

# Diesel Denson at the Podium

by David Solway (August 2015)

Best off-tackle rusher in the history  
of the Conference, he's come to receive  
the chronicled prize of the hero  
at home in his heavy-traffic medium.  
Cat-magic keeps him on his feet  
in the midst of gang-tackling anarchy,  
keeps him going when all are convinced  
the play's broken and is going nowhere.  
The big defensive ends chop at his knees,  
linebackers dive for his ankles,  
cornerbacks zero in from behind—  
still he's up and running, lugging the ball  
like a lump of pig-iron, moving the yardsticks  
down the contested field  
toward new lines of scrimmage, powering  
through the twenty-third book of the Iliad.  
Now, approaching the podium  
for the token an epic ferocity claims,  
taking the game in his stride,

poised in the dignity of performance,  
he knows it all comes down to  
the consummate art of balance-in-season,  
receiving the unfired cauldron with grace.  
And the Achaians applaud with reason.

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**David Solway** is a Canadian poet and essayist. His forthcoming volume of poetry, *Installations*, will be released this fall from Signal Editions. A partly autobiographical prose manifesto, *Reflections on Music, Poetry and Politics*, is slated for later this year with Anstruther Press. A CD of his original songs, *Blood Guitar and Other Tales*, appeared last summer. Solway's current projects include work on a second CD with his pianist wife Janice and writing for the major American political sites such as *PJ Media*, *FrontPage Magazine*, *American Thinker* and *WorldNetDaily*.

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