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2013 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH OVER \$6 MILLION IN PRIZE MONEY AND \$120 MILLION IN ECONOMIC IMPACT



Many people often rejoice in the change a new year brings. However, a new year also celebrates a continuation in history and tradition of long established events. The FTI

Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) which has developed a rich 33 year history, will once again take place in Palm Beach County. The 2013 edition will be held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington from January 9 to March 31.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has worked in partnership with Equestrian Sport Productions since 1994 in supporting the Festival. During this time, over one million room nights have been generated due to the event. In 2013 alone, the 12 week event is anticipating more than 90,000 room nights with over \$120 million in economic impact, according to



Festival the largest annual sporting event in Palm Beach County, it is the longest running equestrian event in the world, attracting both national and international athletes. The event hosts 3,000 horses and 2,800 riders from 49 states and 30 countries. Participants will compete in Hunters, Jumpers and Dressage classifications with prize money exceeding \$6 million. The substantial purse prize attracts more Olympic-class and international riders. The FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival is a proving ground for the United States Equestrian Team, and serves as host of selection trials and such qualifiers for important international events as the FEI World Cup Finals and the Olympic Games. In addition to Olympic-caliber competition, WEF hosts the nation's premier competition for children, juniors, adults and amateurs; for riders aged from 6 to 70 years old in more than

55 unique divisions of competition. The breadth of competition provides an opportunity for the entire family to participate in the sport together, creating a unique lifestyle experience. WEF is a season of intense competition

with thousands of competitors and spectators in attendance. Each week is considered an individual horse show, with more than 10,000 exhibitors (horse owners, trainers,

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2013 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL (CONTINUED)

riders, support personnel) and up to 5,000 horses competing in any given week within 12 show rings throughout the state-of-the-art equestrian show complex.



The FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival is an opportunity for Palm Beach County to showcase the versatility of the community as a unique sports tourism destination.

Beautiful, sandy beaches and sparkling blue waters are not all Palm Beach County has to offer. The area is also rich in acres of polo and equestrian facilities. The newly renovated Palm Beach International Equestrian Center covers more than 500 acres and offers the latest in facilities, including world class competition arenas, one derby field, and the largest covered riding surface in the world. Not only can you enjoy the action in the stadium, but there are also galleries for shopping, wine and coffee bars, tasty food fare and children's areas. Organizers have also spent \$25 million on upgrades, including a newly aligned road leading to the Equestrian Center and high-grade footing in show rings. General admission is free but some events do require tickets and VIP seating is available. For ticket packages and a complete schedule of events, visit www.equestriansport.com.



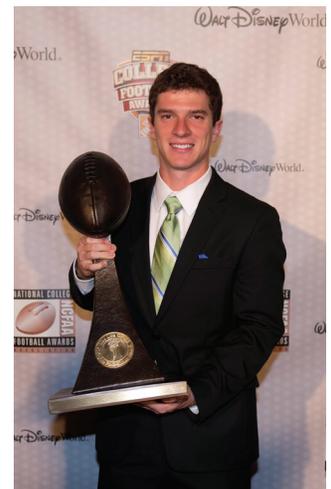
Experience what's in your backyard at the 2013 Winter Equestrian Festival. Each show week starts on Wednesday and concludes on Sunday with at least one major competition on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon in the world-famous International Arena. For more information on WEF and its related events, visit www.equestriansports.com

CAIRO SANTOS WINS THE 2012 LOU GROZA COLLEGIATE PLACE-KICKER AWARD



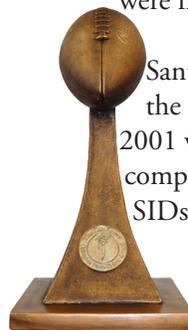
Over one million households watched as the 21st Annual Lou Groza Award was presented to Tulane University junior kicker, Cairo Santos, live on ESPN during the Home Depot College Football Award Show. "I am honored to be the recipient of this year's Lou Groza Award," said Santos. "I'd like to thank the Lou Groza Committee and the Palm Beach County Sports Commission for this opportunity. This is a tremendous honor and I am very grateful, but it would not have been possible without my coaches and teammates. This award is for each of them as well."

Santos converted every field goal he attempted this season, going a perfect 21-for-21. That makes him just the second kicker in FBS history to stay perfect throughout a season in which he attempted 20 or more field goals, joining 1996 Groza winner Marc Primanti. Twelve of his kicks came from 40 or more yards, the most in the nation, including scores from 57 and 54 yards. He was one of just two kickers in the country with two field goals from at least 54 yards this year. The 57 yard kick is the longest in Tulane history. Santos went 26-for-27 on PATs, with a blocked try the only blemish on an otherwise perfect season. Majoring in management, the Sao Paulo, Brazil native has twice been named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and Tulane's 3.0 Club.



Santos beat out Florida State's Dustin Hopkins and University of Florida's Caleb Sturgis for the award. Hopkins became the all-time FBS career leader in kick-scoring thanks to a 133 point season. Sturgis also had a great season, topping the SEC in field goals made and going 3-for-3 from beyond 50 yards. Both Hopkins and Sturgis were finalists for the Groza in 2011 as well.

Santos is the second place-kicker from Tulane to win the Groza in the 21 year history of the award, joining 2001 winner Seth Marler. The national panel of voters is comprised of college football media, FBS coaches and SIDs, and past Groza winners.



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NATIONAL HOCKEY FESTIVAL SCORES GOALS FOR LOCAL ECONOMY



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission partnered with the International Polo Club and USA Field Hockey to host the world's largest field hockey tournament during

this past Thanksgiving weekend. More than 3,500 athletes, 150 college coaches, and 8,000 total out-of-state visitors congregated to the International Polo Club to participate in the National Hockey Festival. Hosting an event of this magnitude brought a considerable boost to the Palm Beach County economy. The National Hockey Festival visitors inserted over \$9 million of direct visitor spending to Palm Beach County. The event generated over 11,000 room nights from hotel properties located from Jupiter to Boca Raton. Car rental companies were completely sold out as their vehicles were being occupied by field hockey athletes, parents, and coaches. Participants traveled from across the United States, Caribbean, Canada, and Europe.

Very few amateur sporting events rival the National Hockey Festival in size and impact. Athletes contended for titles in men's and women's divisions, including women's age group (Under

16 and Under 19), boy's age group (Under 16), and women's open and mixed (adult). The tournament featured over 220 teams. The International Polo Club lined 26 field hockey pitches, utilizing a total of 5 polo fields, to accommodate the astonishing 700 field hockey games that took place over the 4-day event.



USA Field Hockey is the national governing body for the sport. USA Field Hockey is

committed to growing participation in its sport, and to selecting and preparing its athletes to participate successfully in the Olympic Games, Pan

American Games and other international competitions. In addition to showcasing future Olympians, the National Hockey Festival brought current Olympians to Palm Beach County. The United States Olympic team, led by star midfielder Rachel Dawson, made appearances during the Festival to meet and sign autographs with the participating athletes and their families. The Festival was more than a sports tournament. The International Polo Club was transformed into a sports themed city. In addition to the games, multiple vendors and exhibitors were present, selling a variety of apparel, food, and presenting fun and interactive displays.



The National Hockey Festival will return to Palm Beach County and the International Polo Club in 2013. Hosting the National Hockey Festival is another reason why Palm Beach County is one of the premier sports destinations in the United States.



PBCSC RECOGNIZES MEMBERS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission (PBCSC) recognized Margie Walden as the recipient of the 2012 Lois Kwasman MVP Award for her commitment and service to the organization. The award was named after the late Lois Kwasman, in honor of her hard work and dedication as a board member with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, as well as a leader in the community.



the Everglades to the ocean and representing more than 100,000 residents. She also serves as the representative of the Alliance to the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and participates in the Economic Development and Political Action Committees. Margie also serves on the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition, the Parking Management Advisory Board and is a Board Member of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum.

Margie Walden currently serves as the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee and is a member of the Finance, Nominating, and Grant Review Committees for the Sports Commission. In addition to her tireless efforts at the Sports Commission, Margie is the Executive Vice President for the Alliance of Delray, a community based organization comprised of 87 condominium and homeowner's associations in Delray Beach extending from

“Margie Walden is very deserving of the Lois Kwasman Award, as she has gone beyond the call of duty for the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. Her loyalty, commitment and dedication is what helps with the success of the organization,” said Michael Brady, president of the PBCSC .

CORPORATE PARTNERS



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