



CONTACT:
Andrea Hoeschen
Phone: 414.336.6191
Fax: (608) 226.9550
ahoesch@sportsinwisconsin.com

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WISCONSIN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2009 CLASS

Four of The Six 2009 Inductees Expected To Be Present

May 12, 2009 – Madison, WI – The 2009 Class of the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame will be announced in a press conference this Thursday, May 14th, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Walk of Fame located outside the U.S. Cellular Arena. The top 10 nominees include Bob Harlan, Judith Sweet, Ab Nicholas, Lee Kemp, John Powless, Barry Alvarez, Suzy Favor Hamilton, Phil Wittliff, Ray Scott and Bob Lanier. Four members of the 2009 Class are expected to be present at the announcement.

WHAT: Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2009 Announcement
WHEN: Thursday, May 14th, 2009, 5:00 pm
WHERE: Walk of Fame, outside the U.S. Cellular Arena, 4th Street
Parking: Wisconsin Center District parking lot entrance: 500 W. Wells Street
WHO: Four of the six Class of 2009 Members expected to be present, as well as Ron Vincent, Chief Executive Officer, Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation, Martin Greenberg, Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Chairman and a Wisconsin Center District representative.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Nominee biographies can be found here:
http://clarity.sportsinwisconsin.com/files/HOF%2009_Top%2010%20Bios.pdf.

Qualifications 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.

2007 inductees included Dick Bennett, Cecil Cooper, Sen. Herb Kohl, Harry "Buddy" Melges, Jr., Frederick C. Miller, and Mike Webster. - More -

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, Shape Up Wisconsin Kids, Lighten Up Wisconsin and the Fit Kids Challenge. WSDC is also the local volunteer coordinator for the Ford Ironman Wisconsin triathlon.

#