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TEWAARATON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 SPIRIT AND LEGENDS AWARD WINNERS

WASHINGTON, January 22 – The Tewaaron Foundation is pleased to announce the 2016 Tewaaron Legends and Spirit honorees. The 10th Spirit of Tewaaron recipient is Tina Sloan Green, and the 2016 Tewaaron Legends are former Penn State star Candace Finn Rocha and former Maryland star Frank Urso.

“We’re excited that such a great player in Candace Finn Rocha will go down as the first-ever female Tewaaron Legend,” said Chairman of The Tewaaron Foundation Jeff Harvey. “And also being able to honor one of the best to ever play the game in Frank Urso, as well as a true trailblazer for female athletes in Tina Sloan Green is going to make this a truly special year.”

The Spirit of Tewaaron is presented to an individual who has contributed to the sport of lacrosse in a way that reflects the spirit of the values and mission of the Tewaaron Award. Past recipients include Dick Edell, Diane Geppi-Aikens, Sid Jamieson, A.B. “Buzzy” Krongard, Roy Simmons Jr., Richie Moran, Bob Scott, Brendan Looney and Oren Lyons.

As head coach of the Temple University women’s lacrosse team from 1973-92, Tina Sloan Green held the distinction of being the first African-American head coach in the history of women's intercollegiate lacrosse. During her notable 32-year career at Temple, she amassed a 207-62-4 record with a .758 winning percentage, leading the Owls to three NCAA championships and 11 consecutive NCAA Final Four appearances.

Green was a member of the U.S. Women’s National First Team, the first African-American named to the national team and the Reserve Team from 1969-71. She was on the Touring Team to Australia-New Zealand and then Great Britain-Northern Ireland in 1969. She has written two books and founded the Black Women in Sports Foundation in 1992. She also founded the Inner City Field Hockey and Lacrosse Program at Temple. She is the program director of Temple's National Youth Sports Program and has helped to establish clinics and mentoring programs for girls in cities across the country. She was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1997. Green was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators, and is currently Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at Temple University.

“I have a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for Tina Sloan Green, not only as my college coach at Temple, but as a trailblazer for women in sports. She helped put the sport of lacrosse on the map — and did so by breaking through gender and race barriers to reach success at the highest level possible in collegiate athletics with a number of national championships,”

said University of Florida head coach Amanda O’Leary. “But more important than winning titles, Tina has devoted her life to being a pioneer in women’s sports. She has paved the way for other women in athletics and has ensured along the way that African-American women in sports have equal opportunities for success.”

The Tewaaron Legends Award annually honors recipients who played college lacrosse prior to 2001, the first year in which the Tewaaron Award was presented. Recipients are chosen on the basis that their collegiate performance would have earned them a Tewaaron Trophy, had the award existed when they played. The previous four Legends Award winners are Syracuse’s Jim Brown (2011), Cornell’s Eamon McEaney (2012), Johns Hopkins’ Joe Cowan (2013), Navy’s Jimmy Lewis (2014) and Syracuse’s Brad Kotz (2015).

Candace Finn Rocha began her playing career as the center for Penncrest (Pa.) High School, where she was a three-time Central League All-Star and MVP and captain her senior year. She played second home for Penn State University from 1979-82, winning national championships in 1979 and 1980. She was a four-time All-American, the leading scorer all four years, holds various records including highest individual point average in a career, and won the Broderick Award as the collegiate player of the year in 1981 and 1982. She played for the U.S. touring teams of 1980 and 1981, and the World Cup teams of 1982 and 1986. Rocha began her coaching career as an assistant at Penn State in 1982, and has coached at The Hotchkiss (Conn.) School, Lawrence (Mass.) Academy, Brooks (Mass.) School and Berkshire (Mass.) School. She was inducted to the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1998.

“Candace Finn Rocha was an exceptionally talented lacrosse player whose stick skills, grace and flair were unmatched,” said former Penn State coach Sue Scheetz. “She is one of Penn State’s most highly decorated student athletes, whose career, records and honors make her a worthy recipient of the Legends Award.”

Frank Urso began his lacrosse career at Brentwood (N.Y.) High School, earning secondary school All-American honors in 1972. At the University of Maryland, Urso become one of four players ever to earn first-team All-American honors in each of his four seasons (1973-76). Urso played midfield for the Terrapins, winning NCAA Championships in 1973 and 1975 and ACC championships in 1973, 1974 and 1976, and still holds the Terrapins’ record for goals by a midfielder with 127. He received the McLaughlin Award as the Outstanding Midfielder in Division I in 1974, 1975 and 1976. In 1975, Urso received the Lt. Raymond Enners Memorial Award as the Outstanding Player in Division I. In 1976, he represented Maryland in the North/South Collegiate All-Star Game.

Urso played for the U.S. Men’s National Team that won gold at the 1974 World Lacrosse Championship in Melbourne, Australia. After graduating from Maryland, he played for McGarvey’s Lacrosse Club and Maryland Lacrosse Club. He was elected to the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1991. He is entering his ninth season as head boy’s lacrosse coach at Garnet Valley (Pa.) High School.

“In all my years of playing and watching lacrosse, Frank Urso was the most dominant player I have ever seen,” said two-time All-America Maryland teammate Jake Reed. “Yet even more

amazing was the type of guy he was in the locker room. He was a fantastic teammate and was always available to help anyone in need. Frank was an incredibly dynamic offensive player with the ability to run by anybody. He was a fantastic goal scorer, but ever more amazing was his vision. He could make passes from anywhere on the field and was the complete player.”

All three recipients will receive their awards at the Tewaaron Award Ceremony presented by Under Armour, June 2, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

The Tewaaron Foundation will unveil the 2016 Tewaaron Award Watch List live at a special fundraising reception in New York City on Feb. 23.

For more information on the Tewaaron Legends Award or to attend this exciting event, visit tewaaron.com. Like and follow The Tewaaron Foundation at facebook.com/tewaaron, twitter.com/tewaaron and instagram.com/tewaaron.

About The Tewaaron Foundation

First presented in 2001, the Tewaaron Award is recognized as the preeminent lacrosse award, annually honoring the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. Endorsed by the Mohawk Nation Council of Elders and U.S. Lacrosse, the Tewaaron Award symbolizes lacrosse’s centuries-old roots in Native American heritage. The Tewaaron Foundation ensures the integrity and advances the mission of this award. Each year, the Tewaaron Award celebrates one of the six tribal nations of the Iroquois Confederacy – the Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora – and presents two scholarships to students of Native American descent. To learn more about The Tewaaron Foundation, please visit www.tewaaron.com.

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