

Holtz, Cannon, Aikman enter college grid Hall of Fame

The trio was among a group of new inductees of 15 announced Thursday

Associated Press
NEW YORK—Lou Holtz's first big break in his Hall of Fame career came when he got dumped by his girlfriend.

With no good reason to stay in Ohio, he left a job coaching high school football and became a graduate assistant at the University of Iowa in 1960.

In the end, the scrappy, little coach with the lisp got the gig and the girl. Beth soon had a change of heart and she and Holtz have been married for 47 years.

“Had it not been for my wife, I'd still been in high school,” Holtz said Thursday after a news conference to announce that he was one of 15 newly elected College Football Hall of Famers.

Joining the 71-year-old Holtz, who won 249 games with six schools and a national title at Notre Dame in 1988, at a news conference in Manhattan were former Northwestern linebacker and current Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald and former Syracuse quarterback Don McPherson.

The other 11 players chosen by the National Football Foundation's selection committee were: UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman; LSU tailback Billy Cannon; Virginia offensive tackle Jim Dombrowski; Florida linebacker Wilber Marshall; Washington State running back Ruben Mayes; Arizona State guard Randall McDaniel; Wyoming tight

end Jay Novacek; Texas Tech split end Dave Parks; Florida State nose guard Ron Simmons; Oklahoma State running back Thurman Thomas; and Army quarterback Arnold Tucker.

John Cooper, who went 192-84-6 with Tulsa, Arizona State and Ohio State, was the other coach elected.

The class will be inducted at the NFF banquet in New York in December and enshrined in the summer of 2009 at the Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

Holtz's first college head coaching job was at William & Mary in 1969. He also had successful stints at North Carolina State, Arkansas, Minnesota and South Carolina, leading all of them to bowl games. But his greatest achievements came at Notre Dame, where he won 100 games and the storied program's last national championship.

“When I first heard I was going to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, I just went ‘Wow! Wow!’ I’m going to join all the great coaches in there,” Holtz said before reeling off some historic names. “You start thinking about the great ones from Notre Dame, Parseghian, etc. And Broyles and Royal and Bear Bryant and Woody Hayes. You start thinking, ‘How’d this happen?’”

For Cannon, who led LSU to a national title in 1958 and won the Heisman Trophy in '59, this was the second time he's been elected to the Hall of Fame.

In the early 1980s, he was voted in, but the invitation was rescinded after he was arrested on federal counterfeiting charges. Cannon pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison in 1983. He served 2 1/2 years.

Cannon's first reaction

when told he was elected to the Hall?

“Again,” he said with a laugh.

“I have no problem with it,” Cannon told The Associated Press by phone from the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where he's worked as a dentist for 13 years. “I was tickled and happy.”

Cannon is responsible for one of the most famous plays in Southeastern Conference history. His 89-yard punt return for a touchdown on Halloween night 1959 helped the Tigers beat rival Mississippi 7-3.

Aikman started his college career at Oklahoma, then transferred to UCLA. After two stellar seasons (1987-88) with the Bruins, he was drafted first overall by the Dallas Cowboys. He inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006.

“College football has meant so much to the sporting history of our country, and it means a lot to me personally,” Aikman said in a statement. “The opportunity to share this recognition with my former Cowboys teammate Jay Novacek will make this experience all the more rewarding.”

Fitzgerald was a two-time winner of the Bednarik Award as the national defensive player of the year and the leader of Northwestern's surprising '95 team, which earned the school its first Rose Bowl appearance in 47 years.

“This will be the highest honor I can ever have awarded to me,” Fitzgerald said at the news conference.

McPherson was the Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1987 to Notre Dame receiver Tim Brown.

“The game of football has given me more than I have given it,” McPherson said.

Action under way



Hour photo/ERIK TRAUTMANN
The Shorehaven Ladies recently held their Opening Day tournament with an ABCD shotgun format. Carolee Joerma, Lorna Mack and Lisa Hipwell carded the low net of 46, three shots ahead of Irene Trautmann, Beverly Deluca, Doon Foster and Laura Hodges. Third low net was a tie between Deborah O'Connor, Jackie Johnson and Diane LeGrande, and Marianne McNee, Arlene Goodman and Laurie Zollinger. Both teams shot 50. Longest drive among the A, B, C and D players were recorded by McNee, Mack, Hodges and Mary DeMarzo. Joerman and Nancy Guerette won a closest-to-the-pin competition. Joerman, left in photo above, is joined by Bonnie Baron, Rosemary Eula and Julian Shettler.

Ochoa falls behind in first round

Associated Press
BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Lorena Ochoa felt helpless as too many shots ballooned into relentless gusts that reached 36 mph Thursday, sending her to only her second round over par this year.

Stranger still was listening to her describe a 2-over 73 at the SemGroup Championship.

“I managed to finish with a good score,” she said.

On a wind-blown day that yielded no more than five scores under par, Ochoa took some measure of satisfaction by not letting the leaders get too far away in her quest for a record-tying

GOLF ROUNDUP

fifth consecutive victory on the LPGA Tour.

Hee Young Park held it together in Oklahoma's notorious wind with a 2-under 69, and Beth Bader also was 2 under as she finished up a tough day for everyone at Cedar Ridge.

Toms takes lead

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — David Toms took the first-round lead in the Wachovia Championship, breaking out of a missed-cut, sore-back funk with a 5-under 67.

Playing in the morning when the greens were still soft from the drenching rain earlier in the week, Toms made eight birdies, including a near ace at the 13th hole, to take a one-shot lead over Phil Mickelson and Jason Bohn.

Daly falls 10 back

SEVILLE, Spain — John Daly shot a 3-over 75 in his first tournament in Spain in 16 years, leaving him 10 strokes behind leader Martin Erlandsson in the Spanish Open.

Erlandsson, from Sweden, birdied the final three holes for a course-record 65.

Eagles rally to defeat Lions in Major Division competition

The Eagles put together some timely hitting in the top of the sixth to rally past the Lions in Norwalk Little League Major Division action at Vets Park.

Pitchers Trey Newcomb and Brendan Hanzlik combined to hold the Lions at bay until the bats came alive. While Tyler Annunziata (one hit, three runs), Newcomb (three hits, double, two RBI), RJ Serrano (two hits, two RBI), Harold Garcia (double) and Brendan Mills (one hit) paced the offense, Edwin Owolo (two hits, RBI) and Hanzlik (double, two RBI) delivered big blows in the sixth.

Daniel Cohen and Max Helfand singled for the Lions.

The Eagles topped the Jaycees, 8-4. Annunziata (13 strikeouts) and Serrano combined for 14 strikeouts while allowing only five hits for the Eagles. Hanzlik (three hits, two doubles, one RBI), Jared Smith (two hits, RBI) and Owolo (double, two RBI) led the Eagles. Brent Besterzy (one hit) Jantavious Derry (one hit, one RBI) and Michael Bottex (one hit, one RBI) also contributed.

Ryan Evans scattered six hits in six innings to lead the Rotary past the Lions 6-3. He struck out 10 and did not walk a batter. He also

drove in two runs with a double in the first inning. Justin Edwards singled home two runs and and Luis Santos singled home a run. Also for the Rotary, Thomas Boguski tripled and scored twice, and Jack Careccia and Mike Boguski had singles.

For the Lions Club, Billy Passero singled twice and drove in a run. Zach LaRusso singled and scored and also pitched five solid innings, striking out three. Bobby Butler, Helfand and James Korin singled.

Monker Grotto scored three runs in the fourth inning to beat the Laurels, 3-0. Kevin Cronin started the rally with a double. A Nick Schwartz walk followed by a Nick Lampman double gave Monker the lead. A ground-out by Jack Hefferan plated the second run. Jeff Patenaude's fielders choice knocked in the final run. Patenaude added a single for Monker. Cronin and Lampman combined on the one-hit shutout. Drew Pace had the only hit for Laurels.

Brendan's rallied in the sixth inning to beat Matarese. Sam Starkman and Sean Davis had triples, Peter O'Connor, Sean Walsh and Keegan Roberts had singles for Matarese. Hunter Sharkey struck out 10, giving up four hits and two runs in the loss.

The Jaycees topped the Laurels, 7-5. Michael Stein doubled. Jonah Singer (two hits, one RBI). Alex Valenzano (two hits, two RBI). Will Ayles (one hit, two RBI). Conor Mulford (one hit, one RBI). Devon Monroe and John Luke Kanzler both scored. For Laurel AC, Roger Quiroga belted a three-run home run and Alex Scallion and Ricky Mydland had RBI singles.

Sean Butler pitched 5-2/3 innings of three-hit ball, striking out 15 as the Lion's Club beat Rowayton Pizza.

NORWALK LITTLE LEAGUE

LaRusso struck out the final batter to end the game. Trevor Remy hit a solo home run and a double. Bobby Butler doubled home two runs and scored a run on one of brother Sean's two hits.

For Rowayton Pizza, Chris Shurr pitched five innings striking out nine batters. He also singled and scored a run. Ian Coupe and Dawson Jones had singles.

The Eagles shook off a slow start to down Monker, 6-3. Timely hitting and solid defense backed pitchers Newcomb (5.2 innings, 12 strikeouts, four hits) and Garcia (1/3 inning, strikeout). Annunziata (two hits, RBI) and Smith (two hits) led the Eagles. Newcomb (one hit, two RBI), Garcia (one hit, one RBI), Owolo (one hit) and Channing Thomas (one hit) also contributed. Lampman had a solo homer and two RBI. Hefferan and James Luccesi added doubles for Monker.

Valenzano and Ayles combined for 11 strikeouts in a Jaycees' win. Mulford had two extra-base hits and five RBI. Singer, Dan Romaniello and Edward Petrillo had hits. Cohen singled for the Lions.

Monker Grotto beat Matarese, 9-1. Sam Starkman had the lone hit for Matarese. Cronin led Monker with two hits and two RBI and Johana Knight had two hits and three RBI. Lampman added three RBI. Lampman also pitched five innings with 14 strikeouts. Matt Savona finished up giving up 1 hit.

Deion Clark had an RBI double with a walk and a run scored, Mike Boguski and Ber Evans each scored twice in a Rotary victory.

Tristan Opdahl pitched five shut out innings with 16 strikeouts for Kiwanis.

The attack offense was led by Austin Wooten, James Henderson, Tom Henderson, Mark Ballard and Sean Welch, who combined for 11 out of the team's 15 hits.

TRIPLE AAA

Marinello's Deli beat John's Best Pizza, 13-5.

Marinello's pitchers Johnny Swich, Joey Benincaso and Shawn Hanzlik combined for 12 strikeouts. Swick singled, tripled, homered and drove in three. Benincaso had three hits and an RBI. Mike Powers single twice and had two RBI. Sam Zaref had two hits and drove in three. Mike DiIorio and Nick Covino singled and had an RBI.

For John's Best, starrer Jeffrey Joslyn had six strikeouts and James Tremonte closed the game with four strikeouts. Offensively, Joey Laracca had two hits and four RBI. Jake Guaglione, James Tremonte and Teddy Wisniewski also had hits.

C & C Landscaping rallied for six runs in the fourth and fifth innings to beat Stew Leonard's in opening game. The offense was led by Matt Salata with a single, an inside-the-park homer and two RBI; Tyler McMillian with a double and an RBI, and Scott Whalen with two singles with two RBI.

For C & C, Ryan Edwards pitched three scoreless innings and went 1-for-2 with two RBI. Nicholas Howard pitched two strong innings and also had a hit and two RBI. Alex Ruther had two hits and an RBI and Magnus Hermans had a double and a single.

Diamond Deli topped Pizza & Pasta. Kyle Pisacrita threw three scoreless innings with nine strikeouts and Evan Cybart got the save with two score-

less innings and four strikeouts. Diamond Deli's Malik Massey and Michael McLaughlin turned a double play to get out of the fourth inning.

Matthew Iannacone led the P&P attack and Victor Silano was solid on the mound.

Italia defeated Partners, 15-5, led by Matt Crowley's five hits and four RBI. Ryan Searles, BJ Buckle and Harrison Hefferan had three hits. Alex Barone, Jack Potochney and Isaiah Rodriguez had two hits each. Allison Pitasi and Mike Denke each drove in a run. Crowley, Dominic Teal, Hefferan and Buckle combined for 12 strikeouts.

Partners offense was led by Anthony Granchelli with two hits and two RBI; Logan Sweeney with a double and two RBI, and singles by Matt Diurno, Sean Geercken and Amari Brown.

Italia topped G&G, 6-2. Italia jumped out to a lead on Brian Beaumonte's grand-slam homer. Rodriguez also homered for Italia, Crowley tripled and singled, and Barone had two hits. Denke and Jeff DeRosa each drove in a run. Crowley, Jack Potochney and Buckle combined for 14 strikeouts. For G&G, Danny Frattaroli, Jake Somma, and Matt McDonald combined for 13 strikeouts.

Diamond Deli beat TNS, 5-4. Cybart was the winner and Picarita earned the save with eight strikeouts. Matt Arduino homered and Chase Zammit, Maurice Torian and Jose Lopez had RBI. The highlight of the game was a triple play by Brendan Brown and Massey in the bottom of the second to stop a rally by TNS.

For TNS, Dillon Viscardi went 2-for-3 and Mike Pascarelli scored twice.

Norwalk Pizza and Pasta scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth to tie Stew

Leonard's, 6-6. Pizza & Pasta was led by a strong pitching performance by Alex Escalante. Iannacone reached base three times and scored twice, including the game tying run on a fielder's choice by Victor Silano.

Leading Stew Leonard's were Salata (single, double, two RBI), Giancarlo Ceci (RBI), Hugh Clyne (single, RBI), Whalen (two singles, two RBIs) and McMillian with a single and throwing out a runner trying to steal.

TNS Group broke a tie in the fifth to win a game. Pascarelli went 2-for-3 with a homer and a double; Sam Evans had a triple, Greg Goldstein and Jessie Rodriguez had doubles, and Grayson Brandfellner and Viscardi had singles.

Stew Leonard's pulled out a win over John's Best. Stew Leonard's broke a tie in the bottom of the fourth. Stew's was led by Salata (two doubles, four RBI), Clyne (double, three RBI) and Antony Bombace (single, RBI).

John's Best was led by Laracca with two hits and two RBI. Joslyn had a triple and an RBI. Tremonte and Wisniewski had two singles and an RBI each.

G&G Pizza spoiled John Glover Agency's season opener with an 11-0 victory. Dillon Byrd, McDonald and Somma combined on the shutout. Frattaroli, Trey Canevari, Jack Coulter, Byrd, Shane Kilcoyne, Ryan McGonigle, Victor Vega and Maxwell Pagano had RBI. RJ Kenez had the only hit for the Glover.

Fairfield County Bank won its the season opener from G&G Pizza, 8-2. Fairfield County Bank was led by Zachary Pirraglia with three runs and Miles McQuillen with two hits. Spenser Jacobsen had a double for the victors. G&G Pizza was led by Canevari with two hits and McDonald and Byrd with one hit each.

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