



PRESS RELEASE

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Warrick Dunn, Vlade Divac, Jimmie Heuga join World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame

*Gonzaga's Mark Few and Wife Marcy Named to Nell & John Wooden Coaching
Achievement Award*

USA Weekend Most Caring Youth Coaches Honored



Photo courtesy: Idaho Sports
Photography

*Class of 2008: Sports
humanitarians Jimmie Heuga
(front), Warrick Dunn (left)
and Vlade Divac (right).*

BOISE, Idaho, June 24, 2008 – NFL running back Warrick Dunn, former NBA big man Vlade Divac and Olympic skier Jimmie Heuga entered the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame on Tuesday at its 14th annual induction ceremonies before 1,150 at the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts in Boise, Idaho.

The Boise Hall annually inducts individuals who are world-class in athletic ability, role models in their community and have a strong record of humanitarian achievements.

The Class of 2008 includes Dunn, 33, a former Florida State Seminole who is entering his 12th NFL season, rejoining the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Dunn was honored for his work in assisting single-parents and their children realize the dream of home ownership through the *Warrick Dunn Foundation* (www.WarrickDunnFoundation.org).

“I’m truly honored to be inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame. I try to follow my works from my mom’s heart and dreams,” said Dunn who started his *Homes for the Holidays* program in 1997, his rookie season in Tampa, as a way to honor his late mother’s dream of home ownership. The program has helped 78 single-parents and 205 children and dependents in Tampa and Tallahassee, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Atlanta, Georgia by providing initial down payment funding and furnishings.

Divac, 40, who won two Olympic medals for his native Yugoslavia and amassed over 13,000 points in 15 years with Los Angeles, Charlotte and Sacramento of the NBA, was heralded for his efforts to assist refugees from war-ravaged Yugoslavia through his *Humanitarian Organization Divac* (www.Divac.com).



“My country went through tough times, which is why I get involved,” said Divac. “It’s great to be recognized for work done over the last 10 to 15 years and to be an example for those coming behind us.” Divac’s charitable work has provided more than \$9 million in humanitarian assistance and educational programs to children in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United States, Indonesia, Ethiopia and China. HOD is now focused on improving the circumstances of nearly 7,000 refugees displaced over 15 years ago from war-ravaged Yugoslavia, helping them to realize their right to housing, work, material security and self confidence.

And Heuga, 64, who at the 1964 Innsbruck Olympics brought home the bronze in slalom skiing, becoming one of the first two U.S. skiers to stand on the Olympic podium in the alpine events. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) at the height of his racing career, Heuga channeled his adversity into motivation, revolutionizing the way people live with the disease through the work of his Colorado-based Heuga Center for Multiple Sclerosis (www.Heuga.org). In 2007, The Heuga Center, which is recognized for fiscal responsibility, directly touched more than 6,000 people through education, events and programming in 15 states and 3 Canadian provinces, and globally through the World Wide Web.

“To join the Hall is a great honor for me because it shows my growth as an entire person, not just as an athlete,” said Heuga who was presented for induction by Olympian Billy Kidd, the silver medalist at the Innsbruck Games. “I have always tried to deal with this illness (MS) straight on and be an example to others.”

The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame also presented its annual Nell & John Wooden Coaching Achievement Award, USA Weekend Most Caring Youth Coach Awards, Founders Award and Idaho award.

Gonzaga University basketball coach Mark Few and his wife Marcy were presented with the Nell and John Wooden Coaching Achievement Award. “Even to be remotely associated with coach Wooden is the greatest honor I could receive. He is a great coach and even better human being,” said Few, whose Gonzaga Academic Progress Rate (APR) -- the measure by which the eligibility, retention and graduation of an NCAA school’s scholarship athletes is tracked -- is 965 of a possible 1,000. Gonzaga’s APR places the West Coast Conference school among the 80th to 90th percentile within the sport of men’s basketball. Since 1997, eight players that have been a part of the Gonzaga program have been drafted into the NBA.

Through its partnership with USA Weekend Magazine, the Hall co-presented the 15th annual Most Caring Youth Coach Awards to Mark Rhodes of York Pa., Mike McGee of Fairfield, Maine and Marciano Cruz of Santa Cruz, Calif. The three winners were selected from over 2,000 entries across the country.



The Hall's annual Founders Award was presented to Houston sports philanthropist John Tuschman.

The Idaho Humanitarian Award was presented to legendary wrestling coach John Owen, who during 19 years leading wrestlers at the Coeur d'Alene school, brought eight team national titles to NIC, firmly placing the program among the nation's elite.

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 achievements.

The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame inductees now represent 12 different sports and support charitable causes in 11 philanthropic categories including Children & Youth, Civil Rights, Education, Health & Disease, Homelessness, Hunger & Poverty, Inner City Revitalization, Overseas Aid, Sports & Recreation, Values in Education, and Women's Equality in Sport.

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 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. Forty-one sports-humanitarians have been enshrined in Boise including tennis great Arthur Ashe, Major League Baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson, NFL coaching legend Tom Landry, the NBA's David Robinson, soccer great Pelé and the Harlem Globetrotters.

The Hall was the inspiration behind Boise's Humanitarian Bowl and its Humanitarian Awards program annually recognizes exceptional community-focused organizations and leaders from Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Football League, National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, NASCAR, NCAA College Football and other organizations. 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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National Humanitarian Awards

USA Weekend Most Caring Youth Coach Award
Nell & John Wooden Lifetime Coaching Achievement Award
Tradition of Excellence Award in cooperation with the Heisman Trophy Trust
Pro Team Community Award
Founder's Award