SCAHoF Announces Recipients of 2014 Special Awards

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COLUMBIA, SC – South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame president Kay Fortune has announced that Billy D’Andrea of Clemson, Mike Veeck of Charleston, Dennis Powell of Columbia, Rick Henry of Columbia and Coach Dawn Staley of Columbia will be honored for their various contributions to sports in the Palmetto State when the organization hosts its 54th annual banquet and induction ceremony on May 12 at the Columbia Metro Convention Center.

D’Andrea will be recognized with the Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award sponsored by Pete and Ane DiVenere; Veeck will be honored with the Willie Jeffries Ambassador Award that is sponsored by Defender Services, and Powell will receive the third annual Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award that is being sponsored by Founders Federal Credit Union. Henry, the longtime face of WIS-TV Sports in Columbia, will be bestowed with the fourth annual Herman Helms Media Excellence Award that is sponsored by Boyd Management of Columbia, and Staley will be honored with a Special Achievement Award.

Those five honorees will be distinguished along with the new inductees of the SCAHoF Class of 2014 which include futures NFL Hall of Famer Brian Dawkins and quarterback Rodney Williams of Clemson, and basketball scorer Zam Frederick and pitcher Randy Martz from the University of South Carolina. Also being enshrined are SC State football standout Edwin Bailey; Olympian Monique Hennagan of Columbia; state golf legend Happ Lathrop; and Newberry basketball standout Carl Short.

Tickets (table of eight for $500) and program sponsorships may be purchased by calling the SCAHOF office at 803/779-0905. The affair, which includes a reception and dinner, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award
Billy D’Andrea, Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director, Clemson University

Bill D'Andrea, who retires this summer, has had a profound effect on the Clemson athletic department in particular, and the entire University in general throughout his 30+ years as an employee and coach. He helped make Clemson one of the top all-around programs in the nation through his work as an assistant football coach, director of student-athlete academic services in...
Vickery Hall and as the Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director supervising the athletic department's scholarship fund-raising instrument, IPTAY.

D'Andrea began his association with Clemson as a graduate assistant football coach under Danny Ford in 1983 and 1984. In 1986, Ford had an opening on his coaching staff and D'Andrea received a call to return to Clemson after just one season in Mississippi.

D'Andrea helped the Tigers to three consecutive ACC Championships from 1986-88, tying a league record for consecutive league titles at the time. The 1989 team did not win the ACC title, but finished with a 10-2 record and a top 10 national ranking. In the four years D'Andrea served as an assistant coach, Clemson posted a 38-8-2 record, won four bowl games (wins over Stanford, Penn State, Oklahoma and West Virginia) and finished in the top 20 of both final polls every year.

D'Andrea became the first director of Vickery Hall, Clemson's student-athlete enrichment facility, in 1991. He was at the center of a ground-breaking aspect of athletic administration, as Vickery Hall was the first self-standing facility dedicated to student-athlete enrichment in the nation. The program was named one of the top programs of its kind in the nation by NACDA in September of 1999.

Named a senior associate athletic director in 2002, he oversaw all of Clemson’s fund-raising activities (IPTAY), promotions, marketing, tickets, and sports information. Much of his responsibilities were consumed by the capital campaign that provided the financial backing of the West Endzone project at Memorial Stadium.

During his tenure organizing Clemson's fund-raising activities, annual donations to IPTAY rose to record levels. A record was also established for the number of donors during his tenure.

Billy D'Andrea

**Willie Jeffries Ambassador for Sports Award**
Mike Veeck, President
Charleston RiverDogs

Credited with helping revolutionize Minor League Baseball with his “Fun Is Good” approach, Mike Veeck, with all of his titles – fun-loving maverick owner, entrepreneur, motivational speaker and teacher – continues to blaze new trails with every baseball season. After all, who else would hire a dog or pig to deliver baseballs to the umpire, a Roman Catholic nun to give massages, mimes to perform instant replays or lock out fans of the stadium to set an all-time attendance for the fewest people at a game?

The Veeck family started in baseball nearly a century ago when Mike’s grandfather was president of the Chicago Cubs. Mike’s father, Bill, a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, was the owner of the St. Louis Browns, Cleveland Indians, Chicago White Sox and the then-minor league Milwaukee Brewers. Bill Veeck is remembered for signing South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Larry Doby, the first African-American to play in the American League, and for sending 3-foot, 6-inch Eddie Gaedel to the plate for the Browns in a 1951 game against Detroit.

Mike Veeck began his baseball career with the White Sox and also worked for the Detroit Tigers, Florida Marlins and Tampa Bay Devil Rays. It is his inherited belief that anything is possible and no idea so silly, and that is how Veeck operates his ball clubs. He is part-owner of four baseball teams, and serves as president of the South Atlantic League’s Charleston RiverDogs. His goal is to put fun in baseball while proving his ideas are not specific to sport, and is credited with revolutionizing minor league baseball where fun is the focal point.

The RiverDogs, in 2013, captured the prestigious Larry McPahil Award, which symbolizes the top promotions effort in all of Minor League Baseball. It marked the second time the club was recognized (1998), and is only the fourth team ever to win the award twice. Additionally, Dave Echols was named the SAL’s General Manager of the Year (for the second time) while Andy Lange was honored as the Sales Executive of the Year.

In 2005, Veeck authored the book “Fun Is Good,” which describes how this simple philosophy leads to success in any business. He has taken his “Fun Is Good” mentality and helped his teams reach attendance and customer service milestones, while receiving national publicity for innovative promotions and the injections of fun into business.

In addition, Veeck is a Visiting Professor in The Citadel’s Health, Exercise and Sport Science Department and teaches six semester hours.
Mike Veeck

**Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award**

**Dennis Powell, SCAHOF**

**Board Member**

A vital member of the University of South Carolina’s 1971 Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball Championship team that was at one time ranked the No. 1 team in the nation, Dennis Powell has been a member of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame Board of Directors for 14 years. Considered a “go-to” guy for anything involving the SCAHOF, Powell, during his senior year, earned the prestigious Buck Freeman Loyalty Award for the team that went to the university’s first NCAA Regional. As a sharpshooting guard who played alongside SCAHOF inductees John Roche, Tom Owens, Bobby Cremins and Kevin Joyce, Powell was a key member on three Frank McGuire-coached teams (as freshman were ineligible to play) that recorded an impressive combined 71-16 mark.

Since graduating from USC in 1971 with a degree in Business Administration/Marketing, Powell has been employed in the commercial mortgage banking business and is a partner with Dwyer Capital Mortgage, LLC in Columbia. Active in his adopted community, Powell, a native of New York City, has been active with the Columbia Tip-Off Club for many years and currently serves as its president. He also is a member of the board of directors for the annual Chick-fil-A Invitational Basketball Tournament that is hosted by Richland Northeast High School.
Herman Helms Media Excellence Award
Rick Henry, Sports Director
WIS-TV

Rick Henry, sports director at WIS-TV in Columbia since 1996, becomes the first electronic journalist to be honored with the Herman Helms Media Excellence Award.

Having joined WIS in 1988 as an anchor/reporter, Henry began his television career at WPDE-TV in Florence in 1981 when he was hired as sports director. He became the first African-American to serve as sports director for a South Carolina television station.

An award-winning journalist, Henry was named the 1999 Sportscaster of the Year by the South Carolina Broadcasters Association. In 2005 his sportscast was selected as the best in South Carolina by the Associated Press. He has also received two prestigious Emmy awards. In 1998, Rick was named to the University of South Carolina’s College of Journalism's "Diamond Circle," joining a national group of esteemed individuals chosen for outstanding contributions to their field.

He is a 1973 graduate of McBee High School, where he was the school's first African-American valedictorian. Henry received a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from The University of South Carolina in 1977, and concluded his USC career by being named an Outstanding Senior.

Active in the Columbia community, Henry was named Man of the Year by both the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Florence. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Ray Tanner foundation, an organization founded by USC baseball coach Ray Tanner and his wife Karen to help children in need. He also served on the 100 Years of Gamecock Basketball Committee, where he helped plan a celebration and served as the emcee for an event honoring former USC basketball players and coaches.
Special Achievement Award
Dawn Staley, Women’s Basketball Coach
University of South Carolina

Three-time Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley took the reins of the University of South Carolina women’s basketball program on May 10, 2008, instantly raising the Gamecocks’ presence in both the Southeastern Conference and the national stage. In the last three seasons, the Gamecocks have realized those expectations, posting three consecutive 25-win seasons for the first time in school history and reaching the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 twice in that stretch. The team’s spot to the 2011-12 Sweet 16 was the program’s first in a decade and Staley’s first time advancing that far as a head coach after competing in three Final Fours as a player. In her 14 seasons as a head coach, Staley has amassed a 293-151 record, including her 119-71 slate in six seasons at South Carolina, and has led her teams to nine 20-win seasons and a total of 11 postseason appearances (two WNIT). Her 2013-14 highlights include a four-week stretch ranked in the nation’s top five, an SEC regular-season championship – the first in program history – and her SEC Coach of the Year and WBCA Region 3 Coach of the Year selections.

While her career has turned to coaching, Staley continues to be recognized for her body of work as a one of the most decorated participants in United States women’s basketball history. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame solidified her legacy with her enshrinement into the Hall as part of the Class of 2013. The Phoenix Club of Philadelphia established the Dawn Staley Award recognizing the nation’s top guard in women’s Division I basketball in 2013 as well. Staley was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2012 and was one of the final nominees for induction to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame the same year. In the summer of 2011, the WNBA recognized her as one of the league’s “Top 15,” honoring the most influential players in the league’s history.

Dawn Staley

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Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award
2014 – Billy D’Andrea, Clemson
2013 – None
2012 – Bobby Cremins, Charleston
2011 – Les Robinson, Sullivan’s Island
2010 – Armanti Edwards, Greenwood
2009 – None
2008 – Andre Roberts, Columbia
2007 – None
2006 – Sam Gado, Columbia
2005 – Kevin Kimery, Columbia

**Willie Jeffries Ambassador Award**
2014 – Mike Veeck, Charleston
2013 – John Rhodes, Myrtle Beach
2012 – Steve Wilmot, Hilton Head Island
2011 – Ray Tanner, Columbia

**Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award**
2014 – Dennis Powell, Columbia
2013 – Jeff Grantz, Columbia
2012 – Ken Wheat, Columbia

**Herman Helms Media Excellence Award**
2014 – Rick Henry, Columbia
2013 – Ken Burger, Charleston
2012 – Bill Hamilton, Orangeburg
2011 – Ron Morris, Columbia