



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Nov. 30, 2006

World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame enshrines Harmon Killebrew, Steve Smith, Steve Largent

Vince and Barbara Dooley receive Nell and John Wooden Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award, Bobby Martin receives Founder's Award, Bill Lofholm receives Don Simplot Idaho Award



MERIDIAN, Idaho, Nov. 30, 2006 – National Baseball Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew, NBA World Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist Steve Smith, and Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver Steve Largent were enshrined in the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame at its 12th annual induction ceremonies, Thursday, in Meridian, Idaho, a suburb of Boise.

World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame inductees Steve Smith, Harmon Killebrew and Steve Largent gather on stage Thursday, Nov. 30 at the 2006 Induction Ceremonies presented by Albertsons. From left to right; LaTonja Johnson, recipient of the Steve Smith Endowment Scholarship, Smith, Killebrew, 14-year-old Hank Showalter of Boise who is battling cancer, Largent and 14-year-old Jacob Van Hemelryck of Eagle, Idaho, who is

The three humanitarians were inducted into the Humanitarian Hall not for their success on the hardwood, gridiron or diamond, but for their commitment to give back to the communities in which they played and live.

The Humanitarian Hall of Fame annually inducts individuals who are world-class in athletic ability, role models in their community and have a strong record of humanitarian efforts. Since 1994, thirty-five sports humanitarians have been enshrined in Boise.

World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame inductees Steve Smith, Harmon Killebrew and Steve Largent gather on stage Thursday, Nov. 30 at the 2006 Induction Ceremonies presented by Albertsons. From left to right; LaTonja Johnson, recipient of the Steve Smith Endowment Scholarship, Smith, Killebrew, 14-year-old Hank Showalter of Boise who is battling cancer, Largent and 14-year-old Jacob Van Hemelryck of Eagle, Idaho, who is afflicted with Spina Bifida.

"True champions have ideals that exceed fame, affluence and self-promotion," said Larry Maneely, president of the board of the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame to an audience of over 700 at Mountain View High School. "They exhibit the character to sacrifice for the benefit of others, going beyond doing what is easy, to doing what is sometimes difficult – but is



right and good and honorable," he said. "Tonight we cheer for those who have done more than put points on the score board. We are inspired by more than record books, moved by stories that show tangible proof of the 'heart' of tonight's champions."

Payette, Idaho born Killebrew, 70, who is regarded as one of the most prolific power hitters in Major League Baseball history, was honored with induction for co-founding Idaho's Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament, for his work with the World Children's Baseball Fair in the U.S. and Japan and for his efforts with the Harmon Killebrew Foundation, which benefits groups in Minnesota, Idaho, Arizona and Haiti.

The Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament, which honors Thompson, a teammate of Killebrew's while with the Twins who lost his battle with Leukemia, has helped raise nearly \$9 million and generated over \$20 million in matching funds primarily for Boise's Mountain States Tumor Institute and the University of Minnesota Cancer Research Center in Minneapolis. The Foundation, which Killebrew started in 1998 with his wife Nita, has helped raised nearly \$1 million for groups such as Gillette Children's Hospital, Children's Specialty Network, Twins Community Fund, Miracle Fields, Vista Care Hospice and Healing Hands for Haiti.

During his 22-year career with the Washington Senators, Minnesota Twins and Kansas City Royals, Killebrew was named an American League All-Star 13 times, the 1969 American League Most Valuable Player, and was a six-time American League home run leader where he is currently eighth on the all-time list with 573 round-trippers. He led the Twins to the 1965 World Series and 1969 and 1970 ALCS. Killebrew was presented for induction by childhood friend Ray Looney.

"To say thank you for this is not enough," said Killebrew, the first native Idahoan to be enshrined in Boise. "After all that has been said here tonight, I am so inspired to be here tonight with people like Bobby Martin, Steve Largent and Steve Smith. I am honored and glad to go in with a class like this."

Detroit native Smith, 37, who won an Olympic gold in Sydney and the 2003 NBA World Championship with San Antonio, was honored for a his \$2.5 million contribution to Michigan State University. The gift, which helped build a student-athlete academic center named for his mother Clara Bell Smith, remains the single largest contribution by a professional athlete to an alma mater. In 2001, Smith contributed an additional \$600,000 to fully endow the Steve Smith Scholarship Fund, an annual MSU scholarship for high-achieving students from Detroit's Pershing High School, which he attended.

After a highly successful collegiate basketball career as the Spartans' all-time leading scorer with 2,263 points and receiving First Team All-American honors, Smith was selected by the Miami Heat as fifth overall pick in the 1991 NBA Draft. Smith went on to play with six NBA teams winning the 2003 NBA World Championship with the San Antonio Spurs and helped the United States win the gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. He is currently a color commentator for Atlanta Hawks games on FSN. Smith was presented for induction by form Michigan State basketball coach Jud Heathcote, his college coach.



"To talk about what drives me, was my mom. She passed away my rookie year in the NBA. She is the reason I am here, my driving force," said Smith who earned a degree in marketing at Michigan State before going on to a 14-year career in the NBA. "The Steve Smith Scholarship Fund is something I believe in, because it gives someone from my high school a chance to go to college," said Smith. "I have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, just like someone did in mine."

Tulsa native Largent, 52, was honored for over three decades of community achievement -- spanning an NFL career, public service in the United States Congress and life in the private sector.

Throughout his life, Largent has been active in the community. At the University of Tulsa, he was a Young Life student leader, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was named one of eight Outstanding Seniors by the school's alumni board. His community service includes work with Children's Hospital - Seattle, Salvation Army, Spina Bifida Association, March of Dimes, United Way, Wheelchairs for the World Foundation and Habitat for Humanity. Largent's efforts on behalf of CTIA – The Wireless Association includes work with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Amber Alerts/National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Largent set six career records and earned seven trips to the Pro Bowl during a 14-year career with the Seattle Seahawks. When he retired in 1989 he had caught more catches for more yards and more touchdowns than any player in NFL history.

"I am greatly appreciative of your recognition of me," said Largent who was presented for induction via video tape by Idaho Governor-elect Butch Otter. "I didn't come here to get an honor. I don't need another trophy at my house. My purpose was to come here and recognize the work that many athletes across all sports do to give back to their communities. We need to be recognizing the responsible behavior in our country and our culture," he said. "I'm here to applaud you, the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame."

Humanitarian Awards

The annual induction ceremonies also included the presentation of the Hall's annual humanitarian awards.

Legendary Georgia football coach Vince Dooley was the recipient, along with his wife Barbara, of the 2006 Nell and John Wooden Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award. Dayton, Ohio's Bobby Martin, who broke physical limits and mended racial bridges while playing high school football without legs, was presented with the Hall's Founder's Award and Nampa Idaho's Bill Lofholm, a longtime caretaker of baseball fields in the suburban Boise community, received the Don Simplot Idaho Award.

Danny Wuerffel, the Hall's 2005 Tradition of Excellence Award recipient, which is presented to a Heisman Trophy winner who has distinguished himself in his chosen career and brought honor and distinction to the Heisman Award program, was recognized for his work with the New



Orleans Desire Street Academy in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Boise State University quarterback Jared Zabransky accepted the award on behalf of Wuerffel.

Boise State University and the Bronco Sports Marketing Team were honored with the Youth Sports Hero Award presented by Idaho's Coalition for Youth Sports. The Bronco Sports Marketing Team received the award for their work with the Bronco Bunch, a group of youth in the Treasure Valley who may battle cancer, illness, disabilities or difficult home situations.

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, thirty-five 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), 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 -

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