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THE 2012 LOU GROZA COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST ANNOUNCED

Finalists for the Lou Groza Award in 2011, Florida State senior Dustin Hopkins and Florida senior Caleb Sturgis, headline the thirty-player Watch List for the 2012 Lou Groza College Place-Kicker Award, presented by the Orange Bowl Committee. Hopkins has led the ACC in kickscoring per game each of the past two seasons and enters this year 68 points away from becoming the conference's all-time leading scorer. Not to be outdone by his in-state rival, Sturgis averaged 1.83 field goals per game last year, the most by any kicker returning this season. In addition to the two finalists, 16 other semifinalists from last season return, including the only four kickers who finished the season with better field goal percentages than 2011 Groza winner Randy Bullock. Louisiana-Lafayette senior Brett Baer (90.0%), LSU senior Drew Alleman (88.9%), Southern California sophomore Andre Heidari (88.2%) and Oklahoma State senior Quinn Sharp (88.0%) all bested Bullock's 87.9% mark, though none came close to matching the former Texas A&M kicker's 29

made field goals. That distinction goes to Ohio senior Matt Weller, whose 25 field goals were the most by any kicker returning this year.

Kickers on the Lou Groza Award Watch List were chosen based on statistics from the 2011 season and 2012 expectations. Ten conferences are represented among the 30 kickers, led by seven from the Big Ten. The SEC follows with six, along with four each from the ACC and the Pac-12. The Big 12, Conference USA and Sun Belt each placed two representatives, while the Big East, MAC and Mountain West each had a kicker recognized. While the Watch List highlights thirty of the best returning kickers in the country, the Groza Committee will be watching all FBS kickers during the season, and releasing a weekly "Stars of the Week" feature on www.lougrozaaward.com.

> Accomplishments tabulated are throughout the season and the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award announces its 20 semifinalists on Monday, November 5th. From this list, a panel of more than 300 experts selects the top three finalists for the award by Monday, November 19th. That same group then selects national the winner, who will

be announced on Thursday, December 6th during the Home Depot College Football Awards, broadcast live from Orlando, Fla.

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PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

THE 2012 LOU GROZA COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER Award Preseason Watch List Announced



The 21st Annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award, presented by the Orange Bowl Committee, will recognize the three finalists during an early week celebration in Palm Beach County, culminating with a gala awards banquet on December 4th, prior to joining ESPN and the world of college football in Orlando. The Award is named for National Football League Hall of Fame kicker Lou "The Toe" Groza, who played 21 seasons with the Cleveland Browns. Groza won four NFL championships with Cleveland

and was named NFL Player of the Year in 1954. Although an All-Pro offensive lineman as well, Groza ushered in the notion that there should be a place on an NFL roster for a kicker.

In order to view the complete Watch List or for more information on the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award please, go to www. lougrozaaward. com. For even more



updates on the best kicking performances throughout the season, follow @LouGrozaAward on Twitter.

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ROGER DEAN STADIUM TO HOST WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC QUALIFIER

Major League Baseball has announced that Roger Dean Stadium will be one of four venues to host the newly created qualification rounds for the upcoming World Baseball Classic. The event is scheduled for five days beginning September 19th and runs through the 23rd. Israel, France, South Africa and Spain will compete for the chance to play in the 2013 World Baseball Classic in March.

For the first time ever, a qualifying round will be held to determine the final set of teams that will compete in the main tournament.



16 teams will compete in the qualification rounds at four different venues world wide. Roger Dean Stadium, along with Regensburg, Germany, Panama City, Panama and New Taipei City, Taipei will be the sites for the upcoming qualifiers. The four winners of the distinctive qualifiers will advance to the main tournament that will take place during Spring Training in 2013.

"This is a prestigious honor that Roger

Dean Stadium has been chosen to hold a qualifying round," said Roger Dean Stadium General Manager Mike Bauer. "We are very excited to host this premier event and look forward to working with Major League Baseball and the four international teams. This is an outstanding event for the Town of Jupiter and Palm Beach County."

The four countries invited to the qualifying round will arrive a few days before the start of the tournament and will participate in team practices on Roger Dean Stadium's back fields. The event will be a double-elimination tournament, which will take five days to complete.

Six-game tournament ticket packs and group plans will go on sale July 30th. Six-game tournament ticket packs will be \$48, while group rates start at \$8. Individual tickets will go on sale Monday, August 13th at 10 a.m. Individual tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (12 and under).

To order tickets for the World Baseball Classic Qualifying Round, please visit www.Ticketmaster.com or call (800) 745–3000. Additional information can also be found at www.palmbeachsports.com.

Palm Beach County Sports Commission

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INAUGURAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT TO ATTRACT OVER 100 TEAMS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO PALM BEACH COUNTY



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has partnered with the World Scout League (WSL) to

host one of the largest amateur baseball tournaments in Florida during the summer of 2012. The World Scout League Finals, an inaugural 15-day tournament, will take place at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter and the Santaluces Athletic Complex in Lantana from July 27-August 10. This event will be the grand finale of summer baseball tournaments happening in Palm Beach County with more than 220 baseball games being played during the two week stretch.

The World Scout League Finals will field 110 teams, comprised of more than 1,700 athletes from across the nation, competing in 5 age groups: 18u, 17u, 16u, 15u, and 14u. The tournament will be divided into 3 segments (18u & 14u from July 27- August 1,



16u & 15u from August 2-6, and 17u from August 6-10).

WSL created a new concept for travel baseball by establishing a league that is designed to provide consistent levels of competition for teams located in 40 different regions throughout the country. WSL offers approximately 100 leagues (4 to 6 teams) nationwide for the age groups 18u, 17u, 16u, 15u and 14u. Teams participate in local, regional and national events within their league structure. By joining the league, teams commit to participating in the World Scout



League Finals, which influence the high team participation numbers.

This tournament will be one of the largest scouting attractions to take place in the world of amateur baseball. Few scouting events offer athletes the opportunity to perform against competition that has a parallel talent level. This tournament is unique, featuring both wood composite bats for the older age groups (16u-18u) and



metal bats for the younger age groups (14u-15u). Scouts will have an opportunity to see a wide array of age groups perform under conditions that form an immensely competitive environment and test skills that are necessary for the highest levels of baseball. More than 100 professional and college baseball scouts are expected to visit Palm Beach County because of the WSL Finals.

Palm Beach County is home to many of the largest and most prestigious amateur baseball tournaments in the nation. However, this is the first national tournament to attract more than 100 teams over



easily be participating in 2013.

The economic benefits for Palm Beach County will be very significant. The event is expected to generate more than 2,000 hotel room nights and over \$1.5 million in direct visitor spending for the local community. а two-week period, during its inaugural year. The future of this tournament is boundless. WSL believes that more than 200 teams could

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YOUTH TENNIS TOURNAMENT TO ATTRACT 500 PLAYERS

Palm Beach County is an epicenter for tennis. Home to over 1,400 tennis courts, the county hosts a plethora of tennis events each year. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) Summer Smash Regional Tennis Championships will take place from September 1-3 at several Palm Beach County tennis facilities, including the Delray Beach Tennis Center, the Delray Swim & Racquet Center, the Boynton Beach Tennis Center, South County Regional Park, Boca West Country Club, and Boca Pointe Country Club. The facilities are needed to support one of the largest regional



tennis tournaments in the United States. Over 500 athletes from across the southeast region will compete in four boys' and girls' age divisions (12u, 14u, 16u, & 18u). This is the fourth regional or national amateur tennis tournament hosted by Player's International Management, an inclusive event management and marketing firm, in the Palm Beaches this year.

The USTA Summer Smash Regional Tennis Championships has a 5 year history in the south part of the County and has featured some of the most talented youth tennis players in the world. In addition to the exciting tennis, the tournament will

bring considerable economic benefits. More than 500 room nights and \$250,000 of economic impact will be generated.

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