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High School Award Winners Announced at Lou Groza Banquet

WEST PALM BEACH – The Palm Beach County Sports Commission held its 20th Annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Awards Banquet & Silent Auction on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. In attendance were the top national place-kickers in the country, and Palm Beach County's finest young athletes and coaches. The winner of the 2011 Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award will be announced live on The Home Depot College Football Awards show on Thursday, December 8 at 9:00 PM ET on ESPN.

Glades Central High School was the big winner for the Local High School Awards, taking home the Player of the Year and ESPN 760 Team of the Year. Will Likely received the Player of the Year honor; he was up against solid competition with Tremane McCullough, Royal Palm Beach High School and Kelvin Taylor of Glades Day School. One of the most dynamic and versatile athletes in Palm Beach county, Likely finished the season carrying the ball for 676 yards, and 11 touchdowns on 108 carries. He also made 29 receptions for 519 yards and 6 touchdowns. As a defensive back, Likely made five interceptions leading the Raiders to an undefeated regular season. Glades Central High School went home with the Team of the Year honor with an overall record of 12-1, and the District 14-5A Championship.

The Sam Budnyk Coach of the Year award went to first year coach Willie Bueno from Royal Palm Beach High School. Bueno received the honors over Coaches Roosevelt Blackmon from Glades Central, Brian Dodds

from Park Vista, and Steve Walsh from Cardinal Newman. During his first year at Royal Palm Beach, Bueno steered his team to accomplish one of the greatest turnarounds in Palm Beach County finishing the 2011 season at 7-3 and the district 13-7A runner up from a last year finish of 1-9. A finalist at last year's Groza Awards, Bobby Puyol was named as this year's Place-Kicker of the Year. The William T. Dwyer High School senior kicked 8 field goals without a miss, including a bomb from 54 yards, the longest field goal in Dwyer history. He also added 38 extra points. Puyol beat out fellow nominees and finalist Jon Dinzik from Jupiter Christian and Alec Frear from Park Vista.

Winners were chosen by Palm Beach County high school head football coaches, athletic directors and Palm Beach County media representatives. The Lou Groza Award is presented by the Orange Bowl and is also sponsored by The Breakers, Enterprise Holdings, ESPN Radio 760, ESPN Regional Television, Parallax Productions, Global JBS, Mark Escoffrey, PA, Midnight Sun Tours, Akerman Senterfitt, Bus One, LLC, The Tux Shop and Orthodontics by Bradford/Dr. Stephen Bradford.

About the National College Football Awards Association

The Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA). The NCFAA was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game's predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association's official Web site, www.NCFAA.org.

About the Palm Beach County Sports Commission

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is a private, not-for-profit organization contracted by Palm Beach County to promote and market the County as a sports and sports tourism destination. The Commission brings sporting events and activities to the County, enhances economic impact, stimulates bed tax revenues (primarily in the off-season), and maximizes utilization of County facilities. The Commission offers a full range of event service support, corporate partnerships, sponsorships and a local membership program that support its goals. Local, regional, national and international marketing efforts are ongoing by the Commission with sports organizations and event owners. The Commission also produces sports-related programs for the residents of Palm Beach County including the annual Lou Groza Awards program, the Sports Hall of Fame, and the Kids Fitness Festival. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to www.palmbeachsports.com.