

Olympic sprinter Hayes inducted into NFL Hall of Fame

Memorable weekend for Bills as Bruce Smith and Ralph Wilson inducted

NEW YORK (Reuters)—The late Bob Hayes, whose lightning speed won him fame on Olympic tracks and in NFL stadiums, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last Saturday.

Hayes was enshrined with four other players—defensive end Bruce Smith, defensive back Rod Woodson, guard Randall McDaniel, and the late linebacker Derrick Thomas—along with Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson during ceremonies at Canton, Ohio.

Hayes, known as “Bullet Bob,” caught 371 career passes for 7,414 yards and 71 touchdowns in an 11-year NFL career at wide receiver.

Before joining the Dallas Cowboys he won gold medals in the 100 metres and 4x100 metres relay at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He died in 2002 at age 59.

“He was so fast, they did not have an answer for him,” Hayes’ son, Bob Jr. said in introductory remarks. “He revolutionized the

game of football because of his world-class speed.”

Wilson founded the Bills in 1959. His teams won back-to-back American Football League (AFL) titles in the 1960s and they later became the only franchise to play in four consecutive Super Bowls.

Smith, the NFL’s all-time leader with 200 career sacks, was the first pick by Buffalo in the 1985 draft and went on to become a nine-time All-Pro.

Woodson intercepted 71 passes, which were returned for 1,483 yards and 12 touchdowns, both league records. Among many honours, he was a member of the NFL’s 75th anniversary team in 1994.

Thomas collected more sacks during the 1990s than any other player. He made nine Pro Bowls.

McDaniel was voted onto 12 consecutive AFC–NFC Pro Bowl teams during his 14 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings (1988–1999) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2000–01).



HE'S BACK: Florida's Tim Tebow returns to pad his impressive resume. The Heisman trophy-winner is seen here in the Orange and Blue game in April.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

College football just around the corner

Three top teams featuring returning Heisman trophy finalists

By KRISTEN MERIWETHER
Epoch Times Staff

The 2009 College Football season is rapidly approaching with only three weeks remaining until the first game. The players have hit the practice field, so it's time to take a look at what's in store for this season.

The USA Today Coaches Poll came out last week and is used in the BCS calculation. They currently have Florida ranked in the top spot with Texas, Oklahoma, USC, and Alabama rounding out the top five.

The top three teams will feature the three Heisman Trophy finalists from last season.

Florida returns looking to defend their title with senior quarterback Tim Tebow at the helm. With two national championships and a Heisman Trophy in his back pocket, Tebow is looking to add “back-to-back champion” to his long and illustrious resume.

While everyone is talking about the Florida offense, don't overlook the fact that their defense has all 11 starters and all 11 backups returning. Their defense gave up an average of less than 13 points per game last season.

Florida will only leave the friendly confines of “The Swamp” for five games this season, including the Halloween game against rival Georgia at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium,

a neutral site.

Florida will not play Ole Miss this season, the only team to beat them last year.

After being edged out of the National Championship game in favour of Oklahoma, a team they beat during the season, Texas is looking for redemption. Quarterback Colt McCoy is returning for his senior season.

Eights starters return on offense for Texas, including McCoy's favorite target, wide receiver Jordan Shipley. While their defense lost star defensive end Brian Orakpo to the NFL, six starters will return.

Texas will have a tough road with six away games, including a three-week stint of games in Dallas against Oklahoma, at Missouri, and at Oklahoma State starting October 17. Their final game of the year will be at Texas A&M, their biggest in-state rival.

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, fresh off his Heisman Trophy-winning season, will return for his junior year. After a disappointing loss to the Gators in the National Championship game last season, the Sooners are hoping for a return to glory.

With the “three-headed monster” of Murray, Brown, and Madu at running back and senior tight end Jermaine Gresham all returning, Bradford has plenty of options on offense. However, the Sooners offensive line will have four new starters and that

could prove problematic even for the talented Bradford.

The Sooners will open their season at the New Dallas Cowboys Stadium on September 5 against BYU. Their toughest test of the year may be the Bedlam Game against in-state rival Oklahoma State. Oklahoma State is considered to be a dark horse in the Big 12 South.

Texas and Oklahoma will face off in Dallas on October 17 for the annual Red River Shootout.

USC's defense was ranked number two last year but will only have three starters returning. Pete Carroll doesn't have the term “rebuilding year” in his vocabulary, so don't look for the Trojans to just sit back. With top recruiting classes year after year, Carroll has plenty of reserves to fill those spots.

USC has nine players returning on offense including their trio of running backs, Gable, Johnson, and McKnight. Quarterback Mark Sanchez opted for the NFL, but three players are all competing for the job including true freshman Matt Barkley.

The Trojans need to do well on the road this year, with six of their contests away from the Coliseum. They will travel to Ohio State for the second game of the year and play at rivals California and Notre Dame.

After finishing the 2008 season with a loss to Florida in the SEC championship game and a loss to Utah in the Sugar Bowl, Alabama is looking to regain the winning ways that carried them to an undefeated

regular season last year.

The Crimson Tide lost QB John Parker Wilson to the NFL and will only have four returning starters on offense. They will have to rely on their stout defense with nine returning starters including linebacker Rolando McClain.

DARK HORSES

The great thing about college football is that it is a sport made for the underdog.

So who will play the role of the dark horse for the 2009 season?

Look for Oklahoma State to surprise people in the already stacked Big 12 South. They could certainly shake up the polls when the Longhorns visit on Halloween or in the final game of the season when they play Oklahoma.

TCU spoiled Boise State's hopes at a perfect season last year in the Poinsettia Bowl. Look for the Horned Frogs to take their powerful defense and experienced offense even further this season.

College football is not just for Saturdays anymore. College Football will feature weekly Thursday night games, as well as some Tuesday and Wednesday contests. Keep an eye out for these match-ups: Georgia Tech at Miami on Sept. 17, Nebraska at Missouri on October 8, and Colorado at Oklahoma State on November 19.

At this point in time, Florida looks like the favourite to win the national championship this year, but this is college football. Anything can happen!



LAST HURRAH: Gil de Ferran (left) and co-driver Simon Pagenaud celebrate winning the Tequila Patron American Le Mans Series at Long Beach in April.

DARRELL INGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Gil de Ferran retiring, starting IndyCar team

By JAMES FISH
Epoch Times Staff

Veteran IndyCar and American Le Mans Series (ALMS) driver Gil de Ferran announced he would be retiring as a driver at the end of the 2009 season, after qualifying on the pole of the Acura Sports car Challenge at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course last Friday.

He said his racing team, de Ferran Motorsports, would be starting an IRL IndyCar team in 2010.

“I am stepping out of the cockpit so that we can focus on making the dream a reality: running a two-car IndyCar Operation. All our energy and effort is going towards that as well as expanding our team in the American Le Mans Series,” said de Ferran in an interview after the qualifying session.

“It's a lot to do and it's going to take a lot of work to get it done.”

De Ferran and co-driver Simon Pagenaud are currently leading the American Le Mans Series LMP1 division.

NO STRANGER TO INDYCARS

De Ferran had a long and successful career as an IndyCar driver, winning Rookie of the Year in 1995, and ending up driving for the prestigious Team Penske in 2000. De Ferran won the drivers' championship in 2000 and 2001, and won the Indianapolis 500 in 2003 for Penske Racing.

De Ferran retired at the end of 2003. After a stint as race director for a Formula One team, de Ferran returned to the driver's seat in 2008, fielding an Acura ARX orb in the ALMS with co-driver Simon Pagenaud.

De Ferran said he learned a lot about running a racing team while

driving for the legendary Roger Penske.

“It was impossible not to learn. Roger runs what I believe to be one of the best teams in motorsports worldwide—full stop. And he has been doing so for several years.”

“Making the numbers work is a key part of success,” de Ferran said. “You need all the right people in the right places doing the right thing, but if these people are doing the right things they are going to be consuming some money. For a team to be successful it needs to be well funded.”

“We are confident that we can expand our operation and get the right people even though we are only a single-car operation in sports cars, we have a large engineering department, and a very well-structured department running the car.”

De Ferran is one of the best-known Brazilian race car drivers in the world, and IndyCar just signed a large, long-term business deal with Apex-Brazil, which includes the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association—a huge commercial concern in Brazil.

Furthermore, IndyCar announced last week that it will run its first race of the season in Brazil. The time is certainly ripe for de Ferran to seek sponsorship for his IndyCar team.

Acquiring cars, motors, spare parts, transporters, and the like, will be the easiest part of the operation in de Ferran's view.

“The way IndyCar racing is structured it's actually quite easy to get equipment. We aren't concerned about equipment. We are concerned about putting the commercial aspects of the operation together as early as possible so we can get to work as early as possible, and hopefully be competitive in our first season.”

America's Cup team plans huge 'Dogzilla' vessel

Legal wrangling to challenge champion and agree to rules

NEW YORK (Reuters)—The challenges for the next America's Cup revealed preliminary details to race an enormous vessel nicknamed “Dogzilla” that is nearly the size of two basketball courts.

The 90-foot-by-90-foot trimaran (yacht with three parallel hulls) will challenge defending champion Alinghi of Switzerland in the next edition of yachting's most prestigious race, the U.S.-based BMW Oracle team said in a statement Monday.

The race will take place off the United Arab Emirates in 2010. “We're pleased to publicly confirm that the BOR 90, which will continue to undergo modifications, is the boat that will compete for the 33rd America's Cup in 2010,” BMW Oracle said.

“Dogzilla” has an overall waterline length of 100 feet. The mast is 185 feet. The three sails are 6,800, 6,700, and 8,400 square feet—each about 30 percent bigger than the sails used in the last America's Cup in Valencia, Spain, in 2007.

“The power-to-weight ratio is un-



GIANT YACHT: The Alinghi 5, a 90-foot catamaran, dwarfs other boats as it gets set to defend its America's Cup title early next year. FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

believable. Nothing any of us have seen comes close to the amount of power this boat generates—the sail plan, the mast height, and just the limits we're pushing,” said helmsman James Spithill. “It has been a massive learning curve for all of us.”

Sailing rivals BMW Oracle and Alinghi have been locked in a more than two year legal fight over the terms of the race, now scheduled to take place in February 2010 in Ras Al-Khaimah, one of the United Arab Emirates.

Lawyers for both teams were in New York State Supreme Court on Monday to argue when BMW Oracle, which flies under the colours of

the Golden Gate Yacht Club (GGYC), should be expected to produce certification, known as a Custom-House Registry, for the boat it plans to race.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Shirley Kornreich reserved a ruling on that issue, but the team did offer general details about the boat.

GGYC said it has been testing the boat in San Diego and that it plans to continue making modifications.

Defending champion Alinghi, which is backed by biotechnology billionaire Ernesto Bertarelli and the Societe Nautique de Geneve (SNG), does not need to disclose details of its yacht until just before

the race.

Under America's Cup rules, a challenger proposes to race the defending champion, and together they plan the terms of the next race.

Alinghi initially agreed to race Club Nautico Espanol de Vela, or CNEV, a Spanish team that formed as a club just days before submitting its challenge for the America's Cup.

But BMW Oracle contested CNEV's challenge in a lawsuit filed in 2007. New York state's highest court earlier this year rejected the Spanish team as the challenger and picked BMW Oracle as the official challenger.