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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR INFORMATION

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Harris County - Houston Sports Authority Announces Houston Sports Hall of Fame

Earl Campbell, Hakeem Olajuwon & Nolan Ryan comprise inaugural class

HOUSTON -- Three legendary players. One great sports city.

And now, one place to celebrate the best in Houston sports – the Houston Sports Hall of Fame.

As an exclamation point to last Thursday's inaugural Houston Sports Awards, the Harris County - Houston Sports Authority, in partnership with Midway and Lionstone, announced the creation of the Houston Sports Hall of Fame.

- WHAT:** Houston Sports Hall of Fame (Renderings attached)
- WHO:** Inaugural class: Earl Campbell, Hakeem Olajuwon, Nolan Ryan
- WHERE:** GreenStreet Promenade
- WHEN:** To be built in phases, starting with a Walk of Fame

Houston's legendary 34s – **Earl Campbell, Hakeem Olajuwon** and **Nolan Ryan** – will comprise the inaugural class for the Hall of Fame.

“The Houston Sports Awards had been a dream of mine for more than a decade, and to end that incredible night with the announcement of the Houston Sports Hall of Fame, made that dream even bigger,” said Harris County - Houston Sports Authority CEO **Janis Burke**.

“This is something all of Houston will celebrate and is long overdue. So many great athletes have come from here and have played here, and to celebrate and honor them with a Hall of Fame is something bigger than all of us, and will outlast us all.

“This inaugural class, **Hakeem Olajuwon, Earl Campbell** and **Nolan Ryan** are easily three of the most revered athletes ever to play in their respective sports and we couldn’t be prouder to honor them as our first inductees.”

The Hall of Fame will be located downtown at GreenStreet and will be built in phases. The first phase of the project features a Walk of Fame stretching from the House of Blues through the GreenStreet Promenade. Groundbreaking on that phase will be this summer.

Future phases call for multiple state-of-the-art LED video displays and interactive experiences. Plans call for the project to culminate in the Hall of Fame, which would be housed in an actual interior space.

Renowned Houston sports artist **Opie Otterstad’s** 8-foot paintings of Campbell, Olajuwon and Ryan, which were unveiled at the Houston Sports Awards, will be the first exhibit to hang in the Hall of Fame.

“We were delighted that the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority chose its first annual Houston Sports Award on February 8, 2018 to unveil their inspiring vision for the Houston Sports Hall of Fame in GreenStreet,” said **Brad Freels**, Chairman of Midway. “We look forward to welcoming our neighbors and visitors from around the world to this new attraction honoring the spirit, dedication and courage of our hometown sports heroes.

“With the opening of Hotel Alessandra, downtown’s acclaimed boutique luxury hotel, and a thoroughly reimagined three city-block urban mixed-use campus of GreenStreet, Midway and Lionstone Investments are creating a unique experience that celebrates the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial energy of Houston unlike any other place.

“We look forward to revealing all of the exciting changes and upgrades coming to GreenStreet in the near future.”

Inaugural Hall of Fame Class

Nolan Ryan

Two-time National League MVP **Dale Murphy** called Ryan “the only pitcher you start thinking about two days before you face him.” The 70-year-old Alvin native’s career spanned four decades, 324 wins and major league-records of 5,714 strikeouts and seven no-hitters. When Ryan signed with the Houston Astros, he became baseball’s first one million dollar per year player. Nicknamed the Ryan Express, he was drafted by the New York Mets and then played for the California Angels before coming to Houston. He finished his career with the Texas Rangers and is now an executive advisor for the Astros.

Earl Campbell

After winning the Heisman Trophy at the University of Texas, the Oilers made the 5-11, 232-pound running back the first pick of the 1978 NFL draft and he took the NFL by storm. The Tyler Rose, named for his hometown of Tyler, was named the NFL’s Most Valuable Player, All-Pro, and Rookie of the Year in his first season, won league rushing championship with 1,450 yards and was named to the AFC Pro Bowl squad. The 62-year-old was one of the best power

running backs the game has seen. He was named to the Pro Bowl in five of his first six seasons and finished his career with 2,187 carries for 9,407 yards.

Hakeem Olajuwon

The 54-year-old, Nigerian-born Olajuwon first made waves in Houston as a member of the University of Houston's Phi Slama Jama, leading the Cougars to three consecutive Final Four appearances. He was drafted by the Rockets and became one of the greatest players in NBA history, leading the Rockets to back-to-back NBA titles in 1994 and 1995. In 1993-94, Olajuwon had a storybook season, becoming the first player to be named NBA MVP, NBA Defensive Player of the Year and NBA Finals MVP in the same season. His incredible moves under the basket – The Dream Shake – made him almost unstoppable. In 18 NBA seasons, Olajuwon averaged 21.8 ppg, and was a 12-time all-star.

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About Harris County- Houston Sports Authority

The Harris County-Houston Sports Authority maintains the facilities and services the debt of the world-class, professional sports venues it was created to build. To support this primary mission, the HCHSA serves as a leading proponent for attracting sporting events to Houston and for promoting the city as a home for sports-related activities, to ultimately enhance Houston's economic development and bring better quality of life for its residents. The HCHSA also created the annual Houston Sports Awards to honor the area's outstanding athletes.

www.houstonsports.org

About Midway

Houston-based Midway is a privately owned, fully integrated real estate development and investment firm that has provided the highest level of quality, service and value to our clients and investors for more than 49 years. Our portfolio of projects completed and/or underway consists of approximately 45 million square feet of properties ranging from mixed-used destinations, office, industrial facilities, and master-planned residential communities. Midway continues to develop projects of distinction, aesthetic relevance and enduring value for our investors, our clients, and the people who live, work, and thrive in the environments we create.

www.midwaycompanies.com

About Lionstone Investments

Lionstone Investments is a data-analytics driven real estate investment firm that conceptualizes, analyzes, and executes national investment strategies using proprietary algorithms and advanced analytics to understand the changing ways people in America want to live and work—Places for Productive People.® Lionstone Investments is a registered investment adviser subsidiary of Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC. Please visit our website at: lionstoneinvestments.com

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