



THE HALL OF FAMER



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Induction 2007

Induction 2007 made history on several levels. It marked the first time in Hall history that an all-female Player class was inducted; the introduction of the Hall's new president, Steve Baumann; the first time that the induction ceremonies were ever held outdoors; and, with 5,000 spectators, the largest crowd ever to attend a Hall induction ceremony.

The activities commenced on the evening of Friday, August 24 with the traditional Memorial Service. Particular note was taken of the passing of Lamar Hunt and founding director Bill Atchinson Jr. This was followed by the traditional Pub Night.

On Saturday, August 25 everything moved into high gear, starting off with the 1st Annual Tennis Tournament, and the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, which attracted a record turnout of over 70 players. The afternoon featured The Liars' Retreat, which was attended by a record 29 Hall of Famers and Medal of Honor recipients. And things were buzzing at the Hall as well. While the U.S. Soccer Foundation was holding its executive board meeting in the Doug Willies' Board Room, out on the fields some 150 kids were put through their paces at a soccer clinic hosted by the Oneonta State women's soccer team.

That evening, in honor of Alan Rothenberg, the U.S. Soccer Foundation hosted the President's Reception. It was followed by the President's Dinner, held in the museum and emceed by Seamus Malin, the well-known television commentator and 2005 recipient of the Colin Jose Media Award. Over 300 guests attended the dinner at which George Tiedemann was presented with the 2007 Colin Jose Media Award, and the 1986 U.S. Women's National Team was honored.

But Sunday was the big day and the Hall of Fame complex was alive with activities including a carnival-type midway. The festivities kicked off in the morning with three women's exhibition games: Oneonta H.S. vs Johnson City H.S., Oneonta State vs Skidmore and Syracuse vs Army.

The induction ceremonies began just before noon with introduction of the 1986 Women's National Team, George Tiedemann, recipient of the Colin Jose Media Award and the returning Hall of



Alan Rothenberg, Bobby Smith, Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm

Famers. The ceremony was played out on a stage directly in front of the Hall's trademark "bursting ball" sculpture. It was emceed by Seamus Malin and opening remarks were made by Hall President Steve Baumann and The Century Council President Ralph Blackmann. Alan Rothenberg, who was elected in the Builder category, was introduced by U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati; Veteran Bobby Smith was introduced

by his longtime friend and NASL teammate Bob Rigby;

and Julie Foudy and Mia Hamm, who were elected in the Player category, were introduced by World Cup-winning coaches Tony DiCicco and Anson Dorrance respectively. Hall of Famer Carla Overbeck also spoke briefly on behalf of her teammates.

Immediately after the ceremony a crowd of close to 3,000 watched the Washington Freedom, starring Hall of Famers Carla Overbeck and Mia Hamm, defeat the Connecticut Reds, whose roster included Hall of Famer Julie Foudy and retired veteran national team player Tiffany Roberts. An added feature of the game was that several of the 1986 women's national team also made guest appearances.

