



News

Contact: Mary Ullmann Japhet
Office: 210-820-2123; Cell: 210-414-9030
mjaphet@sanantonioposports.org

Carolyn Wheat
Office: 210.820.2119; Cell: 210-289-7205
cwheat@sanantonioposports.org

San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2012

(October 17, 2011) The San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame has named five extraordinary individuals to the class of 2012. **Bruce Bowen**, three-time NBA champion, **Stan Bonewitz, Sr.**, former state champion basketball coach at East Central High School, **David Hill**, NFL Pro Bowl player with the Detroit Lions, **Leticia Morales-Bissaro**, pitcher on St. Mary's University's national championship softball team, and notable U.S. equestrian leader, **Lt. Col. John Russell** will be recognized at the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame Tribute on Friday, Feb. 10, 2012 in the Alamodome.

Bruce Bowen was a three-time NBA champion with the San Antonio Spurs and was heralded as one of the best defensive players in the league. He was named eight times to the NBA All Defensive first and second teams. Bowen played 1,008 games over 13 seasons in the NBA, eight with the Spurs, and played 500 consecutive games between Feb. 2002 and March 2008. Bowen played collegiate ball for Cal State Fullerton. He went undrafted and was a journeyman, playing in France and for several NBA teams before landing with the Spurs in 2001.

(more)

2222222/San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2012

Stan Bonewitz Sr. coached high school basketball teams that won 708 games in a 36-year career. He led the East Central Hornets to the Class 5A state championship and a 35-0 record in 1994-95, and coached at the school for 24 seasons before retiring in 2005. He is known for creating a distinct style of play—pressing on defense, running on offense. As an athlete, Bonewitz Sr. was a four-year player in baseball and basketball for St. Mary's University in the 1960s.

David Hill played in the NFL for 12 years, seven with the Detroit Lions who drafted him in the second round in 1976. A tight end, Hill played in two Pro Bowls ('79 & '80). Hill had a standout career at Highlands High School and Texas A&I University. He was team captain for the Javelinas who went undefeated and won the NAIA Div. I National Championship in 1974 and 1975. While at A&I, he was named to the AP's Little All-America team, the NAIA All-America teams and the American Football Coaches Association All-American roster.

Leticia Morales-Bissaro was the leader and top pitcher on St. Mary's University's national championship softball team in 1986. She still holds the national tournament records for most strikeouts (65), most complete games (8), most appearances (8) and most wins (7). She had 667 career strikeouts from 1983-86, lettered four years consecutively, and was the team's MVP for all four years. Morales-Bissaro was first team All-American at the national tournament in 1985, and second team All-American and MVP in 1986. In 2000, she became the first St. Mary's University woman athlete inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, and is also a member of the University's Sports Hall of Fame. Her number was retired by St. Mary's in 2001.

(more)

3333333/San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2012

John W. Russell established himself as a leader in the U.S. equestrian program, both as an athlete and a coach. One of the founders of the modern U.S. equestrian movement, Russell led U.S. efforts in the years after World War II in recruiting riders and horses, and then as a competitor in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics. In the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Russell led the U.S. equestrian team to the bronze medal. After his competitive career and as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army, Russell became the first Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center when the sport moved from West Point to San Antonio in 1956. As head of the Pentathlon National Training Center and later as its equestrian coach, Russell led the pentathlon team to 10 Olympic Games (1956-1992), producing numerous world and Olympic medals. Emerging in the 1930's Russell was one of the world's premier riders for more than 20 years and has competition titles too numerous to list. He currently owns and actively manages the Russell Equestrian Center in San Antonio.

The San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame and the gala tribute are a partnership between San Antonio Sports, the City of San Antonio, and San Antonio Express-News. Proceeds from the black-tie gala benefit San Antonio Sports' [youth programs](#). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.sanantoniports.org/halloffame.

--30--

About San Antonio Sports:

For more than 25 years, San Antonio Sports has put our city on the global stage. From NCAA Championships to the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon, the premier events we've host have delivered more than \$357 million for our local economy.

But we're not just about big games. We're a nonprofit organization that works every day to **KEEP SAN ANTONIO MOVING**. Year 'round, our [kids programs](#) deliver sports and fitness programs to thousands of children in every part of our community. Our [Fit Family Challenge](#) expands our kids' fitness efforts with a fun, incentivized four-month, county-wide program for the whole family. San Antonio Sports' mission is *to transform our community through the power of sport*. To learn more, visit SanAntonioSports.org.