



Winter 2014
Newsletter

44th Annual International Sports Heritage Association Conference

In October, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame welcomed nearly 100 delegates from sports hall of fames and museums all over the world to attend the ISHA conference here in Nashville. The four day event was a great success that impressed guests with our state of the art facilities and southern hospitality. The conference allowed visitors to take in some of the local attractions all while learning new and innovative ways to preserve their sports heritage. We were proud to have been joined by Board Members Joan Cronan, Wayne McCreight, Chris Massaro, 2012 Honoree, Peggy Michaels, 2014 Inductee and Keynote Evening of Champions speaker Hope Hines. These speakers were gracious enough to come share some of their past experiences along their many different roads to success that really inspired listeners. The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame helped ISHA draw the largest number of attendees in the event's 44 year history and made a lasting impression that will be a benchmark for the organization in the future.



2015 Inductees Announced

Seven of the twelve names of the 2015 Inductee Class were announced during a special press conference MC'd by Hopes Hines at the annual TSHF Mason Rudolph Golf Tournament in October. Those announced were king of the cotton industry and former Memphis Steamboats owner, William (Billy) Dunavant Jr., equestrian enthusiasts Henry and Alice Hooker, coaching great Bob Cummings, former University of Tennessee football player Jamie Rotella, and University of Tennessee basketball great, Jim England. Also, the TSHF announced the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Inductee Mack Brown. The final five names were announced later in the month that include: former Lipscomb basketball standout and Franklin Road Academy Coach, John Pierce Jr., legendary NFL wide receiver, Isaac Bruce, coaching great, John Cropp, and the late coaching legends, Jake Rudolph and Galen W. Johnson. The Induction Weekend festivities will begin on the evening of June 5 with the Reunion of Champions reception followed by the Champion Within Luncheon and Induction Banquet on June 6. To reserve your seat and for more information on the 2015 Induction Weekend visit www.tshf.net or call Lynn Toy at 615.202.3996.



2014 Mason Rudolph Golf Tournament

On October, 7 2014, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame hosted its annual celebrity golf tournament at the Vanderbilt Legends Golf Course. The event was preceded by a press conference where seven names of the 2015 Induction class were released. It started off as a rainy, muddy mess but by the 1:00 pm tee time it had turned into a perfect day. We want to thank our celebrities that joined us and made the day special for all participants. We had celebrities from far and near that included former coaches, players and members of the Hall of Fame. It is the participation of our celebrity guest that set this day apart from other golf tournaments. The event was broadcast live by 102.5 “The Game” ESPN Radio and we even received a special live performance by the TSU Aristocrat of Bands. It was a great time had by all but most importantly the Hall was able to raise the highest amount of proceeds in the tournament’s history that will go to benefit the Champion Within Youth Program. Next year’s tournament will be held on October 6, 2015. All reservations must be made in advance. To participate, please contact Corey Blaske at tnsports.net or 615.242.4750.



CHRISTMAS TREE CHALLENGE: WIN 2015 SPRING BRISTOL TICKETS!

The Hall of Fame is hosting a Christmas Tree Challenge where the winner will receive two Bristol Motor Speedway Tickets for the 2015 Xfinity Series Race on Saturday and two tickets to the 2015 Food City 500 on Sunday.

For this challenge you will post a picture of your sport themed Christmas tree to our Facebook page or Twitter using the hashtag #TSHFTreeRace.

All proceeds benefit our Champion Within Youth Program. See below for official rules, dates and link to contest page.

[Christmas Tree Challenge Contest Page](#)

Official Rules

1. Contest entry fee is a minimum of \$5.
2. All photos and entry fees must be submitted by December 26th, 2014.
3. The TSHF staff will determine the top 3 best trees after all submissions have been made. On December 27 you will have the chance to vote on the top 3 trees through our website. Voting will last through January 6, 2015 and the winner will be announced on January 7, 2015.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE HALL!

As the year ends, we are reminded how much we have to be thankful for in our lives. Here at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, we are very grateful for our members of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame family. With your support, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame has experienced a great amount of success within the last year.

With our many relationships throughout the state of Tennessee, we've had the great opportunity to support our youth. The "Champion Within" educational program has made vast improvements to the healthy lifestyle portion of the program and strives to mold young people into all around healthy adults. We also awarded the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Jeff Byrd Memorial Scholarship to Eric Jones (King University), a very well deserving Tennessee college student who credits sports for making him the person he is today, and feels it was because of the values learned in sports that he was able to enroll in college. Eric is a member of the King University Track & Field team and likes to donate his free time to volunteer in his community and participate in church mission trips.

Earlier this year during the Women's NCAA Final Four in April, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame opened its newest edition, the Pat Summitt Gallery.



The new Pat Summitt Gallery has received raving reviews and tons of publicity from both local and national media outlets during the week of the Women's Final Four. The Hall had almost 5,000 people come to view the new exhibit over that weekend, and many of them purchased merchandise from the Pat Summitt Foundation, which was selling "We Back Pat" shirts. It was quite moving to see Connecticut, Maryland, Notre Dame and Stanford fans all supporting the gallery and the Pat Summitt Foundation. Pat Summitt and Tyler Summitt also stopped by over the Final Four weekend to see the Gallery. It has really become a major attraction for the Hall and is a must see for sports fans of all ages.

Our 2014 Induction weekend was a festive time! The Champion Within Luncheon was emceed by 104.5 FM The Zone radio personality Mark Howard. The Luncheon honored Coach Doug Dickey for his Outstanding Contributions to The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Bill Neely for his Outstanding Contributions to Sports and Coach John Farr for his Lifetime Dedication to Wrestling. The event also recognized four unique individuals as Champion Within recipients, which included Rashard Witherspoon, Joshua Putman and Bethel's Women's Basketball Players, Katie Van Dyke and Tayla Foster. Joshua gave one of the most memorable speeches that didn't leave a dry eye in the house and was truly a special moment for the Champion Within Luncheon. Please save the date for next year's Induction Ceremony, Saturday, June 6, 2015 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Nashville.

All of these accomplishments at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame would not be possible without your commitment in the past and your continued support in the future. I consider this great organization and each of you a blessing. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New year.

Dr. Bill Emendorfer



Executive Director