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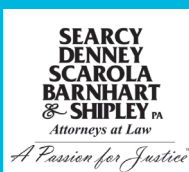
The Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission



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SPORTS COMMISSION WINS 2009 NASC WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

West Palm Beach, FL: The National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) recognized the Palm Beach County Sports Commission with the 2009 Outstanding Website of the Year award during its recent NASC Sports Event Symposium. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission won against 6 other nominees out of over 500 NASC members.

The Outstanding Web Site award is given to an active NASC member. Submissions are required to have a web site that clearly communicates the organization's mission, goals and objectives. The web site must market the community as a sports destination, be used to solicit corporate sponsorship or membership, or inform others about the organization.

In the spring of 2008, then President, Don Dufresne, a partner in the law firm of Greenspoon Marder, P.A. stated, "It is my goal to rebrand the Sports Commission, to give it a new look and to more fully utilize the asset known as PalmBeachSports.com. My objective for the website was to make it the portal to all sports in Palm Beach County."

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission then developed a strong descriptive summary of the Commission's activities and accomplishments. That set the platform for branding, graphics and web site design. A new brand identity arose, drawing inspiration from elements found in Palm Beach County: blue skies,

palm fronds, blue water, bright sunshine, golden sand beaches, and a ball representative of sports. Also, to convey the commission's primary business, sports destination marketing, a new slogan was created, "Just Bring Your Game".

When asked about the new website, Dufresne stated, "Today we have an interactive website

with a simple search box that allows you to search by sport, facility or date of upcoming sporting event or activity." The site is also designed to allow local recreation leagues and organizations to post their schedules and events on the website with the intent to create one central searchable database of all sports activities in Palm Beach County. This is the genesis

of the portal concept. Along with the interactive search feature, the website has enhanced the grants, membership and events programs by allowing online access to applications, ticket sales, etc.

Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, Gerry Baron noted "Winning this award is a testament to the hard work and long hours attributable to the entire team involved in the development of the website. I encourage everyone to take a look at www.PalmBeachSports.com."



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

Under Armour SE Regional Wood Bat Tournament

June 5 - 9, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

An 18 and under tournament consisting of approximately 20 to 24 high-level travel teams. The event attracts MLB and college scouts from across the country.

Coast to Coast Baseball Camp & Showcase

June 14 - 19, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

Whether your goal is simply to improve your game for the upcoming high school season or to attract the attention of college coaches and pro scouts, you will find what you are looking for at the Coast to Coast Camp & Showcase.

Swamp Classic

June 19 - 21, 2009 at Lake Catherine Sports Complex

The tournament offers play in all age divisions from 8U to 18U. They are proud to announce that this year's Swamp Classic tournament will host the NSA 8U Florida State Championship.

USA Baseball 16U Championships

June 19 - 27, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

USA Baseball 16U Championships will attract 72 teams and over 1,200 participants to Palm Beach County. The event serves as the eastern region championships for the 15-16 year old age group.

Heath Evans Foundation 7 on 7 Flag Football Championships

June 20, 2009 at The King's Academy

The event will help raise funds for The Heath Evans Foundation that is dedicated to fostering hope and healing in the lives of children and families affected by sexual abuse.

TORHS National Championships

June 26 - July 5, 2009 at Palm Beach Skate Zone

Approximately 220 teams and 3,000 athletes will compete in age divisions ranging from youth to adult (6 & under to 35 plus). Teams will travel from across the United States, Canada and overseas to compete in this tournament. TORHS is the premier organization within the sport of roller hockey.

Lake O Survivor Series

June 27, 2009 around Lake Okeechobee

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

Prospectwire Baseball Florida State Finals

July 1 - 5, 2009 at Santaluces Athletic Complex

Kids' Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches

July 16 - 17, 2009 at the South Florida Fairgrounds

USTA Boys 16s & 18s Clay Court Championships

July 19 - 26, 2009 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center

RMHC GRANTS \$20,000 TO KIDS FITNESS FESTIVAL

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission has teamed up with the Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC) of South Florida once again to present the 2009 Kids' Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches. One of South Florida's favorite children's events, the Kids' Fitness Festival will be held July 16 - 17 at the Americraft Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Last year's event drew a record number of over 6,300 kids, aged 5 to 13 with an interest in sports.

On Monday, May 18, 2009 Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida presented the Palm Beach County Sports Commission with a check for \$20,000 at the Sports Commission's monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Ricky Wade, a Palm Beach County McDonald's franchisee representing RMHC of South Florida stated: "The Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida is once again privileged to partner with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission and the Kids' Fitness Festival to promote the well being of children through sports. It is an excellent and well-planned event, something RMHC strongly supports. We hope to continue supporting it and being part of it for years to come."

The Kids' Fitness Festival gives children the opportunity to learn and participate in over 40 different traditional and non-traditional sports. Some of the featured sports include: baseball, basketball, fencing, football, lacrosse, martial arts, netball, tennis, and soccer. Also participating in the event are professional sports teams, former professional athletes, facilities and mascots. Kids can play games, enjoy midway rides, and interact with various special guests.

At Monday night's presentation to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission board, Kids' Fitness Festival chair, Jeff Zipper from Private Client Group – National City said, "Without the support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida this event would not have grown to its present success. We are very thankful for their kind donations over the past three years." Zipper then went on to say, "We're very excited about this year's event, and all that the Kids' Fitness Festival has to offer. We have several retired NFL players putting on a mini-football camp, as well as the Florida Marlins for a baseball clinic and the Florida Panthers for a hockey clinic."

The Kids' Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches is also sponsored by: ESPN Radio 760, KOOL 105.5 FM, Primetime Palm Beach County, Inc., Parenting Plus Magazine, and The Palm Beach Post.



Presenting and accepting the check is Gerry Baron, Executive Director of PBCSC, Patty Dent, President of PBCSC, Ronald McDonald, Ricky Wade, McDonald's franchisee, and Jeff Zipper, chair of the Kids Fitness Festival.

SAM BUDNYK SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The Sam Budnyk Scholarship Committee announced that Angel Hernandez of Pahokee Middle/Senior High is the winner of this year's scholarship. He will be honored on June 8, at the Top of The Point Restaurant at Phillips Point.

The scholarship is administered and judged by a panel of diverse, experienced and independent citizens and is named in recognition and celebration of the commitment, values and success of Sam Budnyk, athletic director at Cardinal Newman High School for nearly fifty years, and head football coach for forty-three of those years.



Angel competed against 44 other nominees and nine other finalists.

Chair of the panel of judges, Dave McIntosh, said "Each year, the nominees, and especially our 10 finalists, are representative of the very best of our community's youth. Angel's recognition as the most deserving senior speaks volumes of his achievements. Angel and his fellow nominees and finalists demonstrate the quality individuals whom Palm Beach County parents and schools produce. Our nation is in the great hands of our nominees and their peers throughout the nation."

Angel is the Valedictorian of his class and holds a 3.89 GPA. He is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate and has been named the top migrant student in Palm Beach County for two consecutive years.

Angel has excelled in academics, scoring a level four in the Advanced Placement exam in Microeconomics, and was nominated by his school for the Pathfinder Scholarship in Academic Excellence.

Outside of the classroom, Angel is involved in various clubs and activities. He is the Student Government President, captain of the Academic Team, and a National Honor Society member. He was also crowned Mr. Pahokee Middle/Senior High during Homecoming, 2008. Angel is a musician in the marching band, and has been section leader of the mellophone section since eighth grade.

On the athletic field Angel participates in both soccer and basketball. He started playing soccer at age five, and participates in both a city league and his school's varsity team. He is a forward on the soccer team and has been captain of the varsity team for the past two years. At age seven, Angel began playing basketball and has continued playing in high school as a shooting guard on both the JV and varsity teams.

Angel is very involved in the community, completing over eight hundred hours of community service. He has mentored junior high students, taken part in blood drives, participated in beautifying Pahokee and helped with the American Red Cross Hurricane Disaster Relief Program. One volunteer project that Angel really enjoyed was working with a friend organizing, supervising, and participating in a basketball game for students with special needs.

Angel is the son of Mexican migrant parents who came to the United States searching for a way to provide for their family. He is grateful for

the sacrifices they have made for him and for all of their support. The hard work and persistence his parents have shown are an inspiration for him, and the reason he strives to be the best he can.

Angel will be the second in his family to graduate from high school and have the opportunity to attend college. He will enroll at the University of Florida this fall, and his professional goal is to become an architect, not only to help companies, but also help those who don't have an adequate roof over their heads and are struggling. Angel aspires to become someone who makes a difference in the lives of others and plans to establish his own charitable foundation.

The Sam Budnyk Scholar-Athlete scholarship, established and first awarded in 2005, is presented annually to a graduating high school senior in a Palm Beach County public or private school, who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in academics, community service and athletics. An award of \$5,000 the first year, and a subsequent \$5,000 is available for three consecutive years for a total of \$20,000 upon maintaining certain grade levels, other criteria and subject to funds availability.

Funds for the award are generously donated by the Orange Bowl Committee, the Eleanor Jennings Myatt Memorial Fund individual and business donors.

USA BASEBALL BACK FOR 9TH YEAR IN A ROW

The USA Baseball 16 & under championships will take place in Palm Beach County for the 9th consecutive year. Scheduled for June 20-27, 2009, at the Santaluces Athletic Complex in Lantana and Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, this event is considered the most prestigious baseball tournament in the nation for the 15 & 16 year old age group. USA Baseball uses this tournament as an exclusive selection vehicle for the Youth National Team Trials. Approximately 20 players will be chosen from the event and flown to Cary, NC, USA Baseball's home, where they join another 20 players from the West Championships held in Arizona. From this group, 18 are selected to represent Team USA at the Junior Pan American Championships held in Panama.



Overall, the event is expected to bring 72 teams and 1,200 athletes to Palm Beach County. The business impact created by the 16 & under Championships is considerable. In 2008, the event generated 4,703 room nights and more than \$1.5 million in estimated economic impact. USA Baseball is committed to returning to Palm Beach County for a 10th straight year in 2010. The event is a significant contributor to sports business impacting the tourism industry, and promoting Palm Beach County as the premier youth baseball destination in the United States.

PGA NATIONAL TO HOST 2009 POLO GOLF JUNIOR CLASSIC

The American Junior Golf Association has announced that the PGA National Resort & Spa will host the 2009 Polo Golf Junior Classic and the Rolex Junior All-America Banquet. In its 32nd year, the Polo Golf Junior Classic will bring 156 of the world's best junior golfers, ages 12-18, to Palm Beach Gardens, Nov. 21-27, 2009.

Dubbed the "Greatest Night in Junior Golf," the Rolex Junior All-America Banquet serves as an evening to honor junior golf's best. During the banquet, the Rolex Junior Players of the Year, Rolex Junior All-Americans, HP Scholastic All-Americans, and the Jerry Cole Sportsmanship Award winner will be recognized.

"We are honored to be the new home of this prestigious junior golf event," said PGA National Resort & Spa VP and Managing Director, Joel Paige. "Many of the toughest tournaments and most talented players in the game of golf have been part of PGA National's history. With year round mild weather and an extensive golf facility, including professional instruction and sports training, we think the Polo Golf Junior Classic will reach a new level of success in Palm Beach County. I know we're thrilled to kick off what will surely be a productive and long-lasting relationship."



PGA National is no stranger to top-level competition, as it has played host to the 1983 Ryder Cup and countless senior PGA Championships. In addition, the PGA Tour's Honda Classic has been played on the Champion Course since 2007.

"Anytime the AJGA is able to play our championships on courses that have hosted such storied events, it's a great opportunity," said AJGA Executive Director Stephen Hamblin. "We are looking forward to a great week of golf at PGA National."

Former champions of the Polo Golf Junior Classic include Stewart Cink, Tiger Woods, Trevor Immelman, Hunter Mahan, Brian Harman, Morgan Pressel, Paula Creamer, Grace Park and Beth Bauer.

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. The largest association of its kind, the AJGA has an annual junior membership (boys and girls ages 12-18) of more than 5,000 junior golfers from 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries.

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