

The Legend

Published by the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame... *Where Legends Live*



Volume 2 Issue 2

www.phillyhall.org

Spring 2008

CLASS V NOMINEES

Ballot set for fifth class of Inductees. 37 Sports legends from 13 sports are the final nominees for Class V. More on page 2.

NEW WEB SITE

The Hall of Fame has a new web site and you can be one of the first to experience it.

www.phillyhall.org

EFFORT UNDERWAY TO PUT WILT ON STAMP

The Hall of Fame has joined an effort to have the US Postal Service issue a stamp to honor Wilt Chamberlain. Started by Donald Hunt of The Philadelphia Tribune, the effort has reached across the nation with support and coverage by the following:

AOL.com
Boston Herald
Chicago Tribune
ESPN
Kansas City Star
Knoxville News Sentinel
San Diego Union Tribune
The Sporting News
Toronto Star
USA Today
Washington Post
yahoo.com

The Hall has written a letter of recommendation and we encourage everyone to do the same. Letters should be sent to:

Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St.
Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Hall of Famers Set to 'Tee it Up'!

Dan Fahy, Jr – Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

Calling all golfers... hackers... and just plain fans of the game. This is the invitation you have been waiting for, your opportunity to play one of the finest golf courses in the region, with one of your favorite sports heroes.

On Monday, June 9th, the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame will hold its 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Golf Classic at Philadelphia Country Club in Gladwyne. This year's event marks the Hall's first stop at Philadelphia CC and features appearances by this year's All-Star Honorary Chairmen. **Robin Roberts, Tom Brookshier, Billy Cunningham** and **Bernie Parent** are your hosts as Philadelphia fans, sport enthusiasts and golfers gather for a spectacular day with memories you won't forget.

Registration is at 10:30AM and participants have access to the locker room and driving range. Lunch is served at 11:00AM followed by 12:15PM shotgun start. On-course refreshments are available, and after your round enjoy a **golf demonstration** by Senior PGA tour player and **Philadelphia Sports Hall of Famer, Jay Sigel**.

Fundraising silent and live auctions will take place during the cocktail hour and dinner. The live auction features a round of golf for 3 with Jay Sigel at Aronimink Golf Club during 2008 and a British Columbia Wild Salmon dinner for 4 with Flyers greats **Bernie Parent, Joe Watson** and other members of the Broad Street Bullies at Joe Watson's home.

Also scheduled for the day are Inductees **Tommy McDonald, Bill Barber, Pete Retzlaff, John Chaney, Joe Frazier, Bill Campbell, Bob Levy, Harvey Pollack, Bill Ellerbee, Ed Snider, Walter Bahr** and **Jack Whitaker**, as well as **Andy Reid, Fran Dunphy, Marc Zumoff, Gerald Henderson, Joe Watson, the Phillie Phanatic** and many more!

All participants receive a commemorative gift at registration, a forecaddie in their foursome and shoe shine services upon completion of their round.

Non-golfers may join us for cocktails and dinner beginning at 5:00PM.

To register, visit www.phillygolf.net or send an e-mail to 2008golf@phillyhall.net. For additional information call 215-886-6657 ext 8. Proceeds support *Hall of Fame Charities* and its designated beneficiaries of 2008. Don't delay... sign up today!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

page

Ballot Set for Class V Nominees	2
Hall of Fame Feted at Flyers Game	2
Featured Inductee: Richie Ashburn	3
Remembering the Darby Hilldales	4

Nominees Set for Inductee Class V

The nominees for Class V truly encompass the all-sports nature of the Hall of Fame. The 37 individuals on the ballot represent 13 sports at the professional, collegiate and amateur levels including baseball, basketball, boxing, diving, field hockey, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, rowing, swimming, tennis, track and field.

Each year the Hall of Fame allows for the submittal of public nominations. Of the qualified public submittals, the two receiving the most nominations are included on the ballot. This year's Fans' Choice nominees are Negro League Legend Julius "Judy" Johnson and Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti.

The ballot is divided in to two groups, those with the majority of their career occurring in the past fifty years and those prior to that. Hall of Fame voters must select at least five from each category.

Over 200 ballots were mailed to the Hall of Fame's elective body, consisting of local sports media members, coaches, athletic directors, sports historians and all living Inductees. The results will be tallied over the coming weeks with the Class V Inductees to be announced later in the summer. 📌

Pre-1958

Al Wistert	Betty Schellenberger	Dorothy Porter	Ed Delahanty	Eddie Collins	Eddie Plank
Elizabeth Becker	Emlen Tunnell	Hobey Baker	Joe McCarthy	Judy Johnson	Mickey Vernon
Neil Johnston	Mel Sheppard	Ora Washington	Paul Costello	Tommy Loughran	

1958 and After

Brian Propp	Carl Robie	Deron Cherry	Eric Allen	Fred Shero	Garry Maddox
Harold Carmichael	Herb Magee	John Cappelletti	Karen Shelton	Keith Allen	Leroy Burrell
Leroy Kelly	Lionel Simmons	Mark Howe	Matthew Saad Mohammed	Maurice Cheeks	Meldrick Taylor
Rene Portland	Tommy Lasorda				

Class V Induction Ceremony at Hyatt Regency Penns Landing THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2008

Hall Feted at Flyers Game

Pete Georgelos - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

As a Charter Member of The Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation (ESYHF), The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame participated in ESYHF Night at the Flyers on February 21, 2008. Prior to the Flyers – San Jose Sharks game, members were treated to a pre-game reception at the Lexus Club inside the Wachovia Center where they were afforded the opportunity to meet Philadelphia area students who participate in the program. Former Flyers on hand included Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame inductees Bob Clarke and Bernie Parent as well as former players Don Saleski, Gary Dornhoefer, Bob Kelly and Keith Primeau.

ESYHF works to impact the lives of underserved youngsters in the Philadelphia area by developing programs that incorporate on-ice and off-ice activities stressing citizenship, academics and life skills. The Foundation provides equipment, ice time at nine participating area rinks, and experienced coaching to the students. This year, its second year of existence, has seen the organization grow to 1000 participating students.



Other highlights over the past year include visits from hockey great Wayne Gretzky, expansion of their AfterSchool Program, and receiving a grant from the Women's Sport Foundation.

"We were thrilled to get involved with the ESYHF at such an initial phase of their development," said Ken Avallon, the Hall of Fame's president. "The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame as an organization encompasses more than just honoring our athletes. We attempt to partner with like-minded organizations that strive to make a community impact through athletic participation. In addition, with Ed Snider inducted in our second class as the inaugural Philadelphia Medal recipient, it is a perfect fit for our organization."

Unfortunately, the Flyers would lose their ninth in a row that night by a score of 3-1 on the strength of two Sharks third period goals. The losing streak would eventually reach ten games before it was broken the following week in a memorable shootout win against Buffalo. Thankfully, the Flyers recovered in time and to qualify for playoffs where they met the Washington Capitals in the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals.

To learn more about the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame's community programs, log onto www.phillyhall.org and click on the link "Hall of Fame Charities." 📌



Be sure to check out the exclusive collection of Hall of Fame merchandise at our online Souvenir Shoppe:

WWW.PHILLYHALL.COM



Philly Sports Trivia

- 1) Which professional Philadelphia team has won the most world championships?
- 2) In what year was Municipal (JFK) stadium built?
- 3) In what year was it torn down?

Win a Hall of Fame Fan Pack...Be the first with all 3 correct answers emailed to: legend @ phillyhall.net

The Legend – Spring 2008

Volume 2 Issue 2-Copyright 2008

© Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame
919 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

www.phillyhall.org
215.886.6657

Info @ phillyhall.net

Featured Inductee: Richie Ashburn

Ken Avallon - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

Richie Ashburn...speedy leadoff centerfielder...folksy, dry-witted announcer. Whiz Kids-era fans remember him as the former. Millions of baby boomers and their kids, remember him as the latter. To everyone, he was "Whitey."

Ashburn was born on March 19, 1927, in Tilden, Nebraska. In 1948, fleet of foot and baseball-smart, Ashburn took the National League by storm, posting a 23-game hitting streak, leading the league with 32 stolen bases, batting .333 to finish second to Stan Musial, and winning Sporting News Rookie-of-the-Year. In only 116 games, he recorded 344 putouts from centerfield, a terrific number yet his lowest total for the next 11 seasons. This rookie year was a microcosm of Ashburn's incredibly consistent, all-around career.

Throughout his playing days, Ashburn routinely played a very shallow centerfield, playing oddly close to second base. Combined with his terrific speed and baseball know-how, he led the league in chances nine times, recorded over 500 putouts in four seasons and more than 400 putouts in nine, all major league records.

As well as tracking them down, Ashburn also had a decent arm: In the final 1950 regular season game at Ebbets Field, he threw out Cal Abrams of the Dodgers by fifteen feet as he tried to score from second. The 1-1 tie preserved, Dick Sisler hit a tenth-inning home run to win the game and clinch the Phillies' first pennant in thirty-five years. Those "Whiz Kids" went on to lose the World Series to a mighty Yankees squad led by Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford. Perhaps that underdog role has endeared this group to Philadelphia, even after more than fifty years.



Though he lacked power, Whitey was a terrific multi-tooled player: He won batting titles in 1955 and '58 and finished second twice, both to the legendary Musial. He routinely appeared in the top ten in the non-power categories: batting average (nine times), on-base percentage (nine), at bats (eight), runs scored (seven), hits (nine), triples (eight), walks (eight) and steals (twelve). The consummate leadoff hitter, Ashburn was a top ten finisher in getting on base for eleven seasons, leading the league an astonishing five times between 1954 and 1960. He remains the last player to hit over .300 in his final season.

In baseball's Golden Age, power hitters ruled. Ashburn competed against some of the all-time great outfielders including Mays, Aaron, Snider, Clemente and Robinson. Combined with too few winning seasons for the Phillies, this explains why Ashburn appeared on only five all-star teams. On a grander scale, it is the root of the monumental injustice of Ashburn's belated induction into Cooperstown fully 33 years after he retired.

Those post-retirement years, however, may have had a more long-lasting influence than Whitey's stellar fifteen years in the majors. Upon retirement he joined the Phillies broadcast booth, bringing his baseball savvy and down-home humor to millions of fans. Joining broadcast veterans By Saam and Bill Campbell, the consummate leadoff man became the consummate color man. On TV and more memorably on radio, Ashburn used the microphone as he did his bat – judiciously, bringing the game to the fans, only if it added to the game. Whitey the announcer had little tolerance for poor performance whether in the field, at the plate or on base. Stupid plays were often met with a "hrrumph" grunt or the trademark "Oh, brother!"

As memorable as the Whiz Kids were, Whitey's greatest team's first year was 1971. That was the year Harry Kalas joined the Phillies booth, coming over from the Astros broadcast team. Think Lennon and McCartney, Tracy and Hepburn, Bogie and Bacall. For 26 seasons Harry and Whitey formed that perfect combination that comes along so rarely. The rich baritone of Kalas and Ashburn's homespun anecdotes carried legions of Phillies fans through spring and summer. Hardly a gab-fest between the two, Whitey made an art form of advice he once gave Tim McCarver: "If you don't have anything to say, don't say it."

Taking his partner's cue, Kalas followed suit. Fans were treated to long interludes of nothing from their radio speakers but the hush of the crowd, allowing the sweet sounds of the game to carry them through all too many losing seasons.

On July 31, 1995, along with Mike Schmidt, Richie Ashburn was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He stood before the greatest induction ceremony crowd in the history of the Cooperstown, awash in Phillies red, comprised of Whiz Kids-era baseball fans, thousands of baby-boomers, their kids, and their kids' kids...**Hard to believe, Harry. .T**

Remembering the Darby Hilldales

Courtney Smith - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

The Philadelphia region has an extensive and rich history of black baseball that dates back to 1867 and the formation of two amateur clubs, the Phythians and the Excelsiors. From that date until the 1950s, numerous black professional, semi-professional and amateur baseball teams flourished throughout Philadelphia and its suburbs. Of all those teams, the Darby-based Hilldale Baseball Club, also known as the Hilldale Daisies, represented the most renowned and beloved team. Without any fanfare, the Hilldale Baseball Club appeared in 1910. At first, Hilldale played in an open clearing in Darby at the corner of 10th and Summit Streets and held a collection after each game to meet expenses. Players on the first Hilldale roster ranged in age from fourteen to seventeen, lived in Darby or nearby communities and held unskilled or semi-skilled jobs.

During Hilldale's inaugural season, twenty-nine-year-old Ed Bolden replaced nineteen-year-old Austin Devere Thompson as the team's manager. An African-American resident of Darby, Bolden had a respectable job at Philadelphia's Central Post Office, and his presence brought stability and organization to Hilldale's management. While continuing to work at the Central Post Office, Bolden eagerly immersed himself in the task of building a successful baseball team. He wisely used the Philadelphia Tribune, the region's top weekly black newspaper, to promote Hilldale, to establish connections with other local black teams, and to attract a wider fan base. Bolden's efforts quickly succeeded, and to accommodate its growing fan base, Hilldale moved to a ballpark—later known as Hilldale Park—at 9th and Cedar Avenues in Darby. As Hilldale continued to prosper, Bolden bombarded the Tribune with press releases praising the team and Hilldale Park. To capitalize on the team's growing popularity, the Tribune eagerly printed news about Hilldale and gave the team its own column, "Hilldale's Pickups."

In 1917, Bolden made a bold decision to charter Hilldale as a professional baseball organization. With a group of African American financiers, Bolden established the Hilldale Corporation and served as the corporation's president. Due to the lack of a black professional league, Hilldale operated independently and faced a mixture of black professional and white semi-professional opponents. Bolden also scheduled games against barnstorming major league teams, and, much to the chagrin of Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis, usually defeated the white players. In 1920, Andrew "Rube" Foster established the first black professional baseball league, the Negro National League. Hilldale joined the league in 1921, but Bolden withdrew the team one year later due to personal disputes with Foster. Prior to the 1923 season, Bolden formed the rival Eastern Colored League; Hilldale dominated the new league and won the first three league championships.

With its successes, Hilldale ranked as the top eastern black professional baseball team. Some of the great Hilldale players of the mid-1920s included—Louis Santop, James Raleigh "Biz" Mackey, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, Judy Johnson, Jesse "Nip" Winters, Jud Wilson, Oscar Charleston and Phil Cockrell. Despite the personal animosity between Bolden and Foster, the champions of the Eastern Colored League and Negro National League met in several Negro World Series in the mid-1920s. Hilldale and the Kansas City Monarchs met in the first two Negro World Series, with Kansas City winning in 1924 and Hilldale winning in 1925. Following Hilldale's World Series title, the team's financial fortunes steadily declined for the rest of the decade. The stock market crash in October 1929 dealt a crushing blow to the country's African-American communities, and the future of Hilldale as well as other black professional teams remained uncertain. Bolden, who had earlier withdrawn Hilldale from the Eastern Colored League, quietly made plans to dissolve the team and to launch another franchise with the financial backing of Harry Passon, a white sports promoter. In early 1930, however, Lloyd Thompson and two other members of the Hilldale Corporation joined to block the club's dissolution and thwarted Bolden's plans to form a new team.

Despite the change in management, financial problems continued to plague Hilldale, and the Hilldale Corporation folded following the 1932 season. Hilldale's fate reflected the depressed state of the country and of black professional baseball in the early 1930s. In 1933, Bolden returned to black professional baseball as the co-owner of the Philadelphia Stars. The Stars won the 1934 league championship, but never attained Hilldale's level of sustained success or popularity. For a very long time, Hilldale represented a forgotten part of the Philadelphia area's—and the nation's—rich black baseball history. When Hilldale folded in 1932, the Tribune mourned the team's passing because it embodied a vital part of Darby's and the larger Philadelphia region's society.

Recently, efforts from Darby residents and from baseball historians have finally given both Hilldale and its players due recognition. In October 2006, this group, led by the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame dedicated a permanent historical marker at Cedar Ave. and MacDade Boulevard in Yeadon, site of Hilldale Park. With its history permanently preserved, Hilldale can continue to embody a living part of Darby's and the Philadelphia region's society. 🏆

