



PALM BEACH  
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# GAME ON!



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## THE AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION SELECTS PALM BEACH COUNTY AS SITE FOR 2016 AYSO NATIONAL GAMES



Palm Beach County will be home to one of the largest and most prestigious youth soccer events that takes place in the United States. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) selected Palm Beach County as the destination for the AYSO National Games 2016. AYSO Section 14 will partner with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to host the National Games at the International Polo Club in Wellington, from July 3-10, 2016. The AYSO National Games are held every other year.

The joint bid was submitted in March and approved at the AYSO National Annual General Meeting held in Anaheim, CA. Palm Beach County has been a hotbed for soccer through AYSO Section 14, which oversees AYSO soccer in most of Florida and parts of several surrounding states, and its efforts to significantly grow soccer participation. AYSO Section 14 has become one of the greatest ambassadors for soccer in the State of Florida.

“We are very excited to see the AYSO National Games return to Palm Beach County for 2016,” said AYSO National President Mark Stewart. “The International Polo Club converts into one of the most stunning soccer facilities imaginable with 30 soccer fields side by side on pristine natural grass. We expect the National Games to again

be an important economic contributor to Palm Beach County, but also a tremendous event for thousands of AYSO soccer players from across the U.S. We know it will be an amazing experience for all.”

AYSO invites over 240 soccer teams, consisting of more than 4,000 athletes and 10,000 total visitors to participate in the National Games, making this one of the most renowned soccer events in the United States. The participating teams will contend for titles in boy’s and girl’s divisions, featuring a variety of age groups (Under 10 to Under 19). Over 1,200 soccer games will take place during the 2016 AYSO National Games, creating an unrivaled number of amateur soccer games that takes place during a single event.

The AYSO National Games is expected to be the largest summer sporting event to take place in Palm Beach County this decade. Palm Beach County was previously home to the AYSO National Games during July 2010. However, the 2016 National Games will bring more soccer and more impact due to the event’s substantial growth in team and player participation, primarily because of the inclusion of more age groups. The successful bid is also a landmark occasion for the entire state of Florida, which will host the AYSO National Games for only the second time during the event’s illustrious history.

The International Polo Club is a remarkable venue that maintains over 300 acres of land, consisting of nine (9) polo fields. The venue was a key ingredient in Palm Beach County’s

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## AYSO NATIONAL GAMES (CONTINUED)

successful bid. This venue will allow for a layout that showcases more than 30 contiguous soccer fields. The partnership with the International Polo Club provides a competitive advantage for Palm Beach County in regards to pursuing and hosting major national and international sporting events. “We were pleased to partner with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to bring back the AYSO National Games,” said John Wash, president of the International Polo Club. “Our ability to host 240 teams, along with their families adds up to over 10,000 spectators! There is really no other venue in the county that can host an event of this magnitude. Our club is involved in so many events that are not related to polo, and we truly enjoy it!”



The AYSO National Games is much more than just a soccer tournament. In addition to the soccer competition that will take place at the International Polo Club, AYSO will host the Games’ Opening Ceremonies at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton,

which features an inspirational parade of teams combined with a family-style festival and celebration of soccer. Also unique to the AYSO National Games is SoccerFest. At SoccerFest, all of the players are shuffled into new teams according to age level and play in a series of friendly games, giving everyone a chance to get to know each other before they take the field and start the “official” competition.

Very few communities have the privilege and ability to host the AYSO National Games, which transforms destinations into a soccer mecca. In addition to exciting soccer, the AYSO National Games provides enormous tourism benefits for host communities. This event will generate over 10,000 hotel room nights and more than \$7 million in direct visitor spending for Palm Beach County, which will significantly impact hotel occupancy levels, bed tax revenues, and economic impact during the month of July. Soccer athletes, coaches, and spectators will be occupying hotels and spending money countywide.

The American Youth Soccer Organization is one of the most admired associations promoting soccer in the United States. AYSO was established in 1964 with nine teams and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2014 making it the oldest national youth soccer organization in the U.S. Today, AYSO consists of more than 50,000 teams and over 500,000 players. Over the years, AYSO has created many valuable programs and concepts. Most notably,

AYSO revolutionized youth sports with its “Everyone Plays®” and “Balanced Teams” philosophies. In AYSO, each child who registers is guaranteed to play at least half of every game.

AYSO Section 14 Director, Richard Schwartz, stated, “It is with great pleasure and pride to announce that the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has awarded the 2016 National Games to AYSO Section 14. The tournament will be played in July 2016 at the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida with the opening ceremonies to be held at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton. The AYSO National Games start off a week-long celebration that brings together AYSO players, volunteers and parents from across our country. Over 4,000 players and approximately 10,000 individuals will be converging on Palm Beach County during the tournament week. This is a great way to show off what Florida and more specifically, Palm Beach County, has to offer. The economic boom that this creates for businesses in Palm Beach County is immeasurable. We look forward to working with the Palm Beach Sports Commission in making this the best National Games ever.”

“Winning the bid for the 2016 AYSO National Games is a historic occasion for Palm Beach County”, remarked Guy Quattlebaum, President of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. “Hosting one of the largest sporting events for the most popular sport across the globe further elevates Palm Beach County’s stature as an elite sports destination. Its extra gratifying that AYSO has awarded only two bids for the National Games to Florida and both were presented by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission and AYSO Section 14. We are proud to have been home to the 2010 AYSO National Games and can’t wait to see this event return in 2016.”

“The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is humbled, honored, and excited that the American Youth Soccer Organization will bring its most prestigious event to Palm Beach County”, says George Linley, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

“The abundance of new dollars and rise in hotel occupancy will be welcomed by the hospitality and business community. Hotels, restaurants, retail outlets, and attractions from Jupiter to Boca Raton will experience a surge of business during the middle of summer. There are very few opportunities to host a single sporting event that will create a positive economic explosion countywide.”



## LOU GROZA COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER AWARD ANNOUNCES 2014 PRESEASON WATCH LIST



Looking to become just the second repeat winner in Groza history, Florida State sophomore Roberto Aguayo headlines the thirty-player Watch List for the 2014 Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award, as announced by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

Aguayo won the 2013 Groza with an incredible

freshman season in which he made 99.1% of all his kicks, shattering the all-time FBS record for a season with at least 15 field goals and 30 extra points. If he defends his title, he would join fellow Seminole kicker Sebastian Janikowski (1998 & 1999) as the only players to win multiple Grozas. In addition to last year's winner, 13 other semifinalists from last season return, including South Florida senior Marvin Kloss who was a finalist for the 2013 award.

Including Aguayo, 13 kickers return to FBS coming off seasons in which they connected on double-digit field goals at a rate better than 85%, and all 13 were named to the watch list: Aguayo (95.5%), Toledo senior Jeremiah Detmer (95%), Michigan State sophomore Michael Geiger (93.8%), Ohio junior Josiah Yazdani (93.3%), LSU sophomore Colby Delahoussaye (92.9%), Georgia junior Marshall Morgan (91.7%), Central Florida senior Shawn Moffitt (91.3%), Boise State senior Dan Goodale (89.5%), Oklahoma senior Michael Hunnicutt (88.9%), Memphis sophomore Jake Elliott (88.9%), Colorado State senior Jared Roberts (87.5%), Texas Tech senior Ryan Bustin (85.2%), and Utah sophomore Andy Phillips (85%).

Moving from accuracy to volume, all 11 returning kickers who converted at least 20 field goals are also part of the Watch List: Arizona State sophomore Zane Gonzalez (25), Hunnicutt (24), Bustin (23), San Jose State junior Austin Lopez (22), Morgan (22), Aguayo (21), Maryland junior Brad Craddock (21), Moffitt (21), Roberts (21), Notre Dame senior Kyle Brindza (20), and Louisville junior John Wallace (20).

Kickers on the Lou Groza Award Watch List were chosen based on statistics from the 2013 season and 2014 expectations. All ten FBS conferences are represented among the 30 kickers, led by four each from the American, Big 12, Mountain West, and Pac-12. The ACC, MAC and SEC each placed three kickers, followed by a pair from the Big Ten. Conference USA and the Sun Belt each placed one kicker, along with independent Notre Dame.

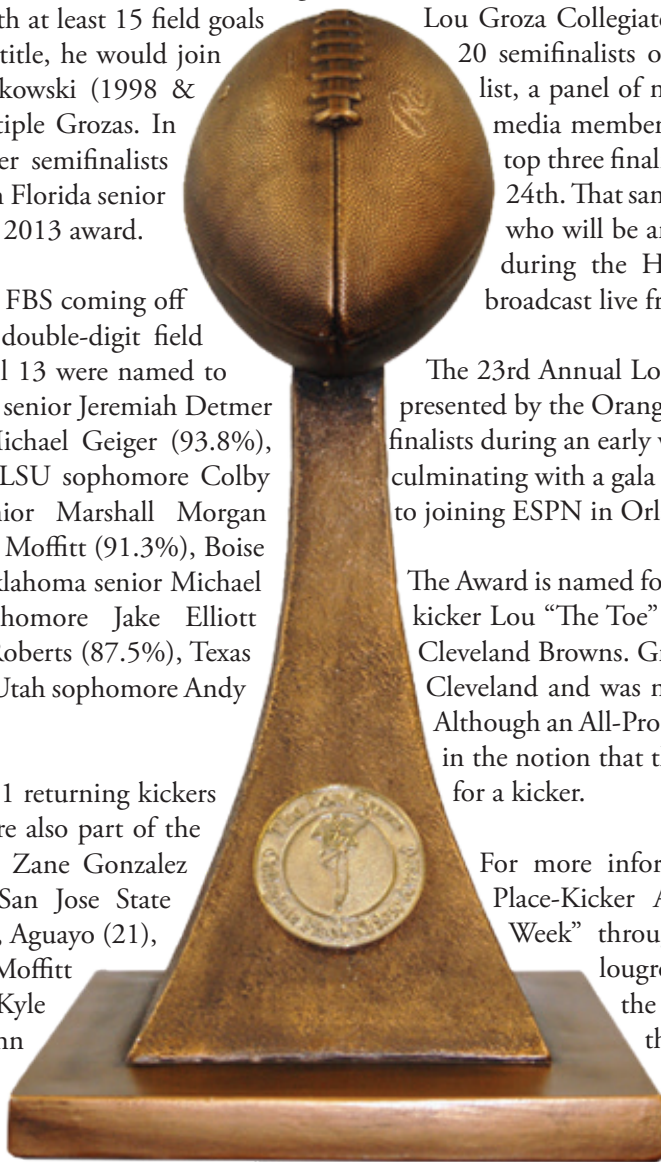
While the Watch List highlights thirty of the best returning kickers in the country, Aguayo, who was not on the 2013 Watch List, stands as proof that the Groza Committee will be watching all FBS kickers during the season, and releasing a weekly "Stars of the Week" feature on [www.lougrozaaward.com](http://www.lougrozaaward.com).

Accomplishments are tabulated throughout the season and the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award will announce its 20 semifinalists on Thursday, November 6th. From this list, a panel of more than 300 FBS head coaches, SIDs, media members, and former Groza finalists selects the top three finalists for the award by Monday, November 24th. That same group then selects the national winner, who will be announced on Thursday, December 11th during the Home Depot College Football Awards, broadcast live from Orlando, Fla.

The 23rd Annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award, presented by the Orange Bowl Committee, recognizes the three finalists during an early week celebration in Palm Beach County, culminating with a gala awards banquet on December 9th, prior to joining ESPN 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.

For more information on the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and to see the "Stars of the Week" throughout the season, please go to [www.lougrozaaward.com](http://www.lougrozaaward.com). For even more updates on the best kicking performances throughout the season, follow @LouGrozaAward on Twitter.





## BEACH VOLLEYBALL RETURNS TO DELRAY BEACH



The Extreme Volleyball Professionals (EVP) Tour will return to Delray Beach on September 13, 2014. The EVP Tour will bring its Southeast Championship, which will consist of more than 100 professional and amateur volleyball players competing for titles. Both men and women's divisions will be featured. A total of 14 courts will be created on the sandy

beaches to accommodate the influx of beach volleyball matches. The EVP Tour has established the largest national pro-am volleyball attraction in America. The tour travels to twenty key markets across the country from March to October. The Beach Sports Network has established a regional clearance with 22 Regional Sports Networks for (20): 30 minute TV

shows that reach 60 million viewers over 40 states per airing. EVP Tour events are family style beach volleyball tournaments with divisions for youth, juniors and adults. The event is free and open to the public. Spectators and athletes will be treated with great competition and many contests, including bump to the buckets and serving contests. The EVP Tour's primary goal is to support beach volleyball events that result in increases in sponsorships, participants, and spectators. This event will represent the 4th consecutive year that the EVP Tour and Palm Beach County Sports Commission joined together to bring exciting beach volleyball to Palm Beach County. In addition to great entertainment, this event will also provide an economic boost during the month of september that is traditionally a soft month. Don't miss the action! For more information, visit [www.evptour.com](http://www.evptour.com).

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