



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Vince Dooley, Bobby Martin, Bill Lofholm Named Recipients of 2006 World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame Awards**

*Humanitarians to receive awards Nov. 30 at Induction Ceremonies presented by Albertsons*

BOISE, Idaho, Nov. 21, 2006 – The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame announced on Tuesday that University of Georgia coaching legend Vince Dooley and his wife Barbara, Bobby Martin, a high school football player without legs, along with longtime caretaker of Nampa, Idaho's baseball fields, Bill Lofholm, have been named 2006 Humanitarian Award recipients.

The Dooleys will be honored with the Hall's prestigious Nell and John Wooden Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award, while Martin will be recognized with the Founder's Award. Lofholm will receive the Don Simplot Idaho Award.

The award recipients will be honored along with Humanitarian Hall of Fame inductees Steve Largent, Harmon Killebrew and Steve Smith on Nov. 30 in Boise at the 2006 Induction Ceremonies presented by Albertsons. Tickets are available at [www.SportsHumanitarian.com](http://www.SportsHumanitarian.com).

#### **Nell and John Wooden Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award**

The Nell and John Wooden Award is presented each fall to a coach along with his or her spouse who have made exceptional contributions to their players and their futures. Former University of Georgia football coach and athletic director Vince Dooley is the 2006 recipient. As Georgia head coach from 1964 to 1988, Dooley guided the Bulldogs to 201 victories where he ranks as only the 9th coach in NCAA Division I history to record more than 200 wins. Under his leadership and the support of his spouse, Georgia captured six SEC titles, made 20 bowl appearances and in 1980 won the NCAA championship.

Dooley, a National College Football Hall of Fame inductee, coached a Heisman Trophy winner (Herschel Walker, 1982), a Maxwell Award winner (Walker, 1982), and Outland Award winner (Bill Stanfill, 1968), 40 First-Team All-Americans and 10 Academic All-Americans. He was named NCAA National Coach of the Year by every major poll in 1980 and by Chevrolet-WTBS in 1982. During his tenure, seven of his players earned the prestigious National Football Foundation post-graduate scholarship and 11 former players received equally-coveted NCAA post-graduate scholarship. Seventy-seven of his players earned Academic All-SEC recognition.



“As role models and surrogate parents, the Dooleys had a significant impact with on-field and life success of Georgia football players,” said World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame founder Myron Finkbeiner. “The Dooleys are a team that exemplifies the environment of support that is so very important to Nell and John Wooden.”

### **Founder’s Award**

The Founder’s Award is presented to individuals who, through sports, make a difference in their community but otherwise may not be well-known. The 2006 recipient Bobby Martin has achieved what few once thought was possible – playing football without legs.

At 17-years-old, Martin, who was born with a rare form of Caudal Regression Syndrome - leaving him without legs at birth, set a standard of courage at Dayton, Ohio’s Colonel White High School by not just playing football – but excelling.

The 3-foot tall, 110-pound nose tackle, propelling himself with only arms, made use of quickness and a low center of gravity to “run” the 40 in 5.8-seconds, outpacing heavier linemen on both sides of the line of scrimmage.

The 2006 ESPY winner for best Male Athlete with a Disability was even once removed from play by officials claiming he was in breach of the rules requiring players to wear thigh pads, knee pads and shoes. The decision was later reversed.

Turning disability to advantage, Martin finished his senior season with 41 assisted tackles, 7 solo tackles, 3 sacks (6 hurries), and a fumble recovery. Off the field, he spoke-out against drugs, gangs and weapons and helped mend racial fences that divided his inner-city school.

“Football leveled life’s playing field for Bobby Martin,” said Finkbeiner. “Bobby’s accomplishments on the field and within his school mended fences and built bridges. They are among the most courageous in sport.”

### **Don Simplot Idaho Award**

The Don Simplot Idaho Award is presented annually to a resident of the State of Idaho whose contribution to sports in Idaho should not go unnoticed. The 2006 recipient Bill Lofholm of Nampa has spent the past 25 years as a volunteer groundskeeper at Nampa’s Rodeo Park and works to improve conditions at other youth playgrounds and sports facilities in the community.

In 1981, following a career in civil engineering, Lofholm, now 93, set out to revitalize the ball field, which had fallen into disrepair after years of over use.

Today, thanks to his countless volunteer hours repairing bleachers, painting light poles and nurturing infield grass in the heat of summer, the park is once again a jewel in the Treasure Valley, and hosts some 50 American Legion and Babe Ruth games each year along with serving



as home field for Nampa High School. For his commitment, the baseball diamond at Rodeo Park was named Bill Lofholm Field in his honor.

“Bill Lofholm felt that Nampa kids needed something better, so he took this project on himself,” said Finkbeiner. “He is a proud example of an Idahoan that represents the humanitarian spirit.”

The Tradition of Excellence Award annually recognizes a Heisman winner, who has distinguished himself in his chosen career and brought honor and distinction to the Heisman Award program. 1996 Heisman winner Danny Wuerffel, the 2005 recipient, will also be honored at the induction ceremonies for his work in relocating displaced students at the inner-city New Orleans Desire Street Academy in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The Humanitarian Hall of Fame, located on the Boise State University campus, annually inducts individuals who are world-class in athletic ability, role models in their community and have a strong record of humanitarian efforts. Since President Gerald R. Ford served as its first honorary chairman in 1994 over 30 sports-humanitarians have been enshrined including tennis great Arthur Ashe, major league baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson, NFL coaching legend Tom Landry, the NBA's David Robinson, and soccer great Pelé.

### **About The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame**

The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame ([www.sportshumanitarian.com](http://www.sportshumanitarian.com)), located on the Boise State University campus in Boise, Idaho, recognizes individuals and organizations from the world of amateur and professional athletics who, through their humanitarian efforts, distinguish themselves as role models in the community. Since 1994 over thirty role models with world-class athletic ability and exceptional humanitarian achievements have been inducted to the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame. Each spring the induction ceremony includes recipients of an annual humanitarian awards program that recognizes community achievement in all corners of the sporting world through its President's Award, Pro Team Community Award, Don Simplot Idaho Humanitarian Award, the Tradition of Excellence Award presented to a Heisman Trophy winner, and the Nell and John Wooden Humanitarian Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award. Each year the Hall of Fame, in partnership with Boise's MPC Computers Bowl, honors a player from each team with its Student Humanitarian Award. The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is open weekdays to visitors and humanitarians of all ages.

**- [www.SportsHumanitarian.com](http://www.SportsHumanitarian.com) -**

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