Annual Salute to
WOMEN IN SPORTS
Live Broadcast Event
Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 8 PM ET

A FUNDRAISING BENEFIT FOR
Women’s Sports Foundation
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Greetings from the Women’s Sports Foundation Leadership

Welcome to our Annual Salute to Women in Sports! Though unusual in format, it is steadfast with our legacy to honor, celebrate and inspire.

This year has been unsettling yet transformational in so many ways. From a global pandemic that gripped the world and put sports on temporary hold at every level, to a nation waking up to systemic racial injustice, there have been many moments this year that gave us pause for introspection. These moments spurred us to action and illuminated our enduring mission: to serve as the ally, advocate and catalyst for tomorrow’s leaders.

Though we face unprecedented challenges, we remain vigilant in our efforts to serve.

A distinguished year

As pandemic quarantines took effect, we launched a COVID-19 Action Plan including a 1-800 community helpline, conducted one-to-one outreach to program leaders, and gave our community partners greater flexibility in grant usage. We stayed connected with all of you — girls, women, coaches, student and professional athletes, leaders and supporters — to bolster resilience and spread encouragement. Our national #WeKeepPlaying broadcast with partner Yahoo Sports, and our “Ask an Athlete Ambassador” Instagram Live series, rallied youth and their families to remain physically and mentally fit.

We say, and we remember the names of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and countless others. We have joined the many leaders and institutions across the country in calling for an end to racial injustice and discrimination. Being an educator and advocate, WSF used the Title IX anniversary to host a national online event, shining a light on the law’s unfulfilled promise for girls of color. Also, this fall we will be releasing a new report showcasing the impact of our Sports 4 Life initiative, a program specifically designed to serve girls of color, founded with espnW and supported regionally by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. The report shows the impact sport participation is having on girls’ leadership, self-esteem, confidence and perseverance — powerful building blocks for young lives.

Determined to make a significant and lasting impact, we put our Chasing Equity research report into action and launched The Equity Project, a shared vision rallying leaders in every sector to drive policy and practice to reach true gender equity in sport and beyond. We will inspire the nation to help girls and women stop chasing equity, and start living it fully.
The movement for equality continues

The fight for equality is the very cornerstone of the Women’s Sports Foundation. Regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or ability, every girl and woman deserves access and opportunity to reap the benefits of sport and play, to help discover her limitless potential.

Alongside us are athletes, teams and leagues who have boldly raised their voices and used their platforms to push for a more equal and just society. Their courage and conviction to Speak With Sport inspires this year’s Annual Salute to Women in Sports theme.

We are thrilled to recognize and honor fellow champions for equality. The Players of the WNBA, Ursula Burns and Coach Bruce Arians, have boldly sounded the call, broken glass ceilings, and challenged their industries to take action for equality and inclusion. We could not be more proud to recognize them as our Salute award honorees.

Our gratitude for all our partners and supporters

We also want to extend our immense gratitude to our dedicated Board of Trustees, Trustees Emeriti, WSF National Partners, corporate supporters, our first-time and long-time donors and every ally in the field, all of whom make our work possible.

As you know, the Annual Salute is the Foundation’s major fundraising effort each year. We are as focused as ever on raising funds to continue advocating, educating and opening doors for girls and women. Our heartfelt thanks to our National Host Committee for their support, and to all who have contributed. There is still time to donate. Your gift, at any level, will go a long way toward supporting all of our work on behalf of girls and women. Please visit WomensSportsFoundation.org/donate.

Though we are not together in the same room, we are united in our actions. We must continue the fight for equality, for all girls and women to be seen, heard and valued equally, and to have equitable opportunity to realize their power. Humanity wins when everyone is valued, respected and included.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Deborah Antoine
WSF CEO

Alana Nichols
WSF President

Phaidra Knight
WSF President-elect
Special Thanks to Yahoo Sports

The Foundation’s work is vital to ensuring that the field for girls and women remains equitable — from the playground to the boardroom. She deserves the right to play, to be seen, to be heard, to be valued, and to realize her full power, potential and promise.

With great enthusiasm and deep gratitude, the Women’s Sports Foundation would like to thank Yahoo Sports, and its parent company Verizon Media, for their monumental support in producing and airing the 2020 Annual Salute to Women in Sports. Tonight we are sharing with the world how she can, and will, “Speak With Sport.”

Thank you to Guru Gowrappan, the Yahoo Sports’ production team led by Sarah Crennan, Ryan Dornbusch, Alan Springer, Jackie Pepper, Wesly Varghese, Coby Toland and Nicole Goland, and the countless number of supporting stars who made this evening possible. Bravo!

With gratitude,
Women’s Sports Foundation

“Sports play a vital role in the mental and physical health for so many of us and as the global athletic community joins together to continue to find innovative ways to keep playing, there has never been a more important time for the Women’s Sports Foundation. I am so proud to support the WSF and the transformative impact their work has on so many lives, as well as continue Verizon Media’s Yahoo Sports commitment to connect female athletes to their passions through the power of media, empowering women and girls around the globe.”
— Guru Gowrappan, Chief Executive Officer, Verizon Media

“The work of the Women’s Sports Foundation is an incredible example of what’s possible through the power of the collective, and when I think of all the women and girls who benefit from this important mission, I’m so proud to be committed to our partnership and delivering media experiences through Yahoo Sports to amplify that work.”
— Sarah Crennan, VP & Head of Content, Yahoo Sports
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(as of October 12, 2020)
Our Founder

Billie Jean King

Named one of the “100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century” by Life magazine and a 2009 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Billie Jean King is the founder of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, founder of the Women’s Tennis Association and the Women’s Sports Foundation and part of the ownership group of the Los Angeles Dodgers. In September 2020, King became the first woman to have an annual global team sports event named in her honor when Fed Cup, the women’s world cup of tennis, was rebranded as the Billie Jean King Cup. The National Tennis Center, home of the US Open, was renamed the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in 2006 in honor of her accomplishments on and off the court. In 2017, Fox Searchlight released the critically acclaimed film, Battle of the Sexes, which depicts the cultural and social impact of the groundbreaking match. In 2018 King received a Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards, in 2019 King’s deep Southern California roots were recognized with the opening of the Billie Jean King Main Library in her hometown of Long Beach, California and in 2020 King was honored with the release of the Billie Jean King Barbie doll, part of Mattel’s Inspiring Women Series. King serves on the board of the Women’s Sports Foundation, is an adidas Global Ambassador and is a past member of the board of the Elton John AIDS Foundation and a past member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition.
Laila Ali

Laila Ali is a world-class athlete, fitness & wellness advocate, TV host, home chef, founder of the Laila Ali Lifestyle Brand, and mother of two. The daughter of late beloved global icon and humanitarian, Muhammad Ali, she is a four-time undefeated boxing world champion, whose stellar record includes 24 wins (21 of which were knockouts) and zero losses.

Ali is heralded as the most successful female in the history of women’s boxing. In 2012 when women’s boxing was included in the Olympic Games, Ali was the first woman in history to provide expert commentary for NBC Sports.

As a Past President of the Women’s Sports Foundation, Ali promotes equality for women in the world of professional sports, and she pushes programs that encourage young women to be confident, healthy and strong through sports. She was also a major voice for the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark law which protects the right of women and girls to be included and treated equally in school sports.

Laila Ali is a sought-after inspirational speaker and author of her life’s story in a dynamic book for young women entitled Reach!
Julie Foudy

Julie Foudy, one of sport’s most recognized personalities, has leveraged an accomplished soccer career into a leading role as a women’s sports advocate and respected sports reporter and commentator.

Foudy, a four-year All-American at Stanford University, played for the U.S. National Women’s Soccer Team for 17 years, serving as captain for 13 years. She won two World Cup Championships, two Olympic gold medals and one Olympic silver medal.

Foudy served as Women’s Sports Foundation President from 2001-02 and was a member of the Board of Trustees for seven years; in 2003, she was appointed by President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige to the Commission on Title IX. In 2006, Foudy and her husband founded the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy, a camp that teaches leadership and soccer skills. She is currently a reporter and analyst for ABC/ESPN and a contributor and writer for espnW.


Last year, she launched her own podcast series, Laughter Permitted with Julie Foudy. In 2020, alongside some of her former USWNT teammates and other top names in sport and business, Foudy became one of the co-founders of Angel City, the new NWSL franchise based in Los Angeles.
LaChina Robinson

LaChina Robinson is an award-winning basketball analyst for ESPN just finishing her 11th season of college basketball and entering her 12th season of WNBA coverage. Her work around the sport as an analyst and reporter spans a wide range of collegiate, WNBA and NBA events during the regular season, NCAA Tournament, playoffs, finals, and draft coverage. Robinson has worked as an analyst during the NCAA Women’s Basketball Championship in every year of her television career. Robinson also has been chosen to work the WNBA Playoffs and Finals as one of only two analysts on the ESPN family of networks covering the sport.

Robinson is the host of espnW’s podcast “Around The Rim,” which was chosen as one of the best sports podcasts of 2017 by Sports Illustrated. As a student-athlete at Wake Forest University, she achieved All-ACC recognition both in the classroom and on the court.

In 2008 Robinson became Founder and CEO of her own consulting company, Stretch Beyond, through which she serves as a transition coach for women and athletes, a leadership brand developer, and highly sought-after keynote speaker for colleges and universities. In 2018 Robinson received high honors as the recipient of the Dawn Staley Excellence in Broadcasting Award. In 2020 she was recognized with the Giving Gracefully Award as a nod to her work as co-founder of her own non-profit, Rising Media Stars, which is a mentorship and training program for young women of color who want to start a career in sports broadcasting.
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Laila Ali, Sheila C. Johnson, Scott Pioli

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Special Guests & Athletes

Dr. Deborah Antoine, CEO, Women’s Sports Foundation

Scout Bassett, Track & Field, Paralympian and Parapan American Games gold medalist

Layshia Clarendon, Basketball, New York Liberty player, US National Women’s Team player and WNBA All-Star

Meryl Davis, Ice Dancing, Olympic gold medalist and US Skating Hall of Fame inductee

Sasha DiGiulian, Climbing, World Champion and first woman to complete The Canadian Trilogy in the Rocky Mountains all in one season

Meghan Duggan, Ice Hockey, Three-time Olympic medalist and IIHF Women’s World Champion

Grete Eliassen, Freeskiing, Six-time Winter X Games medalist and Guinness World Record holder for women’s hip jump

Cathy Engelbert, Commissioner of the WNBA

Aja Evans, Bobsled, Olympic bronze medalist and USABS Team of the Year Award winner

Charlotte Flair, Wrestling, WWE Superstar and 10-time Women’s Champion

Rupert Friend, Primetime Emmy Award-nominated actor

Rachel Garcia, Softball, Team USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and Honda Cup Award winner

Adeline Gray, Wrestling, Olympian and record-breaking five-time World Championship gold medalist

Natasha Hastings, Track & Field, Two-time Olympic gold medalist and eight-time World Championships medalist

Laurie Hernandez, Gymnastics, Two-time Olympic medalist and 2016 Dancing with the Stars champion

Wendy Hilliard, Rhythmic Gymnastics, USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame inductee and USOC Rings of Gold Award recipient

Shea Holbrook, Auto Racing, Seven-time Pirelli World Challenge winner and driver in the inaugural W Series all-female racing championship

Angela Hucles, Soccer, Two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time World Cup medalist

Sarah Hughes, Figure Skating, Olympic gold medalist and U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame inductee

Jaren Jackson Jr., Basketball, Memphis Grizzlies player and 4th overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft

Maral Javadifar, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach

Sheila C. Johnson, President & Managing Partner, Washington Mystics

Darcie Glazer Kassewitz, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Co-Owner

Jennifer King, Washington Football Team Offensive Assistant
Special Guests & Athletes

Phaidra Knight, Rugby, US Rugby Player of the Decade and World Rugby Hall of Fame inductee, Women’s Sports Foundation President-elect AAP, B, TT

Andrea Kremer, Emmy Award-winning and Hall of Fame journalist

Michelle Kwan, Figure Skating, Two-time Olympic medalist and U.S. Figure Skating and World Figure Skating Hall of Fame inductee TT, SOY

Carli Lloyd, Soccer, Two-time FIFA Women’s World Cup Champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist SOY

Lori Locust, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Assistant Defensive Line Coach

Jessica Long, Swimming, 23-time Paralympic medalist and the second-most decorated Paralympian in U.S. history AAP

Oksana Masters, Multi-sport, Four-time Paralympian and 8-time Paralympic medalist AAP, SOY

Dana Mathewson, Wheelchair Tennis, Paralympian and two-time Parapan American Games medalist

Tatyana McFadden, Wheelchair racing, 17-time Paralympic medalist and over 20 major marathon wins

Jessica Mendoza, Softball, Two-time Olympic medalist and Major League Baseball analyst AAP, PP, SOY

Chris Mosier, Track & Field, First openly trans man to make a US Men’s National Team and first transgender athlete to qualify for the Olympic Trials in the gender they identify

Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Track & Field, Olympic gold medalist and Pan American Games gold medalist PP

Aimee Mullins, Track & Field, Paralympian and Women’s Hall of Fame inductee AAP, PP

Alana Nichols, Multi-sport, Six-time Paralympic medalist and President of the Women’s Sports Foundation AAP, B

Joanna Nieh, Wheelchair Tennis, #1 US Junior Wheelchair Tennis player and two-time U.S. Paralympic Track & Field High School All-American

Diana Nyad, Swimming, Only person to swim non-stop 111 miles between Cuba and Florida

Candace Parker, Basketball, Two-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA Champion and MVP SOY

Pepper Persley, Young athlete and sports journalist

Scott Pioli, NFL Executive, Three-time Super Bowl Champion and five-time NFL Executive of the Year B

Natalie Portman, Academy Award-winning actress, director, producer, author and founder of Angel City
Special Guests & Athletes

Ron Rivera, Washington Football Team Head Coach and two-time Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year

Dawn Staley, Basketball, Head Coach of South Carolina Women’s Basketball and Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame inductee

Naya Tapper, Rugby, HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series silver medalist and USA Women’s Sevens team gold medalist

Elana Meyers Taylor, Bobsled, Three-time Olympic medalist and eight-time World Championship medalist AAP, PP, TT

Kelcie Tolan, Assistant Women’s Volleyball Coach at Cal State University San Bernardino and 2019 NCAA DII Volleyball National Champions

Tara VanDerveer, Head Coach of Stanford University Women’s Basketball, Naismith Memorial and Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame inductee

Brenda Villa, Water Polo, Most decorated women’s water polo athlete in the world with four Olympic medals AAP, TT

Lindsey Vonn, Skiing, Three-time Olympic medalist and holds women’s record of 82 World Cup wins

Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

Lauryn Williams, Track & Field and Bobsled, Three-time Olympic medalist and first American woman to medal in both summer and winter Olympic Games AAP

Ajee’ Wilson, Track & Field, Olympian and U.S. Indoor Track record holder and gold medalist

AAP: Athlete Advisory Panel member
B: Board of Trustees
PP: WSF Past President
TT: Travel & Training recipient
SOY: WSF Sportswoman of the Year honoree
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Lisa Finegan, Girls’ Rugby Coach
Stuart Krohn, Director of Rugby
Nia Toliver, Rugby, USA Women’s Rugby Team

Birmingham Area Tennis Association
Sarah Bailey, Life Coach & Founder, Coaching for Kids
Suzy Harris, Executive Director, Birmingham Area Tennis Association
John, Participant, Birmingham Area Tennis Association
Mercy, Participant, Birmingham Area Tennis Association

Our PACE program at Putnam Middle School serves students in grades 6-8. Many of the students in our program have disabilities, either physical or learning. Last year, the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Health visited our program to see us working with our students. They noted on their visit that we are one of very few sports programs in the State that places students with disabilities alongside able-bodied students. In the summer of 2018, we sponsored one of our students with disabilities to attend the USTA Southern Leadership Academy. Isaiah not only participated but thrived with the other students. This year, at the beginning of our program, one student was unable to touch her toes either sitting or standing and she could not hit a ball to save her life. Just a few days ago, we noted that she can touch her toes sitting and standing as well as hit forehands and backhands. In addition, she ran around the whole court—something she could not do at the beginning of our program.
Awards

Wilma Rudolph Courage Award
The Wilma Rudolph Courage Award is presented to a female athlete who exhibits extraordinary courage in her athletic performance, demonstrates the ability to overcome adversity, makes significant contributions to sports and serves as an inspiration and role model for others. The award is named in honor of Wilma Rudolph, the first American woman to win three gold medals in an Olympic Games. Rudolph overcame many childhood diseases, including polio, to become a world champion. Rudolph died in 1994 of brain cancer.

Champion for Equality Award
The Champion for Equality Award is presented to an individual or organization that has shown an unwavering commitment to gender equality and to the advancement of girls and women in sports. Through their personal and professional example, the recipients have inspired others to advocate for diversity and inclusion, to hire, support, mentor and elevate women, and to strive for equality because it’s the right thing to do.

Billie Jean King Leadership Award
The Billie Jean King Leadership Award, presented with the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, honors an individual or group who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made significant contributions to the advancement of women through achievements in sports and the workplace. Through their personal and professional example, the recipients have inspired women and girls and demonstrated a lasting commitment to the growth of sports and physical activity for all women and girls. The Leadership Award is presented with the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, a non-profit dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion in the workplace. Founded by Billie Jean King in 2014, the organization advocates for equal pay for equal work, and partners with leaders who are making positive change.
Wilma Rudolph Courage Award

The Players of the WNBA
Salute to Women in Sports

Wilma Rudolph Courage Award

The Players of the WNBA

For their bold courage and unity in the face of some of the most turbulent times in this country’s history, the Players of the WNBA have shown grace, poise and power in an unconventional 2020 season by dedicating themselves and their season to social justice and racial equality. For their strength, unity and bravery, the Players of the WNBA as a collective are this year’s Wilma Rudolph Courage Award recipient. The Players of the WNBA are joining a long list of accomplished past honorees that includes Marta Vieira da Silva, Caster Semenya and Tatyana McFadden.

In early July, just a few weeks before the teams entered the “Wubble” at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., for their shortened season, the league and the Women’s National Basketball Players Association announced The WNBA Justice Movement and the creation of the WNBA/WNBPA Social Justice Council, setting the stage for a bold, first-of-its-kind commitment from the players to advocating for social justice.

In a league that is composed of 80% Black women, players utilizing their voices and platforms is nothing new. WNBA players have historically been at the forefront of issues they are passionate about and have been unapologetically themselves as they continue to speak out about issues facing the LGTBQ+ community, racial and gender equality, and mass incarceration, among other causes.

Though the season is dedicated to the Black Lives Matter and Say Her Name campaigns, the mission of the Social Justice Council — led by players like WSF Ambassador Layshia Clarendon, Breanna Stewart, A’ja Wilson, Satou Sabally, Tierra Ruffin-Pratt and Sydney
Colson — is to be a driving force of necessary and continuing conversations about race, voting rights, LGBTQ+ advocacy and gun violence, as well as other societal issues.

The players have taken the initiative and put it into action. “Black Lives Matter” shirts are worn during warm-ups at every game — Clarendon’s New York Liberty have also worn “Black Trans Lives Matter” shirts — and players’ jerseys display Breonna Taylor’s name to “seek justice for women and girls who have been the forgotten victims of police brutality and racial violence.”

Also, a moment of silence and remembrance is held before each game to honor Black women who have been killed as a result of the systemic, race-based violence that is the center of the Black Lives Matter movement.

In addition to the league-wide initiatives, teams and individual players have begun their own movements. The Indiana Fever players led the #Rebounds4Change campaign as a fundraiser for fans to donate to social justice causes for each rebound this season. The Atlanta Dream, Phoenix Mercury and Chicago Sky wore “Vote Warnock” shirts to support the Senate campaign of Raphael Warnock in Georgia, who is running against Dream owner Kelly Loeffler, an outspoken opponent of the Black Lives Matter movement. Maya Moore, Natasha Cloud, Renee Montgomery and others have taken the bold step of opting out of the season, in effect pausing their WNBA careers, to fight for social justice off the court.

Further, several players, including Candace Parker, Devereaux Peters, Jonquel Jones, Wilson and Clarendon have penned pieces in The Players’ Tribune about their experiences as Black women in this country, and others such as Katie Lou Samuelson, Elena Delle Donne and Natalie Achonwa have publicly spoken out about their struggles with health, both mental and physical.

In 2020, the Players of the WNBA have set the bar for other professional sports leagues — men’s and women’s — looking to add their voices to the momentum around combating police brutality and race-based oppression.
Salute to Women in Sports

Bruce Arians

Under the leadership of head coach Bruce Arians, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers franchise has grown into one of the most inclusive and diverse organizations in the NFL. At its helm, Arians has fostered inclusion not just on the field — where he has assembled the most gender-diverse coaching staff in the league — but also at the grassroots level, where he leads the organization in creating opportunities in football for girls in the Tampa Bay area and across the country.

Hired in January 2019 after serving as the Arizona Cardinals head coach from 2013-17, Arians was quick to bring the same culture he had created in Arizona to Tampa Bay. While with the Cardinals, Arians made history by hiring Dr. Jen Welter, the first woman to coach in the NFL, as a training camp and preseason coaching intern.

With the Buccaneers, Arians has taken his commitment to progress even further. Under his team mentorship and the organization’s leadership, Tampa Bay became the first in NFL history to hire two female coaches in full-time assistant roles — Maral Javadifar and Lori Locust serve as assistant strength and conditioning and assistant defensive line coaches, respectively. Additionally, the Buccaneers recently hired Jacqueline Davidson as director of football research, further diversifying the team’s front office staff.

Throughout his career, Arians has held the belief that everyone deserves a seat at the table, and that it is well past time to dismantle the diversity problem in NFL coaching, which has historically been largely occupied by white men. Case in point, the Buccaneers are the only NFL franchise to have three coordinator positions, as well as the role of assistant head coach, filled by minority coaches.

Arians’ influence also extends to the grassroots level, where he is ensuring that the next generation of girls grows up in a world in which they are welcomed in the traditionally male-dominated sport of football. This year, the Buccaneers hosted the second annual Girls High School Flag Football Preseason Classic, the largest girls flag football competition in the country. The team has also implemented girls flag football curriculum into local communities, including establishing the Jr. Bucs Girls Flag Football League to help grow the game at the youth level.

Arians’ coaching accolades speak for themselves. He is a two-time Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year, earning the award in 2012 (Indianapolis Colts) and in 2014 (Arizona Cardinals). He is the only coach in NFL history to earn the award multiple times in a three-year span with different teams, and is one of only 12 coaches in NFL history to win the award multiple times.
Ursula Burns

After an influential career in which she demonstrated a commitment to diversity while breaking down barriers for the next generation of women leaders, Ursula Burns, retired Chairman and CEO of Xerox Corporation and VEON, Ltd., is the 2020 Billie Jean King Leadership Award recipient. Burns, the first Black woman to head a Fortune 500 company, has spent her extraordinary career breaking down barriers for the next generation of women leaders and advocating for gender and racial diversity in major companies.

Burns joined the Xerox Corporation as an intern in 1980 and spent most of her career with the company, rising to Chairman of the Board and CEO, roles in which she served from 2010-17 and 2009-16, respectively. She had held additional leadership roles in the company spanning corporate services, manufacturing and product development. As CEO, Burns led the company’s transformation from a global leader in document technology to the world’s most diversified business services company serving enterprises and governments of all sizes.

Since Burns retired from Xerox in 2016, there have been no other Black women and only four Black men Fortune 500 CEOs — a clear paucity of diversity at the highest echelons of corporate America, and the impetus for Burns’ continued advocacy for more women and Black voices at the table. She also helped launch The WomanMakers initiative, an outgrowth of The HistoryMakers, the nation’s largest African American video oral history collection.

Burns, who regularly appears on Fortune’s and Forbes’ list of the world’s most powerful women, is a board director of Exxon Mobil, Nestlé and Uber. U.S. President Barack Obama appointed her to help lead the White House national program on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) from 2009-16, and she served as Chair of the President’s Export Council from 2015-16 after service as Vice Chair from 2010-15. In 2008, Burns was also named to the U.S. Olympic Committee’s Board of Directors.

Applying her knowledge and expertise beyond the C-Suite, Burns also provides leadership counsel to several community, educational and nonprofit organizations, including the Ford Foundation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Corporation, Cornell Tech Board of Overseers, the New York City Ballet, and the Mayo Clinic, among others. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineers and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
50th Anniversary Tribute

The Original 9

Photo reproduced with permission of the Houston Post and the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (September 23, 1970)
The Original 9

Fifty years ago, nine brave women put their careers on the line and took a courageous stand for equality.

In a bold move to oppose the growing disparity in prize money and playing opportunities for women compared to men in pro tennis, Peaches Bartkowicz, Rosie Casals, Judy Tegart Dalton, Julie Heldman, Billie Jean King, Kristy Pigeon, Kerry Melville Reid, Nancy Richey and Valerie Ziegenfuss signed $1 contracts with tennis promoter Gladys Heldman and played in the newly formed Houston Women’s Invitation. The tournament’s success led to the formation of the Virginia Slims Circuit and ultimately paved the way for today’s thriving WTA Tour.

The new organization was guided by three principles. First, any girl born any place in the world, if she is good enough, will have an opportunity to compete. Second, she will be recognized for her accomplishments and not just her looks. And third, she will be able to make a living as a tennis player. WTA remains true to these principles to this day.

Since 2007, all four Grand Slam tennis tournaments offer equal prize money to men and women, and earlier this year Naomi Osaka became the highest-paid female athlete in the world, an honor that belonged to Serena Williams for a number of consecutive years.

The bravery of the Original 9 on September 23, 1970, has had a transformational impact on gender equality to this day, well beyond the sport of tennis. From the USWNT to the WNBA, female athletes are fighting around the globe for equal pay and equal play. And increasingly, they are taking on the challenge, using their powerful platforms and raising their voices to advocate for change in sport — and society.

To paraphrase the historic, Virginia Slims advertising slogan, “We’ve come a long way, baby!”
Auction Packages on Charitybuzz

* Auction runs through 10/22/2020

**Virtual Meet & Greet with Olympic Gold Medalist Meryl Davis**

[Click Here for Preview]

Estimated Value: $1,500
Opening Bid: $525

**Virtually Meet CNN Anchor and Author Brooke Baldwin, Plus Signed Copy of HUDDLE**

[Click Here for Preview]

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Opening Bid: $1,050

**Ski or Snowboard with Grete Eliassen at Solitude Mountain, includes 4 Day Passes & One-Night Stay through 2022**

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Opening Bid: $525
Auction Packages on Charitybuzz

*Women’s Sports Foundation* Salute to Women in Sports

Auction runs through 10/22/2020

Meet Billie Jean King with 2 Tickets to Her Suite at the 2021 US Open Aug. 31, 2021, OR Sept. 1, 2021

[Click Here for Preview](#)

Estimated Value: $5,000

Opening Bid: $1,050

4 Tickets to a 2021 NBC Sunday Night Football Regular-Season Game with a Behind the Scenes Look of the Game’s Production

[Click Here for Preview](#)

Estimated Value: $1,000

Opening Bid: $275

Virtual Consult with Mori Taheripour, Expert Negotiation Strategist, Award-Winning Educator & Author, Plus Signed Book

[Click Here for Preview](#)

Estimated Value: $2,500

Opening Bid: $525

Auction Packages on Charitybuzz

*Women’s Sports Foundation* Salute to Women in Sports

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Aleia Taylor, Chief Marketing Officer
Digant Bahl, Chief Financial Officer
Jean Tatge, Chief Development Officer
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Sarah Axelson, Senior Director, Advocacy
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Elena Hight, Snowboarding
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Charmaine Reid, Badminton
Elena Hight, Snowboarding
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Alysia Montaño, Track & Field
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Eventage
Matt Glass
Carly Bovell

(as of October 8, 2020)
All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) was a professional women’s baseball league founded by Philip K. Wrigley which existed from 1943 to 1954. The AAGPBL is the forerunner of women’s professional league sports in the United States. Over 600 women played in the league, which eventually consisted of 10 teams located in the American Midwest. In 1948, league attendance peaked at over 900,000 spectators. The most successful team, the Rockford Peaches, won a league-best four championships. The 1992 motion picture A League of Their Own is a mostly fictionalized account of the early days of the league and its stars.

All members were inducted into the 1988 Baseball Hall of Fame

Marilyn Jenkins, 85, Baseball
Grand Rapids Chicks

Mary Pratt, 101, Baseball
Rockford Peaches, Kenosha Comets

Pauline “Pinky” Pirok, 93, Baseball
Kenosha Comets, South Bend Blue Sox

Barbara Thompson, 86, Baseball
Rockford Peaches

M. Delores “Dolly” Brumfield White, 88, Baseball
Kenosha Comets, Fort Wayne Daisies

Magdalen Marie Redman, 90, Baseball
Kenosha Comets, Grand Rapids Chicks
Angela Buxton, 85, Tennis
British tennis player Angela Buxton was the doubles partner of Althea Gibson when Gibson became the first Black person to win a major title in 1956. Together they won the doubles title at the French Open and Wimbledon. That same year Buxton reached the singles final at the All England Club. The accomplishments of Buxton and Gibson on the court were historic, but it was the lifelong friendship and commitment to fighting for equality that made their partnership special. Buxton was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in 2015 in honor of what she was able to help Gibson achieve.

Jackie Court, 81, Head Coach, Gymnastics
Jackie Court was the first woman of color to coach at Brown University, where she was the head gymnastics coach for 30 years. While at Brown, Court earned ECAC Coach of the Year honors in both 1997 and 1999 as well as NCAA Northeast Region Coach of the Year accolades in 1999. Throughout her career, Court served as State Chairperson of USA Gymnastics, District Chairperson for the National High School Federation, and on the advisory boards for the Women’s Sports Foundation and New England Women’s Fund. Jackie Court is also recognized as a pioneer in the Title IX movement, for which she was instrumental in the case of Cohen vs. Brown, which ultimately held Brown University accountable for Title IX violations and saved women’s programs.

Jeanne Evert Dubin, 62, Tennis
Jeanne Evert Dubin, younger sister of 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert, was a former world-ranked professional tennis player. In 1973, Dubin became the youngest player to represent the United States in Wightman Cup team competition against Great Britain and the following year did not lose a match in helping the U.S. reach the Fed Cup final. Dubin’s highest ranking came when she played doubles with her sister and together they reached No. 4. After retiring in 1978, Dubin and her now-late husband started a golf and tennis management, development and consultation company later called JCD Sports Group. The company managed the Delray Beach Tennis Center where Dubin coached, ran the ladies’ teams and assisted with the management of the facility.
Phyllis George, 70, Sportscaster
Phyllis George was a trailblazer for women in sports broadcasting, becoming one of the first women to have a nationally prominent role reporting for televised sports. She was the first female co-anchor of the National Football League’s pregame show “The NFL Today.” George also covered horse racing events, including the Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

Noel Johnson, 47, Head Coach, Basketball
Noel Johnson’s 159 wins in 12 seasons as head coach of Midwestern State University’s women’s basketball team were the most in program history. Before becoming head coach at MSU Texas, Johnson was the assistant coach at Texas State from 1998 to 2007 and assistant coach at North Texas from 2007 to 2008. In college, Johnson was the point guard for Texas Tech’s 1993 national championship team. Johnson was inducted into the Texas Tech Hall of Fame in 2005, the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 and the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame in 2019.

Angela Madsen, 60, Rowing
Seven-time U.S. national team rower, three-time Paralympian and Marine veteran, Angela Madsen first rowed for the U.S. national team in 2002, when pararowing debuted at the World Rowing Championships. She continued to compete for the U.S. through the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, finishing seventh in the trunk and arms mixed double sculls with partner Scott Brown. Madsen had a passion for ocean rowing and rowed across the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean, in addition to circumnavigating Great Britain. During her national team career, Madsen won four gold medals and one silver medal and earned six Guinness World Records.

Carley McCord, 30, Sports Journalist
Carley McCord was a talented and passionate sports journalist who began her career in sports after graduating from Northwestern State in 2011, she earned a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Louisiana State University in 2013. McCord spent time working with some of the biggest names in sports, including the New Orleans Pelicans, New Orleans Saints and Cleveland Browns. McCord had a deep love for her home state of Louisiana and was able to work as a digital media reporter for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as well as a radio host for local Louisiana radio stations the 100.7 The Tiger and 104.5 ESPN Baton Rouge.
In Memoriam

Irene Pollin, 96, Sports Executive and Philanthropist
Irene Pollin, together with her husband, Abe Pollin, owned the Washington Capitals, Wizards and Mystics. She played a critical role in the construction and operation of two arenas in Washington and was also influential in the addition of the WNBA’s Washington Mystics to the family’s sports empire. Outside of her influence in the sports world, Pollin was a psychotherapist, philanthropist and a pioneer of women’s health causes. In 2000, she founded Sister to Sister: The Women’s Heart Health Foundation, the nation’s first organization dedicated to women’s heart disease prevention and education, which she led for 14 years.

Lynnea E. Sjoquist, 66, Basketball
Lynnea Sjoquist was a player, coach and manager with the All American Redhead Professional Basketball Traveling Team. As a member of the All American Redhead Professional Basketball Traveling Team, Sjoquist was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn., and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Vicki Wood, 101, Auto Racing
Vicki Wood, a trailblazer in the male-dominated sport of auto racing, was called “the fastest woman in racing” and was among the first women to compete in NASCAR events. In the 10 years she raced, she collected 48 trophies and 60 years later, still holds the 150-mph speed record on the sand at Daytona Beach.

Mary Kathryn “Mickey” Wright, 85, Golf
American professional golfer Mickey Wright, considered by many to be the best player in the history of women’s golf, won 82 LPGA tournaments, 13 of them majors. Wright won both the United States Women’s Open and the LPGA Championship four times, she also won the Western Open three times and the Titleholders Championship twice when they were major events. She was named the “Woman Athlete of the Year” by The Associated Press in 1963 when she won 13 LPGA tournaments, still a record for a single season, and in 1964, when she won 11 times. She was also inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1976 and was named the AP’s female golfer of the century in 1999.
#KeepPlaying