

April 2011



PALM BEACH
SPORTS.COM

GAME ON!



In this Issue

- Big Kahuna Lacrosse
- 2011 Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame
- Palm Beach County Venue Diversity
- FL Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships Return to Boca

Sponsors



PALM BEACH COUNTY HOSTS TOURNAMENT FOR ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SPORTS

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has worked in partnership with Aloha Tournaments, Inc. to present the inaugural Big Kahuna Lacrosse Tournament, taking place at Village Park in Wellington, FL on December 10-11, 2011. The Big Kahuna Lacrosse event is expected to attract more than 40 traveling teams. Collectively, over 600 athletes are expected, in addition to coaches and spectators. The two-day tournament is anticipated to generate over 700 hotel room nights with an estimated economic impact of over \$245,000. This will be a great opportunity for hotels to see a pick-up in hotel room nights in addition to promoting an extended stay for families traveling with players looking for a vacation experience.



According to US Lacrosse, the National Governing Body, Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing team sports in the United States. Youth participation in the sport has grown over 138% since 2001 to nearly 300,000. No sport has grown faster at the high school level over the last 10 years and there are now an estimated 228,000 high school players. Lacrosse is also the fastest-growing sport over the last six years at the NCAA level with 557 college teams in 2009.

The event will showcase boy's middle school and high school aged teams from across the country. Divisions include U11, U13A, U13B, U15A, U15B, High School A

and High School B. Each team will be scheduled for five games, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. There will also be an opportunity to showcase high school players to college coaches in competitive situations. Tournament officials will educate the participating players on the recruiting process by collegiate coaches.

The Village of Wellington is also a major partner in this endeavor. Village Park will serve as the host venue and provide access to at least eight multipurpose fields. This is an opportunity for the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to highlight one of the area's premier facilities and for Palm Beach County to build its resume of hosting lacrosse events, strengthening its relationship with the lacrosse community.

Aloha Tournaments was created in 1999 to develop, promote and host youth athletic tournaments in lacrosse and field hockey. The organization currently promotes more than 15 national lacrosse and field hockey tournaments, which feature age groups that range from grade school to high school. For more information on the Big Kahuna Lacrosse Tournament, call 410.592.9225, email info@bigkahunalax.com or visit www.tikitournaments.com.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTS LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEGENDS



Over 500 friends, families and sports enthusiasts attended the 35th Annual Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Induction and Annual Sports Awards Banquet, presented by Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey and Fronrath. On Sunday, March 27, ten individuals from the Palm Beach County community joined

a legendary list, dating back to 1977, of those that have achieved excellence in the world of sports.

Master of Ceremonies, Jason Pugh of ESPN 760, orchestrated a momentous evening celebrating sports in Palm Beach County. The program was full of special moments recognizing everyone from football to fishing to the extraordinary accomplishments of Special Olympic athletes. It was also a particularly prolific year for golf as five individuals and one organization were acknowledged for their achievements.

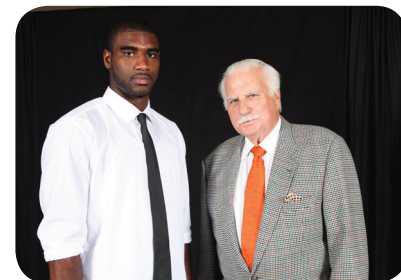


Emcee Jason Pugh with parents
Joe and Shirley Pugh

The 2011 Sports Hall of Fame inductees include homegrown football players Heath Evans of the New Orleans Saints Super Bowl XLIV championship team and University of Miami standout wide receiver Chris T. Jones, along with LPGA Tour Championship and two-time U.S. Women's Open winner, Meg Mallon.

Tom Twyford made history as the first individual to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for sport fishing. Twyford has been the leading ambassador for sport fishing in Palm Beach County for more than two decades and has introduced well over 10,000 youth to the sport. Additionally, the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame proudly welcomed Palm Beach Community College All-American and Florida State University team captain softball player Barbara Gillespie Nicklaus; Remuise Johnson, an All-State athlete from Pahokee High School who played defensive end, linebacker and tight end; professional golfer Ken Green who has overcome a tremendous amount of personal adversity to return to the sport; Palm Beach Gardens High School Coach, Palm Beach Community College Athletic Director and now senior pastor of Christ Fellowship, Tom Mullins; Kevin Patrick who was a four-year letterman at Forest Hill High School and current defensive line coach at University of South Florida; and golf club maker Jack Wullkotte who is also a member of the Professional Club Maker's Society Hall Of Fame and the Palm Beach County Golf Association Hall of Fame.

In addition to the Hall of Fame induction, the Palm Beach County Sports Commission also honored the Annual Sports Awards recipients, celebrating the accomplishments of its athletes, coaches and contributors that excelled this past year. After leading his high school Alma Mater, Glades Central, to the state title game for two consecutive years and an overall record of 36-4 in three seasons, **High School Coach of the Year** honors were awarded to Jessie Hester. William T. Dwyer High School football/basketball standout Jacoby Brissett was chosen as the **High School Athlete of the Year**. Matt Greener of Jupiter received **Amateur Athlete of the Year** for his accomplishments on Cumberland University's baseball team which include a .466 batting average, 27 homeruns, 26 doubles, 101 RBIs and 39 multi-hit games for the 2010 season. University of Florida's baseball coach, Kevin O'Sullivan, earned **Coach of the Year** following a 2010 College World Series appearance and SEC Coach of the Year honors. Accredited for growing junior golf for more than 50 years, the Palm Beach County Junior Golf Association was recognized as **Outstanding Sports Contributor**. Fred Ross of William T. Dwyer High School and Cassandra Rahming of Palm Beach Gardens High School are each repeat recipients of the men's and women's **Andrews-Ceravolo High School Basketball Coach of the Year**, respectively. Long-time drag racing competitor and recipient of many NHRA championships, Rowland Wood received the **Dick Moroso Memorial Motorsports Award**. As recipient of the **President's Award**, Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida was recognized for their tremendous support to the Palm Beach County Community and South Florida area for their impact on improving the health and well being of children. **Professional Athlete of the Year** was shared by golf's Bernhard Langer and receiver Jacoby Ford of Cardinal Newman High and the Oakland Raiders. Special recognition was given to Pro Football Hall of Famer Rickey Jackson of Pahokee and former Minnesota Vikings receiver Anthony Carter of Riviera Beach. Receiving a full-house standing ovation, Morgan Vandenberg accepted the award for **Special Olympics Athlete of the Year** as a state champion swimmer and US National Special Olympic gold medalist.



Amateur Athlete of the Year Nominee, Lester
Jean, and Coach Howard Schnellenberger

It was truly an inspirational evening commemorating years of passion and dedication from some of Palm Beach County's finest athletes, coaches, administrators and contributors. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is honored to pay tribute to those that have made such an instrumental impact in the local community and world of sports.

PALM BEACH COUNTY'S VENUE DIVERSITY

Palm Beach County is known for its ability to host an abundance of baseball, tennis, golf and equestrian events. However, the coming weeks will showcase the diversity of the county's sports portfolio. Just to highlight a few—volleyball, BMX racing and even RC racing.



The BMX track at Okeehelée Park is referred to as “The Best in BMX since 1988”—its proclamation to businessman George Yerkes who built the track at Okeehelée Park in 1988 and those that have

maintained it throughout time, including three rebuilds since 2003. Okeehelée BMX track is one of only 16 National Bicycle League (NBL) tracks in the state of Florida. Being one of the best attracts some of the best riders in BMX, in addition to many local, state and national events throughout the year. Over 1,000 room nights have been generated within the last year. At the end of April, Okeehelée BMX will host Gator Nationals, an NBL sanctioned event, from April 30-May 1. This national event will serve as an Olympic qualifier, attracting competitors from across the nation to compete in various age divisions. Over 3,500 competitors are expected with an estimated 500 room nights and approximately \$350,000 in economic impact. This will mark the fourth time in the last five years that a national BMX race has made Palm Beach County its home.

From outdoor BMX track racing to indoor remote control car racing...Basher's RC Raceway opened in April 2010,



making it one of Palm Beach County's newer and more unique venues. Basher's is the most comprehensive indoor remote control car facility of its kind. This indoor facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art RC racetrack that can be altered to entertain both novice and advanced racers. The track is comprised of a well groomed clay surface with sharp turns and exhilarating jumps. As RC racing is experiencing a rapid and steep incline in participation, Palm Beach County is now ready to take advantage of this emerging motorized sport. On April 30, Florida's top remote control off road racers

will come together to battle for the cup at JConcepts Super Cup Round 4 at Basher's RC Raceway in Palm Beach Gardens. Basher's can expect to have over 150 entries from all over the state of Florida competing in high speed off road remote control racing on the indoor clay race track. This event is put on by JConcepts, one of the biggest RC tire companies in the world.

The Palm Beach County Convention Center will host the Palm Beach Classic on April 30-May 1. The Palm Beach Classic is a USA Volleyball sanctioned tournament for girls from the ages of 10 to 18. Approximately 100



teams are expected to participate. This will mark the fourth year the tournament has occurred in Palm Beach County. This \$600 million complex is conveniently located in central Palm Beach County and presents a spectacular setting for conventions, trade shows, social events, meetings and sporting events. The 350,000 square-foot center features a 100,000 square-foot exhibit hall, a 22,000 square-foot ballroom and 21,000 square feet of flexible breakout space divisible into 19 rooms. The venue is able to host mat sports and court sports such as martial arts, fencing, wrestling, boxing, cheerleading, dance, basketball and volleyball. The Palm Beach County Convention Center is host to many PBCSC events. It recently hosted the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet—an extravagant dinner and gala with over 500 attendees. It will also host the Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches on July 13-14—a two day interactive sports exhibition utilizing over 100,000 square feet of floor space for more than 40 sports and activities with over 5,000 children in attendance. The Convention Center is clearly one of Palm Beach County's premier venues with the ability to host a diverse line-up of events—from athletics to the circus to dinner galas.

And who knew there was a crossover between equestrian and BMX racing? There is a recent post on the Okeehelée BMX website from a family from Belgium who travels to Wellington each year for the Winter Equestrian Festival. This year, they are bringing their five year old son so “he could get some training from the real BMX'ers of Florida” at the Okeehelée Park BMX track. From baseball to beaches...and BMX, Palm Beach County truly is a sports paradise.

FLORIDA OPEN INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURNS TO BOCA RATON

Calling Palm Beach County home for the past 20 years, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) sanctioned Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships will be played April 6 - 10 at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton. The event will attract nearly 200 participants from across the United States and 25 different countries.

Founded in 1976, wheelchair tennis is the fastest-growing wheelchair sport in the world. Wheelchair tennis integrates very easily with the able-bodied game since it can be played on any regular tennis court,



with no modifications to racquets and balls. Wheelchair tennis, as endorsed by the ITF, follows the same rules as able-bodied tennis, with the only exception being that the wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball.

The event creates significant impact for Palm Beach County. In addition to the strong international media exposure, the Championship is expected to generate nearly 500 room nights and an economic impact of over \$175,000. This is one of many prominent tennis events that call Palm Beach County home.

CORPORATE SPONSORS



1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 930
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Tel: (561) 233-3180 Fax: (561) 233-3125

WWW.PALMBEACHSPORTS.COM