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KANSAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INDUCTION CLASS OF 2010

The induction Class of 2010 for the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame will be a series of firsts for the sports hall.

The class of inductees, announced Tuesday by the KSHOF Board of Trustees and President/CEO Ted Hayes, features seven men and four women, who will be inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame on Sunday, Oct. 3, in Wichita.

It's the largest group of women ever inducted into the KSHOF at one time.

It will also mark first-time inductions for a volleyball coach, softball player, weightlifter and rower.

Three individuals – former baseball great 'Smoky' Joe Wood and U.S. Olympic coaches Richard Quick and Gerald Tucker – will be inducted posthumously.

Joining Wood, Quick and Tucker in the KSHOF Class of 2010 will be NCAA softball All-American Lisa Carey; Olympic gold medal weightlifter Tara Nott Cunningham; two-time Olympic rower Anna Seaton Huntington; Wichita State golf coach and former PGA pro Grier Jones; University of Kansas football great Willie Pless; former major league baseball pitchers Steve Renko and Ray Sadecki, and former Lawrence High volleyball coach Joan Wells.

"We are excited with the quality and variety of this class," said Hayes. "The fact that some great athletes from the lesser known sports will be recognized makes this a special class. They are all well deserving of this honor."

Carey - A three-time softball All-American for the University of Oklahoma, Carey helped lead the Sooners to the 2000 NCAA championship as a first baseman and was also named the Big 12 Player of the Year after batting .405 in 74 games. A member of three Big 12 title teams at Oklahoma, Carey also helped the team to the 2001 College World Series. At Washburn Rural High School, she posted a 48-3 pitching record, with a 0.31 ERA. She is currently the head softball coach at Washburn University and is the school's all-time winningest coach.

Cunningham - The first Kansan to bring home a medal during the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Cunningham was a standout athlete in both weightlifting and soccer at the national and international level. Just 5-foot-1 and 105 pounds, Cunningham brought home the gold medal in the 48-kilogram class (women's flyweight) after lifting more than twice her weight. A native of Stilwell, Cunningham also competed in the 2004 Olympics in Athens and finished 10th overall. Cunningham was an American record holder in two different weight classes.

Huntington – A Manhattan High School graduate, Huntington was a two-time U.S. Olympian and won the bronze medal in Women's Pair Rowing at the 1992 Olympic Games. In 1990, the U.S. Rowing Association voted her the Female Athlete of the Year. During her nine-year rowing career, Anna won 14 national championships and four silver world championship medals. She was also a member of the 1995 America's women's sailing team – funded and organized by Wichita native and KSHOF inductee Bill Koch – the first female crew to seek a berth in the America's Cup.

Jones – Jones was a two-time high school state champ at Wichita Kapaun, the 1966 Kansas Amateur winner and later earned All-American honors at Oklahoma State. He won Big Eight Conference titles in 1967 and '68 and medalist honors at the 1968 NCAA Tournament before joining the PGA Tour in 1969 and being named the tour's top rookie. He finished fourth in the PGA's money list in 1972 and ended his career with 54 Top-10 finishes and three tournament titles. Jones was named the head coach at Wichita State in 1995 and his teams won nine conference titles during an 11-year stretch.

Pless – The all-time leading tackler in Kansas football history, Pless finished his four-year career (1982-85) with 633 stops for the Jayhawks. He is one of just nine players in school history to be named first-team all-conference three times. Pless is also considered the best defensive player ever to play in the Canadian Football

League. He holds the league record for most tackles (1,241), played in 18 playoff games and three Grey Cups and won one championship. He was honored as the CFL's Most Outstanding Defensive Player five times.

Quick - One of the most accomplished swimming coaches in the history of the sport, Quick led his collegiate teams to a record 13 NCAA championships and from 1984-2004, was involved in nearly every international meet the United States competed in. He helped coach the U.S. Olympic swimming teams in 1984, '88, '92, '96, 2000 and '04. He was the head coach of the men's and women's teams in 1988 and the head coach of the women's teams in 1996 and 2000. Quick coached seven Olympic champions and four world record holders. He was a two-time state champion at Wichita East High School and later a two-time All-American at SMU.

Renko – A three-sport athlete for the Kansas Jayhawks – the only one in the Big Eight Conference at the time – Renko shared the same backfield with Gale Sayers on the football field and also played basketball and baseball for KU. A graduate of Kansas City's Wyandotte High School, Renko played 15 seasons in the major leagues and won 134 games. He helped the California Angels win the American League West title in 1982 with an 11-6 record and was a 15-game winner in 1971 and '73 with the Montreal Expos. In 1973, he was 15-11 with a 2.81 earned run average.

Sadecki – After leading Bishop Ward High School to an unbeaten state championship as a senior in 1958, Sadecki signed as a “Bonus Baby” for the St. Louis Cardinals. He broke into the majors in 1960 as a 19-year-old and pitched for 18 seasons for six different clubs. Sadecki finished with a career record of 135-131 and posted 20 shutouts and 1,614 strikeouts. His best year came in 1964 when he posted a 20-11 record as the Cardinals won the World Series. In 1968, he finished fifth in the National League with 208 strikeouts for the San Francisco Giants.

Tucker – Tucker was the head coach of the 1956 Olympic men's gold medal basketball team that included Bill Russell, K.C. Jones and KSHOF inductee Bill Hougland. A member of Winfield High School's state championship teams in basketball (1939 and '40) and a state singles champion in tennis (1939), Tucker was a two-time Helms Foundation basketball All-American (1943, '47) at Oklahoma and was named the national player of the year in 1947. He was also an AAU All-American for the Phillips 66 Oilers in 1949 and '50 and also coached the Oilers to the 1955 AAU national championship. In 1989, he was named to the Final Four All-1940s team.

Wells - As the volleyball coach at Lawrence High School, Wells ranked among the nation's all-time leaders in wins (866) and winning percentage (90.7 percent). She helped lead the Lions to 15 state championships and seven runner-up finishes. Lawrence High qualified for the state tournament 26 times in Wells' 27 years as a head coach. A native of Atchison, Wells is also a member of the National High School Sports Federation Hall of Fame and the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame.

Wood – Wood, who lived in Ness City as a youngster, is one of just 13 pitchers in major league history to win 30 games in a season. He produced one of the greatest seasons ever by a pitcher in 1912 with a 34-5 record, a 1.91 earned run average and 258 strikeouts. The year before, he won 23 games with a 2.02 ERA. Wood played 15 seasons in the majors and finished with a 117-57 record. His pitching career was cut short by injuries and he finished as an outfielder. He won three games for the Red Sox during the 1912 World Series.

About the Induction Selection Process

The Class 2010 was selected from a group of 25 men and women, who were placed on the final ballot from nominations received from the public. A panel of 100 people from across the state, which include coaches, members of the media, KSHOF inductees and those involved in sports-related fields, were part of the voting process. The KSHOF Board of Directors have the final approval on those who are selected for induction.

For pictures of inductees or for more information please contact museum manager, Harold Bechard, at hbechard@kshof.org or 316-804-4686