

# Gladiator News

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## Gladiators get boost from casino night

By WENDY DEWHURST CORRESPONDENT

**BRADENTON** - A disc jockey kept the crowd jumping at Saturday evening's "High Rollers Casino and Game Night." At the fundraiser for Bradenton Gladiators Football, game tables were packed with gamblers, the silent auction was a bidding hot spot and everyone enjoyed a buffet provided by LeeRoy Selmon's, Demetrio's Pizza House, Premiere Catering and the Bradenton Gladiators with desserts from Mr. Cheesecake.



Roulette was one of the popular casino-style games that guests played at the event to benefit the Gladiators. Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament champion Bonshavior Bean shows the grand prize, a poker bracelet.

Winning the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Bradenton Municipal Auditorium was Bonshavior Bean, who took home the coveted poker bracelet.

The real winners of the evening, though, are the youths and young adults who benefit from the programs that the Gladiators organization provides. Many of the minor league team's players who attended the event have participated in camps and mentoring programs for at-risk youth and received educational scholarships.

Special Teams Coach Charlie Lee was happy to boast about the team, which is 90 percent local talent.

"In just five seasons, the Gladiators have made it to the championship twice -- with last season going undefeated," he said. "It's wonderful to see this kind of response and support from the community."



Gladiator Juan Pablo Berdejo, second from left, and Bradenton Gladiator Football Inc. President Edrick Sweeting, third from right, pose with event showgirls -- from left, Brittany Rowlette, Sarah Ray, Danielle Burkett and Ashley Brown.

The football team's season in the Florida Football Alliance runs from January through April. The first preseason game will be against the Sarasota Millionaires at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Booker High School in Sarasota.



For information about the season or the August Back-to-School Drive, which provides elementary and middle school students with required school supplies, call Gladiators President Edrick Sweeting at 320-7576 or visit [bradentongladiators.com](http://bradentongladiators.com).