifth on their team was retired NFL player Tom Goosby who had played linebacker for the Cleveland Browns. Doyle says, "He was a really friendly guy and had lots of stories to share. Todd and I aren't great golfers, but none of our team were aiming at being top competitors, so we all really enjoyed just playing the course and visiting with Goosby."

Monday evening's events began with HOF Tailgate Party. Security for this event and the HOF game itself had been heightened, as has that for all major events, following September 11. With awareness of that and a potential for rain mowing in, Doyle and Boyd opted to leave cameras behind and just enjoy the evening.

Doyle says, "The Tailgate party was fun. We didn't meet any of the inductees, but we could spot some of them and lots of the past inductees that were there for the ceremonies and the game. Our seats were great for the game between the Houston Texans and the New York Giants. I think I was most impressed watching HOF inductee Jim Kelly, former quarterback for the Buffalo Bills, who led them to four Super Bowls. He's not a very big guy by NFL standards, but he was a great leader. There was a huge turnout of Buffalo fans there for him. And, instead of rain, we got a cool down in the weather and a nice breeze, a perfect night for football."

Not a bad return for a \$5 raffle ticket, especially since it was Doyle's supervisor, Mike Andresen, CSFM, who bought the ticket for him! Doing his part as an STMA Board Member to support the SAFE fund raising efforts, Mike bought enough tickets to fill one out for all of his staff members. Proceeds from this SAFE fund raising event will support sports turf related research and scholarships. For more information, see [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com).