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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WISCONSIN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Public Is Encouraged To Nominate Individuals They Feel Are Deserving Of This Honor

October 14, 2008 – Madison, WI – Nominations to the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame will be accepted through Friday, October 30, 2008. The public is encouraged to submit their applications to the committee. Forms are available on the event's web site.

Qualification for potential Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame members include having made a significant contribution or compiled a record of achievement in sport that has benefited or enhanced sport in Wisconsin or elsewhere. The said individual must be or have been a resident of Wisconsin or have substantial ties to Wisconsin and sports in Wisconsin.

Induction into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame occurs every two years. Potential inductees are sought from the public during a specified period. Upon conclusion of the nomination period, nominees are presented to the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. The Committee then recommends the class to the board of the Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation for their approval.

The Nomination Committee is comprised of Board Members of the Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation, Wisconsin Media Members and current Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame members.

In 1951 the new Milwaukee Arena and Auditorium inaugurated the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame to honor outstanding sports figures whose achievements earned them special acclaim. Every two years another group of Hall of Fame members was selected and inducted in an awards ceremony during which a large bronze plaque immortalizing each inductee was unveiled.

Since 1951 nearly 130 individuals have been inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, including Henry "Hank" Aaron, Bart Starr, Reggie White, Bonnie Blair and Sidney Moncrief; leaders like the legendary coaches Earl "Curly" Lambeau, Vince Lombardi and Al McGuire; and renowned announcers from Earl Gillespie to Bob Uecker.

In 2002 WSDC invited the people of Wisconsin to vote for a Hall of Fame inductee. This was the first time in the Hall of Fame's history that Wisconsin sports fans participated in the selection process. Former Green Bay Packer Fuzzy Thurston was the top vote getter, the "peoples' choice" and a fitting "first" for the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame.

The popular vote will return in 2009. More details will be released at a future date. 2007 inductees included Dick Bennett, Cecil Cooper, Sen. Herb Kohl, Harry "Buddy" Melges, Jr., Frederick C. Miller, and Mike Webster.

For more about the 2009 Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame and to nominate someone, visit www.sportsinwisconsin.com and click on "Hall of Fame" or call 608-226-4780.

The Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame sponsors include Time Warner Cable, NGL Insurance Group, Midwest Airlines, 540 ESPN Radio and Good Karma Broadcasting.

Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation (WSDC) is a nonprofit sports management organization whose mission is to foster participation, competition and memorable experiences through events and programs that promote health, active lifestyles and a sense of community. WSDC owns the American Family Insurance Badger State Games, the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, Paddle & Portage, Badger State Duck 'N Dodge, Shape Up Wisconsin Kids, Lighten Up Wisconsin and the Fit Kids Challenge. WSDC is also the local host of the Ford Ironman Wisconsin triathlon.

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