

# The Legend

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## BEEP BASEBALL

Blind athletes inspire the staff at The Hall. Story on page 2.



## INDUCTEE NEWS

Philadelphia lost a legend in July. Get to know Bucko Kilroy on page 4.



## HALL EVENTS

Philadelphia Park hosts the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame Classic. Read more on page 2.



## The Newest Hall of Famers

Ken Avallon - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

Consisting of 13 individuals and one team induction, Class IV of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame was announced at a press conference June 28 hosted by the Phillies. With over 50 people attending the event in the Citizens Bank Park media room, the Hall of Fame's Bob Cassidy introduced the latest group of Hall of Famers, representing seven sports, broadcasting and sports writing.

The class consists of former Eagles **Frank 'Bucko' Kilroy**, **Reggie White** and former coach **Earle 'Greasy' Neale**, **Beth Anders** (field hockey), the Flyers' **Bill Barber**, long-time Inquirer writer **Bill Lyon** (Legacy of Excellence), baseball Hall of Famers **Chuck Klein** and **Mickey Cochrane**, **Earl 'The Pearl' Monroe** (basketball), **Harry Litwack** (former Temple basketball coach), Emmy-winning broadcaster **Jack Whitaker** (Legacy of Excellence), women's basketball's **Theresa Grentz** and soccer legend **Walter Bahr**. Rounding out the class is the 1980 World Series Champion Phillies team induction.

"I'm humbled. I'm honored. And it touches my heart," said nine-time Pennsylvania sports writer of the year **Bill Lyon**. "Honestly, I'm overwhelmed. I try to make my living with words, and I'm at a loss for them to express how much it means to me."

**Garry Maddox** and **Greg Luzinski** from the 1980 Phillies were in attendance as was Temple's **Al Shrier**, speaking on behalf of Harry Litwack's daughters Shelly Smoger and Lois Kaeserman.

St. Joseph's Athletic Director **Don Dijulia** stood in for Jack Whitaker and Beth Anders was represented by Ursinus AD **Brian Thomas**. Also in attendance were Bucko Kilroy's brother and sister Joseph Kilroy and Mary Kilroy Pogash.

Support for other inductees included the Philadelphia Old-Timers Soccer Association (Bahr), Zach Hill of the Flyers (Barber) and the Philadelphia Athletics Historical Society (Cochrane).

The Class IV Induction ceremony is Wednesday December 12, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency at Penns Landing. For information on how you can celebrate with your favorite Philly legends, see page 3.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	page
Beep Baseball and The Pennsylvania Wolfpack	2
Class IV Induction Ceremony	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Golf Classic	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Classic held at Philadelphia Park	4
Remembering Bucko Kilroy	5



### A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORT OF BEEP BASEBALL:

- Sighted catchers and pitchers play with blindfolded fielders and hitters.
- When a batter hits, a base operator turns on 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base for the hitter to run to.
- If the batter touches the base before a fielder picks up the ball, a run is scored.
- Spotters help prevent player collisions and call out what part of the field the ball has been hit to.
- The game is played with a modified, oversized softball that beeps.
- Bases are made of foam, stand about five feet tall and emit a buzzing sound.

### RESULTS:

- Game 1: PA 3 – Bos 2  
 Game 2: NC 11 – Col 2  
 Game 3: NC 5 – PA 2  
 Game 4: Bos 11 – Col 3  
 Game 5: PA 2 – Col 1  
 Game 6: NC 7 – Bos 5



## An Impressive New Sport

*The Hall hosts the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Beep Baseball Hall of Fame Classic*

*Susan Grace - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame*

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Beep Baseball Hall of Fame Classic was held at Crows Woods Recreation Center in Haddonfield, NJ.

The four-team round robin tournament included the **North Carolina Wildcards** (3-0), the **Pennsylvania Wolfpack** (2-1), **Boston Renegades** (1-2), and the **Columbus Vipers** (0-3).

The Wildcards received the **Darryl Green Memorial Trophy**, named for the Goalball and Beep Baseball player who was killed in a hit-and-run accident in June, hours after placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Goalball Nationals.


**Most Valuable Players:** Barney Fleming (NC) was named the Offensive MVP with a batting average of .615 and Dan Kelly (Col) was the Defensive MVP with 28 put outs.

*“This organization is such an inspiration and The Hall is so proud to be working with such a worthwhile group. We hope to continue our relationship with the BSO for many years to come,” says Pete Georgelos of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.*

This summer, The Hall helped send the Wolfpack to Rochester, MN for the 2007 Beep Baseball World Series. Finishing 7<sup>th</sup> overall, the team received the Team Sportsmanship Award, and player/coach Greg Gontaryk was named to the Defensive All-Tournament Team.

The Hall extends congratulations to the Wolfpack and the World Series Champion, Kansas All-Stars, on their excellent achievements.

Beep Baseball is part of the Blind Sports Organization (BSO), with the mission to promote, provide and advocate sports, recreational and social opportunities for the blind and visually-impaired. The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame is proud of our ongoing relationship with this important organization.

For more information, visit: [www.blindsports.org](http://www.blindsports.org) 



Be sure to check out the exclusive collection of Hall of Fame merchandise at our online Souvenir Shoppe:

[WWW.PHILLYHALL.COM](http://WWW.PHILLYHALL.COM)



### In the next Issue

- Garry Maddox's Annual BBQ Competition
- Marco Polo Design is partnering with The Hall for a new website design!
- Featured Inductee: Tommy McDonald
- Updates on:
  - Class IV Inductees
  - The Vet's Liberty Bell
  - Home of The Hall:  
919 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

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## New venue-New date for Class IV Inductions

In 2004, our Charter Class Induction Ceremony drew just under 300 people to the Sheraton Society Hill. The next two years saw that total nearly double with last year's sold out event packing almost 600 people into the same ballroom last April.

With this amazing growth, the Hall has changed venues for 2007, moving to the Hyatt Regency on Penn's Landing. We also analyzed the logistics involved in the nomination and election process. It was determined that it is more appropriate to have the nomination, election and Induction in the same calendar year, hence the change to early December.

Last year's event sold out almost three weeks in advance, and Class IV promises to be another hot ticket. Advance sales are available by calling 215.886.6657 Ext 1 or visiting [www.phillyhall.com](http://www.phillyhall.com).

### CLASS IV

Frank 'Bucko' Kilroy	Reggie White	Earle 'Greasy' Neale
Beth Anders	Bill Barber	Bill Lyon
Chuck Klein	Mickey Cochrane	Earl 'The Pearl' Monroe
Harry Litwack	Jack Whitaker	Theresa Greutz
Walter Bahr	1980 World Series Champion Phillies	

Inductees are selected from public nominations via email ([nominees@phillyhall.net](mailto:nominees@phillyhall.net)), website (<http://www.phillyhof.org/nominee.asp>) or by US Mail (Hall of Fame Nominations 410 Waverly Rd. Wyncote, PA 19095). Nominations are currently being accepted for next year's class. 📧

## Calling all Sports Fans

### Would you like to be a part of Philadelphia's Sports Hall Of Fame?

We are still looking for talented local people in the area to get involved.

Special areas of need include:

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 📧 Public Relations | Marketing                       |
| 📧 Video Production | Exhibit Design and Construction |

To set up a meeting, send an email to [INFO@PHILLYHALL.NET](mailto:INFO@PHILLYHALL.NET)

### Would you like to celebrate with Philadelphia's Sports Legends?

The Class IV Induction ceremony is **Wednesday December 12, 2007** at the **Hyatt Regency at Penns Landing**, and **you are invited!**

**This event has sold out every year – order your tickets now:**

[www.phillyhall.com](http://www.phillyhall.com)

or

**215.886.6657 Ext 1.**

## And they're off...

Philadelphia Park hosts the first annual *Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame Classic*

Steve Tallant - Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

On Saturday, August 4th, several Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame board members, staffers and friends gathered at Philadelphia Park in Bensalem for the Hall's annual "Picnic at the Park". The highlight of the day was the seventh race, the inaugural "Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame Classic".

A total of nine horses aged three years old and up contested the one mile and 70 yard race with a purse of \$21,000.



*Alvan Was Great*, one of the pre-race favorites at 6-1 ridden by jockey Frankie Pennington, galloped to victory with a time of 1:42.45. *Mojave Sun* placed while *A.P. Awesome* showed to round out the top three finishers. The Hall is in discussions with the Racing Directors at Philadelphia Park to have a much more formal annual stakes race in the coming years.

The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame embraces more than just the 'Big Four' major sports. The Hall embraces the wide sports landscape, such as Philly's love for horse racing, as evidenced by both *Smarty Jones* and *Afleet Alex* winning "Pride of Philly" awards in the past. Our annual day in the Picnic Grove at Philadelphia Park is a wonderful, relaxing day, full of food, fun and plenty of Philadelphia sports talk - and maybe even a bet or two!!! 🍷

## Sports Legends & Fans "Tee It Up" to benefit the Hall of Fame

By Dan Fahy Jr

Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame

On the second Monday in May, over 95 Philadelphia sport legends, luminaries and general fans of the Philly sports scene came out for a great day of golf and camaraderie, while showing their continued support of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. The second annual "Hall of Fame Golf Classic" was held at Blue Bell Country Club for the second straight year. 71 degrees, blue skies and plenty of sunshine were the order of the day. Guests of the Hall that day were treated to an early morning breakfast attended by numerous Hall of Fame Inductees, a surprise visit by the Phillie Phanatic and 18 holes of golf with numerous Inductees and area sports celebrities. The voice of Citizens Bank Park and Lincoln Financial Field, Dan Baker, served as our pre golf Master of Ceremonies. Dan introduced the crowd to Hall of Fame inductees Tommy McDonald, John Chaney, Harvey Pollack, Tom Gola, Tom Brookshier and various other members of the 1960 World Champion Philadelphia Eagles, "Mr. Invincible" Vince Papale, the voice of the 76ers Marc Zumoff, sports writer Sam Carchidi, former 76ers guard Gerald Henderson and Phillies PR extraordinaire Scott Palmer.

After a fun day of golf on the links, everyone gathered in the clubhouse for a cocktail hour where Inductees and special guests mingled with the supporters and shared great stories of their time in the Philadelphia sports scene. A silent auction took place at the same time, where guests had an opportunity to bid on some fantastic items that included golf packages, sports memorabilia donated by our Inductees and tickets to Phillies and Eagles games. During the dinner hour, Daily News Columnist Stan Hochman served as auctioneer and helped the Hall auction off four special items, that included a Jimmy Rollins autographed baseball bat, a round of golf and lunch for four at Huntingdon Valley Country Club, a basketball autographed by Hall of Famer Billy Cunningham and a seat on the bench with Phil Martelli and the Saint Joseph's Hawks during a basketball game at the Palestra this upcoming season.

"What a fantastic day for the Hall", said former Eagles General Manager Jim Murray. "These are the kind of happenings that bring a real awareness of what the Hall of Fame has done to date, and what is in store for the future. You guys should be proud."

We are, Jim. But we have a lot of work ahead of us. Preliminary plans are underway for the third annual Hall of Fame Golf Classic, with a new venue for 2008. To all of our supporters who were on hand at this year's Golf Classic, my sincerest thanks. We look forward to seeing you all back next year! 🍷



## Remembering Bucko

Frank "Bucko" Kilroy (5/30/21-7/10/07)

Frank "Bucko" Kilroy, Philadelphia native and graduate of Northeast Catholic High School, died at age 86, just months before his induction into the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

Bucko's brother, Joseph Kilroy, and sister, Mary Kilroy Pogash, attended the press conference that declared the fourth class of Inductees into The Hall.

"He's happy that he has a place in history," said Mary Kilroy, "and that it is in Philadelphia."

"The last time I visited him the hospital, he had that wonderful twinkle in his eye and funny laugh" his sister Mary said.

"I gave him a copy of the press release announcing his induction into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame. He was so pleased to be honored in his home town of Philadelphia. Our family thanks the voting body of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame for this tribute to Bucko before his death."

Growing up in the Port Richmond area of Philadelphia, Bucko was the first Football All-American at Temple University (1941-1942), Associated Press First Team All East and was inducted into the Temple Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977.

Kilroy started his professional career in 1943, playing for the "Steagles" – the combined team of Steelers and Eagles during World War II – and played for the Eagles until a knee injury in 1955.

A two-way tackle, Bucko earned All-Pro status three times as an offensive guard and three as a defensive middle guard. He played in three Pro Bowls (1952, 1953, 1954), was named to the NFL 1940's All-Decade Team and was voted to the Eagles All-Time 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team.

He played a vital role in the Eagles three straight division titles (1947-1949) and back-to-back NFL Championships. To this day, the '48 and '49 Eagles are the only NFL teams in history to win back-to-back championships by shutout (in 1948 Philadelphia beat Chicago 7-0, in 1949 they defeated Los Angeles 14-0).

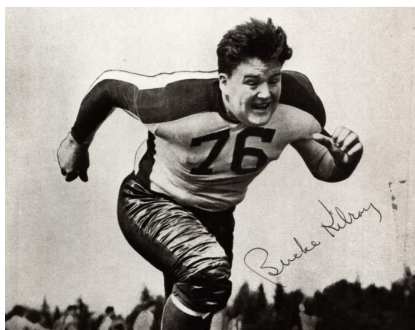


Bucko endeared himself to his hometown through his aggressive style of play, and set the bar for all future Eagles. Opponents would call him a dirty player, but he dismissed this as the excuse of losers. He was thrown out of only two games in his career and prided himself on his reputation as one of the toughest players of his era.

He didn't miss a start from 1947-1954, setting a league record for the most consecutive games. He missed only one game because of an injury and during his last three seasons, he served as both a player and a coach.

When his playing career came to an end, he became a full-time assistant coach for the Eagles. He also became a personnel director, as one of the first five talent scouts in the NFL. His eye for talent helped rebuild his team, and Bucko led the Eagles to their third World Championship in 1960 as head scout and assistant coach.

His career took him to Washington, then Dallas, and in 1971 he became personnel director for New England. The Patriots named him General Manager in 1979, Vice President in 1983, and in 1994 he returned to scouting for the Pats, where he would stay for the rest of his life. He was instrumental in building the talent rich dynasty that has won three of the past six Super Bowls.



Bucko has been credited as a founder of the NFL Draft, one of the founders of the National Football Scouting Combine, and shaping the Super Bowl. His reputation for sensing potential talent bordered on the mystical and he served as a mentor to other scouts and scouting executives, cementing his influence on the game that he loved all of his life.

**"Looking back, I always loved the game of football," said Kilroy. "And being able to serve and win as a player, coach, executive, and seeing how the game has changed over time in its popularity and just simply evolved is quite an experience." 🏈**