

Miami Lakes Sports Hall of Fame Committee
Selection Report
May 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Sports Hall of Fame Committee

DATE: May 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Recommendations for inaugural class of inductees for Miami Lakes Sports Hall of Fame

Recommendation

The committee asks that the Town Council review and accept the following as members of the inaugural class for the Miami Lakes Sports Hall of Fame: former Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula, former Miami Dolphins player and broadcaster Jim Mandich, former Major League Baseball player Alex Ochoa, and longtime Miami Lakes Optimist Club member Jack McCall. The committee believes that each of these four individuals epitomizes the basic criteria for selection, that being they have made significant contribution to sport and that they have substantial connections to Miami Lakes.

Fiscal Impact

Plaques will be ordered to arrive in time for the planned May induction ceremony; ideally concurrently with the opening of the new Miami Lakes Optimist Clubhouse.

Background

The committee met on three occasions to familiarize itself with the recommendation process and ultimately to decide which individuals would be most deserving of being part of the town's inaugural class. The committee was composed of two individuals for the first two meetings, then grew to its current total of five prior to the third meeting. All voting and formal debate of candidates occurred after the

committee size was increased from two to five. In each case, the recommended names met with the unanimous consent of the committee, including chair Tim Reynolds, vice chair Roman Garcia, secretary Carlos Alvarez, committee member Jim Hamilton and committee member James Zeigler.

Selection Process

The committee reviewed approximately 10 nominations, generated both internally and from the public, before settling on the following recommendations:

Don Shula, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is still widely regarded as the best coach in the history of the National Football League. His record includes 347 victories, two Super Bowl championships as coach of the Miami Dolphins, and he engineered the NFL's first and still only "Perfect Season." Mr. Shula has also had enormous impact on the town as a businessman, with a hotel, restaurants and a golf course within the town bearing his name.

Jim Mandich was a Miami Lakes resident and longtime star tight end for the Miami Dolphins. After his playing days ended, he became a successful broadcaster and radio host, as well as a restaurateur and owner-operator of a drywall contracting company. He died in April 2011 from bile duct cancer, and his family - through the wildly successful fundraising Dolphins Cancer Challenge - continues his legacy and impact on the community today.

Alex Ochoa, born and raised in Miami Lakes and still a resident of the town at this time, spent parts of eight seasons with six different Major League Baseball franchises before continuing his playing career in Japan. He was a career .279 batter in the majors, was part of the 2002 Anaheim Angels team that won the World Series, and now operates a training facility for major leaguers.

Jack McCall has spent 45 years as a coach, officer and volunteer for the Miami Lakes Optimist Club, plus has been an officer both locally and overseeing the entire South Florida Optimist district. He has coached hundreds if not thousands of children over three generations, including even his own grandchildren. His commitment to his "Green Machine" team is unparalleled, and he is a member of the South Florida District Optimist International Hall of Fame.