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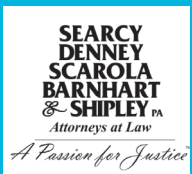
The Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION UNVEILS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2010 INDUCTEES

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Selecting from an endless pool of top-caliber athletes and sports contributors, the Palm Beach County Sports Commission announced its 2010 class of Hall of Fame inductees – including baseball legend Hank Aaron, NFL Pro Bowl running back and University of Florida standout, Fred Taylor and LPGA star, Dottie Pepper. The 21st Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is set for March 21, 2010.

“We’re proud to announce such an extremely high caliber group of inductees,” said Joe Ceravolo, chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. “Palm Beach County is blessed to have such a large concentration of accomplished athletes at the professional and amateur levels. Demand to attend this limited-seating event will undoubtedly be high, and I encourage people to purchase tickets early.”

Rated by The Sporting News as one of the top five ‘Greatest Baseball Players’ and a member of the Major League Baseball ‘All Century Team,’ Henry “Hank” Aaron retired from the game in 1976 holding the league record with 755 home runs. The sports icon played for 23 seasons with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves (National League), and Milwaukee Brewers (American League). He set a plethora of standing records, including Runs Batted In (RBIs), extra base hits, and total bases. Aaron played in 3,298 games compiling a .305 batting average, and was selected to every All-Star team from 1955 to 1975.

He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. From 1963 through 1974, Aaron participated in MLBs spring training in West Palm

Beach, and has a street dedicated to him, Hank Aaron Drive.

Pahokee native, Fred Taylor, began his stellar football career playing running back for Glades Central High School (Class of 1994). After an outstanding tenure as a running back for the University of Florida, he was the ninth overall NFL draft pick in 1998, being selected by Jacksonville Jaguars. From 1998 to 2009, he was the team’s offensive workhorse rushing for 11,271 yards on 2,428 carries, averaging 4.6 yards per carry with 62 touchdowns. Taylor is only the twenty-first player in NFL history to rush for more than 10,000 yards, and the only 1,000 yard rusher in Jaguars’ history. Complementing his run game, Taylor also accumulated over 2,361 yards and 8 touchdowns as a pass receiver. In 1999, Taylor set the



NFL post-season record for the longest touchdown run, totaling 90 yards. He currently plays for the three-time Super Bowl champions, New England Patriots.

“Given the caliber of athletes that come out of Palm Beach County and being a native myself, I am shocked, surprised and honored to be selected for the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame,” said Fred Taylor. I look forward to attending the event and seeing many of my longtime friends and fans.”

This year’s inductees also include: Reverend Leo Armbrust, Leonard Banks, Richard Ellington, Margie Engle, Loring ‘Snag’ Holmes, Dottie Pepper, Marilu Almedia Hunt, and Robert Zammit. For more information please visit www.PalmBeachSports.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

For More information on all events visit www.PalmBeachSports.com

National Firefighter Games

Nov 2 to 15, 2009

The National Firefighter Games will embark on its second year in Palm Beach County. As the only national event for firefighters, this multi-sport event will consist of 54 different sports comprised of a variety of age groups and gender competitions.

USTA Father & Daughter Clay Court Championship

Nov 5 to 8, 2009

The USTA National Father & Daughter Clay Court Championship will take place on November 5-8, 2009 at the Jupiter Ocean and Racquet Club. This event is a doubles tennis tournament, in which teams are comprised of fathers and their daughters. The four day tournament is an official USTA sanctioned national championship. Teams are guaranteed to play a minimum of three matches. Approximately 300 competitors are expected to travel across the country to compete.

Jupiter Fall Classic Pro / Am Surf

Nov 20 to 22, 2009

The annual Jupiter Fall Classic Pro / Am Surf Contest is a long board and short board surfing competition taking place at Carlin Park in Jupiter from November 20-22, 2009. The contest includes events for both men and women with age groups ranging from Junior (16 & under) to Senior (40 & over).

NHRA Citrus Nationals

Nov 27 to 29, 2009

The Palm Beach International Raceway will offer an awesome weekend of motor-sports and a frenzy of Fords. The 200-acre park boasts a state of the art motor racing facility located in beautiful Palm Beach Gardens. The 2.25-mile, ten-turn road course and ¼ mile drag strip attracts both professional and amateur racers year-round. Over a half million people are entertained every year by PBIR's racing events and car & truck shows.

Palm Beach Steeplechase

Nov 28, 2009

The Palm Beach Steeplechase will take place at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center on November 28, 2009. Six races—four over fences and two on the flat—will offer total prize money of \$125,000. The gates will open at 11 a.m. and the first race is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. A family entertainment extravaganza is being prepared for the event. The second annual Fall Steeplechase has been scheduled following the huge success of the Palm Beach Steeplechase at the Stadium last Thanksgiving which drew several thousand spectators.

PGA Tour Qualifying Finals

Nov 29 to Dec 8, 2009

The PGA Tour Qualifying Final is scheduled to take place at the Bear Lakes Country Club in West Palm Beach from November 29-December 8, 2009. The PGA Tour Qualifying Final allows 168 players, from the seasoned PGA veterans to aspiring professionals, a chance to compete for a PGA tour card and the ability to play in major PGA Tour events. The first 3 days are practice rounds and the last 6 days are the actual competition.

Marathon of the Palm Beaches

Dec 4 to 6, 2009

The Marathon of the Palm Beaches will take place in West Palm Beach from December 4-6, 2009. The event consists of a 26.2 mile marathon, a 13.1 ½ marathon, a 5K or 3.1 mile run, and races for youth. Other festivities will include a 2-day sports and fitness expo. This three day event will target local and national runners.

PALM BEACH COUNTY HOSTING TWO MAJOR BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

In the world of amateur baseball, two organizations dominate participation for adults. The National Adult Baseball Association (NABA) and the Men Senior Baseball League (MSBL) are the chief amateur adult baseball organizations in the United States. These two organizations will host their most prestigious events in Palm Beach County during November – creating over 3,000 room nights and pumping nearly \$2 million into the local economy.

The NABA Florida Championship World Series takes place November 5-8 in Jupiter at Roger Dean Stadium. This will mark the event's fourth consecutive year in Palm Beach County, which attracts approximately 30 teams from across the country. The tournament is organized by age groups and experience levels ranging from advanced to recreational.

One of MSBL's marquee events, the Florida Fall Classic, will invade the east coast of Florida for the first time after an 18-year stint on Florida's west coast. The event takes place at Roger Dean Stadium November 12-21 and attracts 125 teams and 2,000 players, making it one of the largest baseball tournaments in the country. Age divisions range from 18 and over to 52 and over. As one of the largest baseball tournaments in the country, the event includes a staggering 400 games, with Tradition Field in Port St. Lucie and Dodger Stadium in Vero Beach serving as overflow venues.

THE POLO GOLF JUNIOR CLASSIC TEES OFF AT PGA NATIONAL

After four years of hosting successful events in Palm Beach County, the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) decided the timing was right to move its most prestigious event – the Polo Golf Junior Classic – to Palm Beach County. The event is set for November 21-27 at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens. Since 2005, the AJGA has hosted either the All Star Invitational or the Junior Championship in Palm Beach County.

The Polo Golf Junior Classic, which has been conducted annually since 1978, is the marquee tournament of the AJGA's season. The 156-player invitation-only field is comprised of boys and girls, ages 12-18, from 25 states and 12 foreign countries. Former champions include Stewart Cink (1989), Tiger Woods (1991), Paula Creamer (2002), Grace Park (1994, 1996) and Morgan Pressel (2004).

MEMBERSHIP GIVEAWAY

A bi-monthly member raffle giveaway will begin starting January. All members will be eligible to win an item provided by fellow members and corporate partners. If you or your business would like to donate an item, please contact membership@PalmBeachSports.com.

T H E L O U G R O Z A A W A R D

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED FOR THE LOU GROZA COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER AWARD BANQUET

The 18th annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award banquet takes place December 8 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

This year's special keynote speaker will be Bennie Blades, a standout University of Miami defensive back and NFL player. He's an NCAA National Champion, Jim Thorpe Award recipient, and College Football Hall of Fame inductee. After graduating from the "U" he played ten seasons in the NFL, including nine with the Detroit Lions. He is the recipient of the NFL All-Rookie, First-Team All-NFL and First-Team All-NFC honors, and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl.

Blades' post-NFL career has kept him very active in youth sports across south Florida, founding his own non-profit, The Bennie Blades 36 Foundation. BB36F is based in South Florida, and was created to inspire and challenge all children, especially those with special needs from economically challenged areas, to realize their potential through education, health, wellness and athletics.

Tickets for this must-attend event sell out quickly, and can be purchased at www.LouGrozaAward.com. For more information please contact Kris Pursell, PBCSC event manager, at 561-233-3124 or kpursell@Palm-BeachSports.com.

HOW IS THE AWARD DETERMINED?

Prior to the start of each college football season, the Lou Groza Award Watch List consisting of 30 players is released. This Watch List is based on statistics from the previous season and preseason expectations. Information is received from national media, school sports information directors and other ranking sources. However, all Division I-A kickers are eligible for the coveted award. During the season the Groza Committee monitors the success of all kickers on a national level. Weekly, beginning in early September, the award recognizes the three outstanding collegiate kickers of the week based on the previous week's play.

Accomplishments are tabulated throughout the season and the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award committee announces its 20 semi-finalists in early-November. From this list, a panel of over 300 experts, selects the top three finalists for the award in late November. That same group then selects the national winner.

The three finalists are invited to Palm Beach County, after the end of the college season for the Annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Awards Banquet, presented by the FedEx Orange Bowl. Their three-day visit recognizes the accomplishments of the kickers in a variety of ways including community outreach activities, and culminating with an awards banquet.



Lou Groza Keynote Speaker
Bennie Blades



Super Bowl Volunteer Rally a Success!

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission, along with the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, teamed up with McCray's II Backyard BBQ for a successful Super Bowl/Pro Bowl volunteer registration drive in Mangonia Park.

More than 100 people attended, with 89 registering to volunteer for Super Bowl and Pro Bowl activities. Three former NFL players, Lorenzo Hampton (Dolphins), James Pruitt (Dolphins, Colts) and Reggie Givens (Redskins, 49'ers), participated and signed autographs for attendees. Volunteers are able to be involved in many areas, including hospitality, transportation, special events and serving as goodwill ambassadors for Palm Beach County.

Board members Reed Daniel and Jeff Zipper attended the event, as well as Deputy County Administrator Verdenia Baker and Mangonia Park Mayor William H. Aubry, III. McCray's provided free food and beverages to all people who registered to volunteer.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

PGA Tour Qualifying Finals
Nov 29 to Dec 8, 2009 PGA National Resort & Spa

The Lou Groza Collegiate Place Kicker Award
Dec 8, 2009
Kravis Center

Coast to Coast Baseball
Dec 27 to 31, 2009
Roger Dean Stadium

AYSO Florida State Games
Jan 15 to 18, 2010
Village Park

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