



**Miami Lakes Sports Hall of Fame Committee
Selection Report
April 2020**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Sports Hall of Fame Committee

DATE: April 21, 2020

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

Recommendation

The committee asks that the Town Council to review and accept the following as members of the fourth class for the Miami Lakes Sports Hall of Fame: former University of Miami coach and Miami Dolphin coach Howard Schnellenberger, Athlete Gustavo “Gus” Gandarillas, Athlete Miriam Ochoa, and Community Pioneer Roland Gomez. The council previously approved former Hialeah-Miami Lakes coach Mike Uspensky for induction this year.

The committee believes that each of these five individuals epitomizes the basic criteria for selection, that being they have made significant contribution to their sports and that they have substantial connections to the Town of Miami Lakes.

Fiscal Impact

Plaques will be ordered to arrive in time for the planned induction ceremony and are covered by a sponsorship, no cost to the Town of Miami Lakes.

Background

The committee met on multiple 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 fourth class. The committee has been composed of five individuals for this year's selection process. All voting and formal debate on all nominees took place at our last meeting. In each case, the recommended names met with the unanimous consent of the committee, including chair Roman Garcia, vice chair Jim Hamilton, secretary Ryan Holland and committee members Helen Roldan and Karyna Cid.

Selection Process

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

- Howard Schnellenberger is a former coach with the Miami Dolphins (an assistant on the 1972 "Perfect Season" as well as being the former Head Coach of the Baltimore Colts, University of Miami Hurricanes, Oklahoma Sooners and Florida Atlantic University Owls among others. He is also famously known for having recruited Joe Namath to the University of Alabama when he was an assistant there. Schnellenberger and his wife Beverlee raised their three sons in Miami Lakes and participated in youth sports at the Optimist Club of Miami Lakes. He currently resides in Boynton Beach, Fl, where he serves as an Ambassador at Large for Florida Atlantic University.
- Gustavo "Gus" Gandarillas is a former Major League baseball player having played for the Milwaukee Brewers. Being drafted in 1992 by the Minnesota Twins, after playing college ball at the University of Miami after starring at Hialeah-Miami Lakes high school, where he played baseball and was a backup quarterback

for fellow inductee Mike Uspensky. He was All-Dade and All-State in 1989 after leading the Trojans to the final four. He also played at the Optimist Club of Miami Lakes in the late 1970s. Since 2015, he has been coaching and sponsoring a team at the Optimist Club of Miami Lakes as well as a travel team called the Miami Lakes Avengers. Although he has been involved in youth baseball and giving back to the community since 1992.

- Miriam Ochoa is a former star Volleyball player at Hialeah-Miami Lakes high school, before earning a scholarship to the University of Central Florida in Orlando. She later went on to coach the Knights before coming back and coaching and teaching at Hialeah-Miami Lakes high school, where she currently still teaches and coaches the sport she is so passionate about.
- Roland Gomez, is a long-time resident (living in town since 1969) and business owner in Miami Lakes, where he also served as a coach in the optimist soccer program, served as president of Miami Lakes Optimist and helped build the first clubhouse. The Miami Lakes Optimist scholarship, which awards \$1,000 to a boy and a girl every year is named after him. In his youth, he played football for Miami High and later played at the University of Florida. He was inducted into the Miami High hall of fame. He is also known that during his 20-year career coaching girls travel soccer within the town, he organized three separate trips to Europe, Russia, Sweden and Iceland along with trips to Canada, raising nearly \$200,000 along the way to travel with the teams.

Request from Committee to Council

Due to current constraints and ongoing pandemic of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the committee requests permission to delay this year's ceremony, currently scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2020, to a later date. The committee would come back for approval from council with

at least 45-day's notice before scheduling the ceremony to allow time for nominees and their families to receive proper notification.

Back in September 2019, the council unanimously approved locking in the date of ceremony on the town calendar as the first Saturday of June. The committee would like to keep that for future years, but due to current situations would like to be granted a reprieve for this year's class.