



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

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

## **WISCONSIN HONORS ITS SPORTS HEROES**

WI Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Friday Nov 20<sup>th</sup>; Tickets Still Available: \$20

November 10, 2009 – Milwaukee, WI – The 2009 Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Milwaukee Theatre. The 2009 Class includes Ab Nicholas, a University of Wisconsin Basketball All-American and sports philanthropist, Barry Alvarez, coach of back-to-back University of Wisconsin Rose Bowl Champions, Bob Harlan, former president and CEO of the Green Bay Packers, John Powless, currently the top ranked senior tennis player in the world, Judith Sweet, first female president of the NCAA (and a Milwaukee native) and Lee Kemp, one of the most accomplished American wrestlers of all time.

“For the first time, this event is very affordable for anyone to attend,” said Ron Vincent, Chief Executive Officer for Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation, the operating company of the event. “We wanted every sports fan to be able to attend and to celebrate Wisconsin’s strong athletic history, so we changed the format of the event which allowed us to lower the cost of the tickets and make it accessible to more people including high school and college student athletes, families or groups of friends.”

The event will take place at the beautiful Milwaukee Theatre in downtown Milwaukee. In addition to being a celebration of Wisconsin’s athletic heritage, is a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Sports Foundation, an organization that provides participation scholarships to youth athletes to compete in the Badger State Games .

Doors open to the public at 6:30 pm. A silent auction will also be available. Ceremony begins at 7:15 pm. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Emcees for the evening will be Dan Needles and Steve “The Homer” True.

**Tickets are available online at [www.sportsinwisconsin.com](http://www.sportsinwisconsin.com) (click on WI Athletic Hall of Fame) until NOON on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>. There are NO ONSITE TICKET SALES, tickets must be purchased ONLINE in advance by Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> at NOON.**

**For more about the 2009 Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame and to purchase tickets, visit [www.sportsinwisconsin.com](http://www.sportsinwisconsin.com) and click on “Hall of Fame” or call 608-226-4780.**

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 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.

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.

- More -

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.

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

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 Badger State Games, the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, Paddle & Portage, Shape Up Badger State Kids and Lighten Up Wisconsin..

# # #