

The Legend

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INDUCTION CEREMONY

Class IV provided many highlights and new legends for our town. More on page 2.



Thomas Wolfe had it wrong. If you were born and raised in Philadelphia, you can go back home again. And I am glad I did.

--**Jack Whitaker**

Sometimes, when you leave home, you never know if you can come back home. It's a great thing to be back home.

--**Earl Monroe**



“This Class had it all”

Dan Fahy Jr., *Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame*

One captained the USA World Cup Soccer team. Another won baseball's Triple Crown, the year after winning the MVP. One coached back-to-back NFL champions, posting shutouts in both games. Another led his team to two straight World Series titles. One is the greatest goal scorer of all time for his hockey team. Another helped capture an Olympic medal for her country. One captained the first women's college basketball champions, while another laid the foundation for basketball supremacy along Broad Street. One had 64 years of NFL success, while another's 8-year tenure as an Eagle changed what it means to play in Philly. One's grace on the court earned him the nickname "Pearl" while another's grace with the pen earned him our respect when reading his column. One claimed the 1980 World Series, and one has been around long enough to tell us about every one of them. But on a mild mid-December evening this group truly became ONE.

On December 12th, 2007 this collective group was officially inducted as Class IV into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. Over 450 people gathered at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing to celebrate with this wonderful class and its representatives and to recount accomplishments and memories that spanned 80 years. The evening's events featured a pre-dinner reception and cocktail and cocktail hour with many past Inductees in attendance. Pat Williams returned for the fourth straight year to host the induction dinner activities.

Attendees listened as Bill Barber, Jack Whitaker, Earl Monroe, Beth Anders, Theresa Grentz, Walter Bahr and Bill Lyon spoke of what it meant to be inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. Other speakers included Sara White, the widow of the Minister of Defense, Reggie White, Class II Inductee Bill Campbell, who accepted on behalf of Earl "Greasy" Neale, and was a broadcaster for Neale's Eagles and Joseph Kilroy, brother of Frank "Bucko" Kilroy who holds Hall of Fame grand-slam honors, as being one of only three Inductees to play and excel in their sport at the scholastic, collegiate and professional level AND win a world championship in their native Philadelphia (Charter Class Inductees Paul Arizin and Tom Gola are the other grand slammers). ~*Story continued inside.*

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I am not necessary. You did not have to do this. I am so grateful, so honored, so humble.

--**Theresa Grentz**

“This Class had it all” *continued from cover*

One of highlights of this magical evening came when this year’s team Inductee, the 1980 Philadelphia Phillies, was ceremoniously introduced one by one, by Phillies’ public address announcer Dan Baker. The audience cheered with enthusiasm as Hall of Famer and legendary Phillies’ broadcaster Harry Kalas recounted the final out of the 1980 World Series over the Kansas City Royals. An emotional Kalas spoke fondly of his memories with his broadcast partner Richie Ashburn and the architect of that 1980 squad, “The Pope”, Paul Owens. Del Unser then accepted on behalf of his teammates and offered some insight as to what the future may hold for the current Phillies squad.



Also on hand were representatives of the 2007 Cheltenham High School girls’ basketball team that won the state championship earlier in the year. The Lady Panthers and the Phillies’ Jimmy Rollins were honored as recipients of the Hall of Fame’s 2007 “Pride of Philly” award.

“This event just seems to get better and better each year,” said board member Bob Cassidy. “Our supporters have come to expect nothing but a first class affair, and this year’s Induction event certainly lived up to that standard.”

Throughout the evening supporters had an opportunity to meet and greet many of their favorite sport legends who were on hand to welcome this newest class of Inductees. As the event came to a close, many of these same Inductees stayed to thank the supporters and show their appreciation to the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

The Class IV Induction Event is now in the books. The nomination process for Class V is underway. Will next year’s event surpass this year’s event? That is still to be determined. However if history stays the course, we will be guaranteed “One Hall of a Night” come next year. 🏆



**3rd Annual Hall of Fame Classic at Philadelphia Country Club
MONDAY JUNE 9**

**Honorary Golf Chairmen
Tom Brookshier ~ Billy Cunningham
Bernie Parent ~ Robin Roberts**

Join Philadelphia Hall of Famers, local athletes and other celebrities for a tremendous day at one of Philadelphia’s premier private courses.

Limited foursomes and sponsorship opportunities are still available. 215.886.6657 ext. 8

For details visit: www.phillygolf.net

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) How many complete games did **Robin Roberts** pitch in 1953?
- 2) Who holds the Flyers record for most points in one game?
- 3) Who holds the Eagles record for most receiving yards in one game?

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

“There’s No Place Like Home”

Dan Fahy Jr - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

In 2007, The Hall was finally able to answer the question most asked by its supporters and critics. “Where is the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame?”

For almost five years, the all-volunteer organization had operated as a virtual organization, conducting business meetings in volunteers’ homes, public locations and via teleconference calls while living daily life on the Hall’s intranet portal. But after an extensive search including a detailed feasibility study and many site visits, the organization secured its first location in the friendly confines of Northern Liberties.

In May 2007 the Hall signed a three-year lease for 2500 square feet of space at 919 N.5th Street. This space will be a base of operations for administration, volunteer coordination, collection management, product development and Hall of Fame Charities. The most exciting aspect is the opportunity to display portions of the Hall of Fame’s unique collection. Select artifacts and scaled down vignettes in a small museum display area will serve as proofs-of-concept for a future, full-service museum.

“This is just the first step in seeing the Hall achieve its goal of a self-sufficient educational museum that all of Philadelphia can be proud of” said Ken Avallon, president of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

“We are very excited to move the organization into this next phase.

Since signing the lease, many Hall of Fame associates volunteered their free time to ready the space for regular Hall activities. These include wall construction, painting, cleaning and décor/design. In addition, the Hall of Fame moved a large portion of its extensive museum collection to the new location from a storage facility

Computers, electronic scanning systems, and an analog-to-digital system for video conversion are in place. Initial proof-of-concept displays are beginning to develop as well. In December, the Hall’s Board of Trustees held its year-end meeting in new facility, and in 2008, the Hall of Fame will operate day-to-day activities from this new location.

Plans are underway for an official Open House event later in the year. 🏠



Calling all Sports Fans

Would you like to be a part of Philadelphia’s Sports Hall of Fame?

We are still looking for talented local people in the area to get involved.

Special areas of need include:

- Ⓜ Public Relations
- Ⓜ Marketing
- Ⓜ Video Production
- Ⓜ Exhibit Design and Construction

To set up a meeting, send an email to INFO@PHILLYHALL.NET

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Memories, Mementos and History

Saving our Philadelphia Sports Heritage, First in a series

Steve Tallant, Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

Philadelphia Arena, Baker Bowl, Temple Stadium, Connie Mack Stadium/Shibe Park, Columbia Park, Philadelphia Convention Hall, Civic Center, JFK Stadium...

All gone. All razed without a non-profit watchdog collecting for future generations physical artifacts from these historic locations. Before the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 2003, there was no centralized body in Philadelphia to serve as caretaker and repository for historical sports artifacts.

For example, the magnificent art deco façade of the Convention Hall, as well as seats, scoreboards and turnstiles of the facility went to a professional salvage company. Very few, if any, pieces of this historical venue remain in Philadelphia.

For long gone venues like Philadelphia Arena or Baker Bowl, who knows where exciting historical artifacts may reside. Many readers know folks with seats and artifacts from Connie Mack Stadium – and its closing day “festivities”.

It is a strategic goal of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame to raise awareness of our role as a sanctuary of the comprehensive sports heritage of Philadelphia. We do not salvage items only to resell them at auction. We catalog, curate and preserve these lasting memories of a bygone era for future generations to experience and appreciate.

This series will highlight the real need for this region to embrace The Hall of Fame as the central body to curate and preserve the sports history of Philadelphia, be it the physical venues, the achievements on the field of play and the associated artifacts that come with sport.



Convention Hall

Bell from the top ring of the Vet.

Another great example of the Hall’s vision involves the Palestra. The original glass backboards and cast iron stanchions, along with original turnstiles and ticket boxes were wasting away in the basement of the historic venue. We worked with Penn to gain ownership of the artifacts, and (with MUCH heavy lifting), move the items to our staging facility in Northern Liberties.

These are all now being preserved, refurbished, and will be available for public display once the Hall of Fame has a permanent Museum facility.

Future installments of this series will highlight long gone venues, achievements whose artifacts reside elsewhere and other fantastic sports memorabilia that the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame needs as we cultivate and curate the history of Philadelphia sport. 🏆



Shibe Park

A great example of how the Hall can really make strides as a museum body is with Veterans Stadium, our most recent major venue to be replaced. We worked with the City and with the Phillies to take ownership of several memorable pieces of the facility. These include major points of interest like the bullpen benches, ticket windows and the

ever present home run Liberty

Any athlete who comes to play in Philadelphia -- whatever sport that may be -- you should be honored and take pride in that and deal with the pressure of winning.

--**Bill Barber**



The 1980 National League Championship Series.

Five Games. One of the most gut-wrenching series I ever saw.

Four go in extra innings.

To win the LCS and go to the World Series and win Game 5, they had to beat Nolan Ryan. What did they do?

Beat Nolan Ryan and the Houston Astro

After that, there was no doubt in my mind they would be the world champion of baseball.

--**Harry Kalas**

The late **Harry Litwack** was represented by **his daughters Shelly Smoger** and **Lois Kaeserman**.

In an emotional speech, they said that “even though he had opportunities to coach in the NBA, he remained loyal to Temple University”.

After reciting the long list of Halls of Fame Coach Litwack is already a part of, they said “**we also thought he was a member of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame but were surprised to have learned there wasn’t one until four years ago.**”



Marco Polo Designs partners with The Hall

Susan Grace - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

The Hall is still the best kept secret in Philadelphia – and if there's one city that really deserves a place to recognize not only the sports heroes that have played here, but also the fans who never lose faith, never give up and never keep silent when something or someone doesn't live up to their expectations, it's Philadelphia!

Step one in getting the word out, The Hall has decided to update the old website and truly create a cyber home for the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. The new site will showcase:

- How did The Hall get started – and what is its' mission
- Roll Call of Champions – bios, stats and photos of each of our Inductees
- Event details –what's going on and how you can get involved
- Membership information and Sponsorship opportunities
- Information on Hall of Fame charities – including what we are doing & what you can do
- Hall of Fame scholarship updates
- Hall of Fame Shoppe – where you can buy authentic gear from The Hall

This development wouldn't be possible without The Hall's newest partner – Marco Polo Design! Founded by Traci Stortz and Michael Scotko, Marco Polo Design creates and manages some of the most integral websites in the tri-state area. And luckily, both Traci and Mike are big Philadelphia sports fans!

In addition to websites, Marco Polo Design also handles print and 3D/Animation projects. The Hall is ecstatic to introduce them as our partner and look forward to debuting the new site SOON!

For information on Marco Polo Designs, visit <http://www.marcopolodesign.com/marcopolo/index.html> 

Looking Back – BBQ at the Ballpark

Steve Tallant, *Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame*

In the middle of another cold winter, let's think warmer thoughts and revisit The Hall's participation in the Garry Maddox Barbecue Challenge in August 11, 2007 at Citizen's Bank Park. This was The Hall's third showing at the event, and if you haven't gone, it's one of the best days of the year to have fun in the sun, sample some great BBQ, support the Hall of Fame and maybe even catch a game as well.

Quality BBQ takes hours to slowly cook on the smokers and grills, so The Hall was there on this perfect Saturday morning at 8am, setting up the equipment and the ever popular Hall of Fame display. There are several rib categories, and since The Hall is decidedly amateur, we participate in the amateur and Garry Maddox categories – foregoing the professional competition. Besides ribs, there's chicken and a "chef's choice" category rounding out the competition.

In 2005 and 2006 we made it to the second round, but our ribs fell a bit short this year and we failed to progress in the contest. On the upside, we had more food for our friends and family to eat – and we had nary a scrap left!

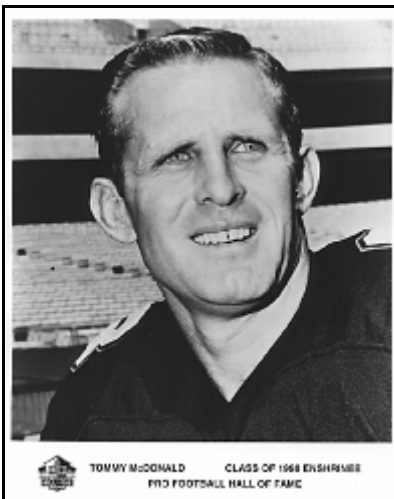
One of our first visitors of the day was none other than host Garry Maddox. We've come to know Garry through his charity and as a spokesperson for the 1980 Phillies [he participated in our Class IV Press Conference].

Michael Nutter was a contest judge and came by to visit, meeting several other St. Joseph's Prep alumni from our Board. In years past, we've had Dallas Green, Bob Boone and Larry Christensen visit our Hall display.

Most importantly, we were able to help support Garry's charity – the Youth Golf and Academics Program while at the same time being able to introduce The Philly Sports Hall to the thousands of people who attended the event.

We hope to see you there in August 2008!! 





Featured Inductee: Tommy McDonald

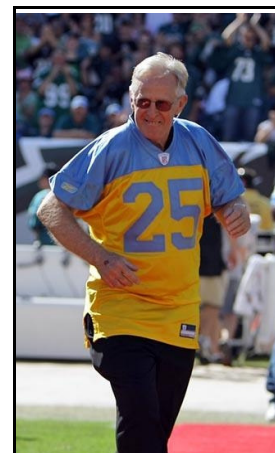
A 2005 inductee into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame, wide receiver Tommy McDonald played for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1957 to 1963.

In 1960, McDonald helped lead the Eagles to their last NFL Championship, catching a 35-yard touchdown pass in the title game against the Green Bay Packers. During his seven seasons with the Eagles, McDonald caught 287 passes for 5,499 yards and 66 touchdowns. When McDonald retired from the NFL in 1968, he had 496 receptions for 8,410 yards and 84 touchdowns, which ranked as the second-highest total of receiving touchdowns in NFL history at that time. McDonald was named to six Pro Bowls; in 1998, he finally received the highest honor available to an NFL veteran, induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After leaving the Eagles, McDonald played for the Dallas Cowboys, Atlanta Falcons, Los Angeles Rams, and the Cleveland Browns, but his heart always remained in Philadelphia. McDonald has stayed close with his teammates from the 1960 NFL

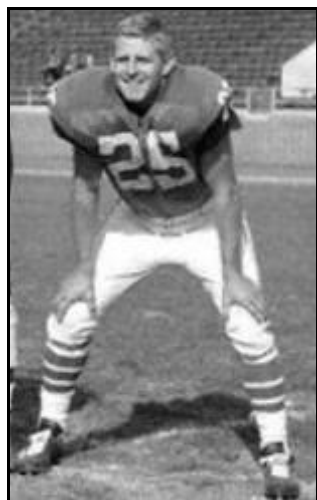
Championship squad. He passionately believes that Pete Retzlaff, a tight end on the 1960 team, belongs with him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Additionally, McDonald has lived in the Philadelphia area since his retirement from the NFL, and he enjoys every opportunity to spend time with Philadelphia's sports fans. He praises the fans as "awesome! A-W-E-S-O-M-E!"

McDonald credits God for placing him in the right places at the right times and for leading him to Philadelphia. "Everyday is game day," he believes, "and God is the quarterback." McDonald was born in 1934 in Roy, a small town in New Mexico. During his freshman year of high school, however, McDonald and his family moved from Roy to Albuquerque, a move that opened greater opportunities for him to pursue an athletic career. A star half-back for his high school team, McDonald received scholarship offers from several big-time schools. Ultimately, McDonald chose the University of Oklahoma because the head football coach, Bud Wilkerson, emphasized the need for a solid education and for learning life lessons, not simply football skills. McDonald played on the Sooners' varsity football squad for three seasons; he never lost a college football game, and he was named to the all-American team in 1955 and in 1956. His first visit to Philadelphia came in 1956 when he received the Maxwell Award, an award honoring college football's best player. At the Maxwell Club banquet, McDonald met with several members of the Philadelphia Eagles' management team, including the owner Bert Bell. Several months later, the Eagles made McDonald their third-round draft pick.



In his rookie season, another series of fortunate events laid the groundwork for McDonald's Hall of Fame career as a wide receiver. With his high school team and with the Sooners, McDonald played at the half-back position. As a rookie with the Eagles, McDonald primarily returned punts and kickoffs, but in one game against the Washington Redskins, he replaced an injured wide receiver. Even though he had little experience catching passes, he scored two touchdowns, one for 61 yards and one for 25 yards. Beginning in his second season, McDonald became one of the Eagles' starting wide receivers, and the rest is history.

At both his Pro Football and Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, McDonald engaged in some famous antics to keep himself from crying during his speech. On the stage in Canton, McDonald chest-bumped several of the other inductees and danced to music blaring from his large boom box. On the stage in Philadelphia, McDonald chest-bumped the much taller, and much stronger, Charles Barkley; the chest bump send McDonald flying off the stage, but he landed safely.



McDonald's most recent honor came in September 2007 when he was named to the Eagles' 75th Anniversary team. When he learned that he had made the team, he thought, "am I that old?!" Ironically, the Eagles chose to honor their 75th Anniversary team during halftime of the game when current Eagles' wide receiver Kevin Curtis threatened McDonald's record for most receiving yards in one game. McDonald attended the game, and he enjoyed both the action on the field and the warm reception from the crowd. He credits the fans for giving the Eagles a great home field advantage and believes that together "the fans and the Eagles are a team!" McDonald wants Philadelphia's sports fans to know that they are "outstanding" and that they are the reason why he has made the Philadelphia area his home. He also has a heartfelt message for each fan: "I absolutely love you!" 🏈