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GAME ON!

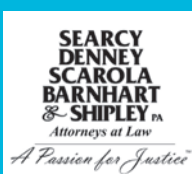
The Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission



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HALL OF FAME - A HUGE SUCCESS

Respect was the underlying sentiment at the sold out Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet that took place on March 29, 2009, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Friends and family gathered to honor the new Hall of Fame inductees and Annual Sports Awards finalists that have all accomplished greatness in their respective sports in Palm Beach County.

The night started off with a special tribute to two long-time local sportscasters who passed away during the year, Jim Gallagher and Buck Kinnard. Gallagher, the former Sports Director at WPEC-12, had served as emcee of the Hall of Fame Banquet since its inception. Buck Kinnard, former Sports Director at WPTV-5, “represented everything great in sportsmanship, everything great in what we expect of our leaders,” said Dr. Edward Eissey, who presented the tribute.

The Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame also paid homage to 1991 inductee Derek Harper, whose NBA playing schedule for the Dallas Mavericks prevented his acceptance at the time of his induction. On Sunday night, he was honored along with the Class of 2009.

Harper paid a public tribute to the man who “paved the way for me,” his coach at North Shore High School, Floyd Andrews. Harper choked back tears while speaking, and by the time he had finished and embraced Andrews, he wasn’t the only one dabbing his eyes inside the Palm Beach County Convention Center. “You’ve been a lot more than a coach to me,” Harper told Andrews.

Acknowledging that their lives eventually went in different directions, Harper lamented the times they were apart, but made it clear he never forgot Andrews’ life lessons. “I’m very grateful to you, because you made me the man I am. I feel I am a solid man, a role model, and I give you a lot of credit for that.”



The Sports Hall of Fame proudly welcomed several coaches as new inductees: FAU football coach, Howard Schnellenberger; Jack Rhine, the former Gator’s baseball coach from Riviera Beach High; Jupiter High football coach, Charlie Persson; and C.W. Pell, who helped build the football dynasty at Pahokee High School

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of all upcoming events check our website at www.PalmBeachSports.com.

U.S. Open Polo Championships

April 3 - April 26, 2009 at the International Polo Club

One of the three great polo tournaments, along with the British and Argentine fixtures, the tournament attracts the finest players in the world for a month long competition.

Spring Training Baseball

February 25 - April 4 at Roger Dean Stadium

Every February the St. Louis Cardinals and Florida Marlins bring their Major League teams to Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, FL for Spring Training.

National Grand Slam Baseball Tournament

March 29 - April 3, 2009 at Florida Atlantic University

This baseball tournament contains several of Florida's top high school baseball teams, offers great competition and also plays host to several college and pro scouts.

The Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships

April 8 - 12, 2009 at Patch Reef Park

This event has taken place in Palm Beach County over the last 18 years. The event consists of the world's best wheelchair tennis players, attracting nearly 200 participants from across the United States and 25 different countries.

Florida State League

April 9 - September 6, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

The Florida State League is a Class A Advanced Minor League Baseball league. The twelve member teams play a 140 game schedule with 70 games at home and 70 games on the road.

USTA Boys' & Girls' 12 National Spring Championship

April 12 - 18, 2009 at Delray Beach Tennis Center

This event is the highest-level junior tennis tournament for boys and girls that are 12 years old and under. The draw consists of 128 players in each gender division (256 total), consisting of the highest-ranked players in the U.S. competing in singles and doubles competition.

Play at the Plate

April 16 - 19, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

Play at the Plate is designed to give adult baseball players the chance to perform at a high level, while also improving their skills. This baseball showcase takes place each spring at Roger Dean Stadium.

Lake O Survivor Series

April 18, 2009

Adventure race to include biking, running, canoeing and various physical and mental challenges along the course.

NCAA National Softball Championships

May 7 - 9, 2009 at Lake Catherine Sports Complex

World Croquet Championships

May 9 - 17, 2009 at the National Croquet Center

Big Shots Palm Beach

May 15 - 17, 2009

Hall of Fame - (Continued from Front Page)

Other inductees included PGA Tour pro Mark Calcavecchia, who watched a video tribute of his career, then cracked, "Amazing how, as the pictures went by, I seemed to gain a few pounds in every one of them."

Two brothers who were standout high school basketball players and sons of Hall of Fame Chair Joe Ceravolo were inducted: Darryl Ceravolo of Palm Beach High and Joey Ceravolo, from Twin Lakes. Also honored were journalists Ray Boetel of the Fort Lauderdale News/Sun-Sentinel, and The Palm Beach Post's Tom D'Angelo, who thanked the Palm Beach County Sports Commission "for not letting (what he described as irate) readers get their hands on a ballot."

Inductee Bill Davis, former President of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, current Chair of the Groza Committee and a long-time supporter of sports in Palm Beach County gave an emotional thank you to his former basketball coach at Palm Beach High, Joe Ceravolo.

Besides recognizing this year's inductees, the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame presented several other awards:

Amateur Athlete of the Year: Florida Atlantic University quarterback Rusty Smith.

Professional Athlete of the Year: Jeff Blake, of Wellington and the polo team.

Coach of the Year: NCAA National Championship Coach Rollie Massimino, who started Northwood's basketball program.

High School Coach of the Year: Jupiter Christian's Football Coach Bill Powers, who led the Eagles to their second consecutive state title.



High School Player of the Year: Wellington's Ashley Brasovan completed her fourth consecutive undefeated season in track and field.

Other award winners were Santaluces High's Willie Gibson (Men's Basketball Coach of the Year), Palm Beach Lakes' Cassandra Rahming (Women's Basketball Coach of the Year) and Angela Gunderman (Special Olympics Athlete of the Year).

Equestrians' Eugene Mische, founder and CEO of Stadium Jumping, received the prestigious President's Award. Coca Cola and Pepsi were each recognized as Outstanding Sports Contributors for their support of local youth sports.

ROLLER HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTS PALM BEACH COUNTY FOR 2009 TOURNAMENT 3,520 PROJECTED ROOM NIGHTS - \$1.6 MILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Tournament of Roller Hockey Series (TORHS) has selected Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach SkateZone as the home of its 2009 national championship.

The June 26 - July 5 event is expected to draw over 220 teams from all over the country and occupy 3,520 hotel room nights during one of the slowest periods of the year. Age groups range from 6 and under to 18 and under plus an adult division and a pro-series. Over a dozen international teams are expected to participate.

Being billed as a "Party on the Beach," this will be the first time the 11-year old event has been held in a warm weather destination. The 2008 event was held in Buffalo, NY, and previous events, dating back to 2003 were held in Detroit, MI.

"We were thinking of the hockey family when choosing this year's National's location. Florida was the place for us this year and having a great facility like the SkateZone made this decision easy for us. We are all looking forward to an amazing 10 days in June and July," said TORHS President Ron Beilsten.

The Palm Beach SkateZone which has 2 ice-rinks and 1 skating

rink, will be converting its ice rinks to roller skating rinks especially for the event. Special flooring to cover the ice is being loaned by the Florida Panthers, and the Palm Beach SkateZone will be providing the other.

"We are very excited to be this year's host for the TORHS Nationals," Mike Bunting of the Palm Beach SkateZone said. "This was a perfect match for us."

Partnering with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, TORHS's selection of Palm Beach County was solidified in a matter of weeks.

PBCSC Executive Director Gerry Baron is very excited to bring this new event to Palm Beach County. "The opportunity came to us with a very tight window and we needed to react quickly. A great opportunity exists to bring this event back in 2011, and then on a rotating basis thereafter. It's a great national event, and is an especially important event during our off season." Baron said.



THE FLORIDA OPEN INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP OPENS APRIL 8 AT PATCH REEF PARK

Calling Palm Beach County home for the past 18 years, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) sanctioned Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championship will be played April 8 - 12, 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. It integrates very easily with the able-bodied game since it can be played on any regular tennis court, with no modifications to rackets 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.



SPORTS COMMISSION TO CO-SPONSOR 3RD NFL EMERGING BUSINESS WORKSHOP APRIL 22.

Joining forces with the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee 2010 and the Palm Beach County Office of Small Business Assistance, the PBC-SC will be co-sponsoring the third Emerging Business Workshop on April 22 from 2 to 5 PM at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Previous events have been held in Mirimar and Miami Gardens.

The workshop, part of the Super Bowl's Community Outreach program, is designed to assist local Palm Beach County businesses, especially minority and women owned businesses, understand and qualify for procurement opportunities with the Super Bowl's prime contractors.



**EMERGING
BUSINESS**

The workshop will explain in detail both certification and application procedures. Representatives from the Super Bowl Host Committee, the NFL and prime contractors are expected to be in attendance, along with representatives from Palm Beach County certifying agencies.

To confirm your attendance to the workshop you must pre-register at www.southfloridasuperbowl.com.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE FLORIDA MARLINS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Florida Marlins' Community Foundation has again, this year, shown their support of the activities of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

Nancy Olson, the Executive Director of the Florida Marlins Community Foundation presented a \$3,000 check of support to Palm Beach County Sports Commission's Executive Director, Gerry Baron and President, Patty Dent from BankAtlantic on Saturday March 21, before a Florida Marlins and Boston Red Sox spring training game at Roger Dean Stadium.

The Florida Marlins' Community Foundation has been involved and committed to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission since 1998, according to Olson. "Palm Beach



County is very important to the Florida Marlins, thanks to their fan support, not only at Spring Training but at our regular season games. It is great that we have an ongoing partnership and can support the good works of the Palm Beach County sports community with monetary and in-kind donations," she said.

With this year's pledge, the Florida Marlins' Community Foundation has committed over \$31,500 to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission's youth programs that promote character development, lifelong physical fitness, a drug-free lifestyle and safe and fun access to healthy activities through sporting activities.



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