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## FAIRFIELD COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT SIX NEW MEMBERS

STAMFORD, CT – The Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame today announced its second class of inductees. The Hall of Fame, which is overseen by the Fairfield County Sports Commission, Inc., inducted nine original members in 2005, and now adds six more prominent sports figures into its three wings. The official induction ceremonies for the newly elected Hall of Famers takes place at the Commission's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SportsNight awards dinner, Monday, Oct. 23 at the Westin Stamford.

Two Hall of Famers were selected in each of the three HOF Wings: Jackie Robinson Professional, James O'Rourke Amateur and J. Walter Kennedy Community Service. In the professional category, two of the county's greatest baseball talents were named in **Bobby Valentine** (Stamford) and **Mo Vaughn** (Norwalk). The amateur wing selections are **Joan Joyce** (Stratford) and **Walter Lockett** (Bridgeport). Community service winners are **Ray Barry** (Norwalk) and **Frank "Porky" Vieira** (Bridgeport).

"Our six newest Hall of Famers represent world class talent on the field and also on the coaching lines," said Fairfield County Sports Commission Executive Director Tom Chiappetta. "Whether it is a performance on their respective national stages or here in our own backyard, their contribution to their sports and to our area is immeasurable."

Valentine and Vaughn join Julius Boros, Kristine Lilly, Calvin Murphy and Steve Young in the Jackie Robinson Professional Wing. Valentine was a 10-year major leaguer, who gained more prominence as a manager in leading the 2000 New York Mets to the World Series, and also piloting the Chiba Lotte Marines to both the Japan World Series championship and the Asian title last year. Vaughn, a left-handed, power-hitting first baseman, is a former American League MVP in 1995 with the Boston Red Sox, who played 12 years in the majors, including his final two with the Mets.

In many circles, Joyce is considered the greatest fast pitch softball pitcher ever. She was a mainstay of the Stratford-based Raybestos Brakettes for 19 seasons, 11 of those culminating in a national championship. A member of the National Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, she was also a multi-sport athlete competing on the LPGA tour for 19 years, in AAU women's basketball and national level volleyball. The Waterbury native is currently the softball and women's golf coach at Florida Atlantic University. Lockett is one of the state's greatest scholastic basketball players, scoring 2,691 points as a sharp-shooting lefty at Kolbe-Cathedral High in Bridgeport. He then moved on to a standout career at Ohio University (1973-75) where he averaged over 20 points all three seasons to

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**(Continued)**

earn membership in the Ohio U. Athletic Hall of Fame (1986).

Joyce and Lockett join Dorothy Hamill, Bruce Jenner and Bill Toomey in the James O'Rourke Amateur Wing.

Barry coached three different Norwalk High School programs to high levels of success. As the boys and girls basketball coach and girls' softball coach, Barry won 19 FCIAC titles, 4 state championships and a total of nearly 900 victories in his 31-year coaching career. Vieira is one of the all-time great Division II baseball coaches with 1,128 wins and a .777 winning percentage, tops in Division II history, and 17 trips to the World Series. He recently retired after 44 years at the University of New Haven. The Bridgeport native was also a longtime baseball and basketball official, and had a stellar amateur basketball career as one of the state's greatest scholastic scorers and still the holder of the all-time scoring record at Quinnipiac University.

These two prolific coaches enter the J. Walter Kennedy Community Service Wing, which saw two county coaching legends inducted last year in Dave Bike and Jerry McDougall.

The Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame is housed at the University of Connecticut Stamford Campus in downtown Stamford. The Hall of Fame is open 6 days a week from 9 am-5 pm.

The Fairfield County Sports Commission, Inc. is a 501c6 non-profit that is the one-stop resource for the sports community in the county. The Commission, other than the executive director position, is an all-volunteer group whose mission is to improve the quality of life in Fairfield County by promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. The main focus of the Commission is creating and supporting programs for fitness awareness education, primarily centered on the 110,000 school age children in the 15 communities it serves.

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