

# INTERNATIONAL SPORTS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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## Association News

Volume 37, Issue 4

### ISHA Membership News—E.D. Karen Bednarski

The tennis ball at the top of this image was used by identical twins Angelo and Ettore Rossetti to smash the Guinness World Record for Longest Tennis Rally (25,944 consecutive hits). It is on display at the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum alongside the

tennis ball used by the brothers for their first attempt at the World Record

(middle)—which is the American record at 19,490 rallies—and an unused ball from the same can.



Thanks very much for renewing your ISHA membership for the 2009/2010 membership year. We appreciate your support of the Association. The new membership directory will be at the printers by mid-June and a PDF file of the directory will be available on the website. Going forward, the website version of the directory will be updated regularly throughout the year to reflect new members joining the Association. And, speaking of the website, you will all be receiving a new password for access to the *Members Only* section in the very near future.

On a related topic, I wanted to remind you that as ISHA members you are welcome to use the ISHA logo on your website. In addition, we provide links to your websites

on [www.sportsheritage.org](http://www.sportsheritage.org) and appreciate the reciprocity of you offering a link to ISHA on your site. If anyone would like a jpeg or EPS file of the ISHA logo, please let me know.

One of the primary ISHA Board initiatives for the coming year is new and improved member benefits. President Sheila Kelly has appointed a Member Relations Committee which is co-chaired by Rick Walls from the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Lee Roy Smith from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame who will be working on developing relationships and enhanced services to our members.

In addition, Karen Hewson from the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame has been appointed as chair of the newly formed

ISHA Survey Committee. This Committee is planning a series of surveys to the ISHA membership in an effort to compile information that will be useful in running your facility. The survey results will provide information on trends, programs, practices, standards, and innovative ideas. Our ultimate goal is to utilize the survey results to compile a document describing the "State of the Industry" - available only to ISHA members.

Of course, one of our best membership benefits is always the ISHA Annual Conference; and the 2009 Conference in Baltimore promises to be exceptional.

[Check out the website for more information.](#)

The deadline for submitting entries for the 2009

International Sports Heritage Association Communication Awards is **July 31, 2009**. Please visit [www.sportsheritage.org](http://www.sportsheritage.org) for more information on submitting your application.

### Founder's Fund Tribute Gift.

Do you know someone who just received a promotion? Or a friend who won a prestigious award? How about a special birthday or anniversary? Perhaps you want to honor the memory of someone you loved or admired.

At its semi-annual meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, ISHA's Board of Directors announced the formation of the ISHA Founder's Fund Tribute Gift program.

Each gift will assist ISHA's mission to educate, promote and support organizations and individuals engaged in the celebration of sports heritage.

To make a donation, simply download a Tribute Gift Form from [www.sportsheritage.org](http://www.sportsheritage.org), complete and return by mail with your check in U.S. funds. Upon receipt of your gift, we will send a commemorative certificate acknowledging your Founder's Fund contribution to the person(s) you designate. Your contribution will remain confidential, and is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



## ISHA Members in the News

The **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and Museum** announces a new board chairman, Bernard Weichsel of Wayland, Massachusetts. Serving on the board of directors since 2000, Weichsel takes over the chairmanship from David Holli of Ishpeming, Michigan, who served as chairman since 2004 and has been active on the hall of fame's board of directors since 1985... **The USGA Museum** recently launched the Arnold Palmer Memory Book to celebrate Palmer's 80th birthday on September 10th. The Web-based "digital memory book" gives people the opportunity to submit memories, personal stories and reflections about Arnold Palmer through words, images or video. For more information, visit <http://www.usgamuseum.com/arnoldpalmer>... **The BC Sports Hall of Fame** proudly hosted the 41st Annual Banquet of Champions on May 13th.

The 2009 Inductees included Olympic Champions, pioneering competitors, MVP's, inspirational coaches and committed administrators... The theme for the 2009 **College Baseball Foundation** events is "Celebrating 150 Years of College Baseball" to commemorate the anniversary of the first college baseball game between Amherst and Williams in 1859 in Pittsfield, Mass. **The College Baseball Awards Show and Hall of Fame** inductions are the highlights on July 2-3. Go to [collegebaseballfoundation.org](http://collegebaseballfoundation.org) for details... The 13th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic on Friday, June 19th at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. Contact Scott at 519-284-1838 or [baseball@baseballhalloffame.ca](mailto:baseball@baseballhalloffame.ca) ... The **National Sports Museum (of Australia)** won "Best Website" in its category at the 2009 Museums Australia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards announced in late-May. The

NSM website ([www.nsm.org.au](http://www.nsm.org.au)) was designed by Next Digital and launched in February 2008... On the occasion of the celebration of the International Museum Day, the Thessaloniki Olympic Museum organized a race. Children accompanied by their parents ran with many Olympic champions from the museum to the front gate of the International Exposition Centre... **The International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum** is preparing for its third annual Family Weekend on July 4 and 5 held in conjunction with the Hall of Fame Campbell's Tennis Championships which runs from July 6-12 in Newport, Rhode Island. The Campbell's Tennis Championship—part of Newport Tennis Week—is the only grass court tournament on the ATP World Tour in North America.

Visit [www.sportsheritage.org](http://www.sportsheritage.org) for all of the complete stories listed here.

## 2009 ISHA Conference Set For Baltimore

This year's ISHA Conference, set for October 27-29, will be hosted by the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards will serve as the primary facility for educational sessions and exhibitor displays, and delegates will enjoy the historic Babe Ruth Birthplace at a welcoming reception and behind-the-scenes tour.

The Baltimore conference holds the promise of strong, pertinent workshops and sessions, unique entertainment and touring opportunities, and the convenience of having the headquarters hotel, the Hampton Inn, within a two-block walk of Sports Legends, the Babe Ruth Birthplace, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Add to that the allure of guest speakers including former NFL head coach Brian Billick, former Olympian and US Congressman Tom McMillen, and Debbie Phelps, mother of gold medal record-setter Michael Phelps, plus a tour of Oriole Park. Of course, the 39<sup>th</sup> annual installment of the ISHA Conference looks like one for the record books.

An early bird brochure should be mailed your way within the next few weeks.



### 2009 Induction Ceremonies

**National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame** June 18th· Mark Fidrych, Andy Banachowski, Bobby Cxyz, Joe Verdeur

**Int'l Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum** July 11th· Monica Seles, Andres Gimeno, Donald Dell and Dr. Robert Johnson

**Atlanta Braves Hall of Fame** July 17th· Greg Maddox

**College Football Hall of Fame** July 17th· Lou Holtz, Troy Aikman, Thurman Thomas

**Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame** July 18th· Antonio Freemant and Dorsey Levens

**National Baseball Hall of Fame** July 26th· Rickey Henderson and Jim Rice

**National Soccer Hall of Fame** August 2nd· Jeff Agoos and Joy Fawcett

## Welcome to Facebook

It is a constant struggle with heritage institutions to keep its members interested as well as staying viable in these ever changing times. Many are examining new and interesting schemes in order to stay current. The ISHA communications department would like to welcome you to its FACEBOOK page ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). Once you are a member of Facebook you can access the ISHA page, by searching for a group under "ISHA" or "International Sports Heritage Association". Maybe you have a question that you don't want to post on the list serve or maybe you want to show off one of your big achievements without waiting for the most recent newsletter to come out.

Facebook is a great networking site and the greatest part about it is that it is free! Feel free to post almost anything you want, photos, invitations, and pod-casts, the list is endless. If you are not a Facebook user, set-up is free and painless; it only takes a matter of minutes before you can search for friends. You can also send your museum supporters to the ISHA page to learn about the association and what you are doing to promote your facility. Remember, we are all a part of ISHA to help each other out; Facebook is just a new way to communicate with each other during the long months in between the annual conferences.

## Closing of Museum

The International Sports Hall of Fame and Olympic Museum, after 30 years of bringing visitors to our site, has decided to sell the museum. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to operate the Museum due to reasons of my age and health, and the difficulty of having a staff to manage the museum. If the museum will continue to be used as a museum we will practically give it away to the right organization. The value of the museum at present is roughly about \$1.7 to \$2 million dollars, with artifacts dating from 1896 to the present. We will not donate or "give away" the museum, as it would not meet our intentions for its future. However, we will accept offers between \$600,000 to \$800,000 as long as it is not used for commercial purposes, but only to preserve the heritage of the Olympics in this country. To see pictures of some artifacts and the museum, go to our photo galleries at [www.olympicsource.org](http://www.olympicsource.org). Contact [olympicsource@hotmail.com](mailto:olympicsource@hotmail.com) or [enash327@yahoo.com](mailto:enash327@yahoo.com), telephone 541-765-2923 for further information.

## Remembering

The Pro Football Hall of Fame's former President/Executive Director John Bankert passed away March 12, 2009 after a lengthy illness.


Many of you may have known John. For those who did not, it should be noted that he served ISHA (ASHMHF and IASMHF) for many years including serving as the organization's president. He was named the winner of the Schroeder Award in 1993.

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## New Exhibits

The **St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum** has an exciting summer of exhibits related to the MLB All-Star Game, which will be held here in July. While the Museum is currently without a building, it has partnered with the St. Louis Arch and the Missouri Historical Society for several exciting exhibitions showcasing the history of baseball in St. Louis. For more information call 314-345-9600.

Cincinnati's role in the Negro League story is examined through images, period artifacts and rare film footage. **The Red's Hall of Fame's** exhibit also includes selected images culled from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum's "Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of the Negro Baseball Leagues" exhibit, the balance of which is on display at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which partnered with the Hall of Fame to bring this traveling exhibit to Cincinnati. The Hall of Fame's exhibit is part of the Reds' season-long celebration of the June 19-21 Civil Rights Weekend which will be highlighted by the Civil Rights Game on June 20 against the Chicago White Sox.



The **World Golf Hall of Fame** in St. Augustine, Fla. is featuring one of golf's greatest ambassadors in a special exhibition, "Bob Hope: Shanks for the Memory," which tells the story of his life, entertainment career, relationship with U.S. Presidents, and his devotion to the men and women of the military, as well as his lifelong love affair with golf.

## ISHA Poll

Who will be leading Major League Baseball's divisions at the All-Star Break on July 13<sup>th</sup>?

### National League

#### West

Atlanta Braves  
Florida Marlins  
New York Mets  
Philadelphia Phillies  
Washington Nationals  
St. Louis Cardinals

#### East

Chicago Cubs  
Cincinnati Reds  
Houston Astros  
Milwaukee Brewers  
Pittsburgh Pirates

#### Central

Arizona Diamondbacks  
Colorado Rockies  
Los Angeles Dodgers  
San Diego Padres

### American League

#### East

Baltimore Orioles  
Boston Red Sox  
New York Yankees  
Tampa Bay Rays  
Toronto Blue Jays

#### Central

Chicago White Sox  
Cleveland Indians  
Detroit Tigers  
Kansas City Royals  
San Francisco Giants

#### West

Los Angeles Angels  
Oakland Athletics  
Seattle Mariners  
Texas Rangers  
Minnesota Twins

### March Poll Results

Email your vote to [celebratesportsheritage@yahoo.ca](mailto:celebratesportsheritage@yahoo.ca) to vote for your pick as to which baseball team will be leading their division.

Last issue, we asked the question, which sporting event is the most recognized in the world. The winner by a landslide was the World Cup. Thanks for participating.

## INTERNATIONAL SPORTS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

### Association News

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### NCAA Hall of Champions Renovation is Now Complete

The new NCAA Hall of Champions, which had been closed as a result of a fire, reopened March 12 with 23 state-of-the-art sport-specific exhibits and several interactive displays. There is a new video presentation, new athletic and academic content, additional meeting and hospitality space and a new retail space in the 30,000 square foot facility, located in the heart of the White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis.



*The mission of the International Sports Heritage Association is to educate, promote and support organizations and individuals engaged in the celebration of sports heritage.*



[www.SportsHeritage.org](http://www.SportsHeritage.org)