



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEWAARATON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BILL BELICHICK AS 2020 SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT

WASHINGTON – The Tewaaron Foundation is pleased to announce that Bill Belichick is the recipient of the 2020 Spirit of Tewaaron award. 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, Belichick is the 14th Spirit of Tewaaron honoree.

Best known as the coach who has guided the New England Patriots to six Super Bowl victories, the most by a head coach in NFL history, Belichick also has a passion for the sport of lacrosse, going back to his youth days growing up near Annapolis, Md., and continuing now through his non-profit Bill Belichick Foundation that annually gives to a host of lacrosse-related causes.

“Bill Belichick has been a symbol of greatness for two decades,” said Jeffrey Harvey, Chairman of the Tewaaron Foundation. “His philosophies have been adopted by coaches in all sports and much of it is derived from his beginnings as a lacrosse player. As his star has risen, he has consistently supported causes related to lacrosse and its Native American heritage. This stewardship is insightful into his brilliance in coaching and the exceptional leadership for which he is being recognized as the 2020 recipient of The Spirit of Tewaaron.”

Frequently seen on college and professional lacrosse sidelines and stands as a fan every spring and summer, Belichick played lacrosse in high school (Annapolis High, Phillips Andover) and college (Wesleyan University), and his three children all played collegiately (Stephen at Rutgers, Brian at Trinity and current Holy Cross head coach Amanda at Wesleyan).

Today he’s an advocate for the game, and a supporter behind the scenes, delivering pep talks in locker rooms, presenting at NCAA final fours, and providing mentorship to a number of top coaches and players. Belichick also has a true appreciation for the Native American origins and history of the game. His collection of wood lacrosse sticks includes a Patriots-themed stick made by Jack Johnson from Akwesasne and one from Onondaga’s Alf Jacques, who also repaired a 50-year-old wooden stick for Belichick.

“Coach Belichick, at his core, loves the game of lacrosse,” said Paul Rabil, chief strategy officer and co-founder of the Premier Lacrosse League. “Growing up in Annapolis, lacrosse was a big part of his upbringing, and to this day he remains a fan, strategist and advocate of the game at every level. I remember meeting BB 15 years ago after a Hopkins practice. Since then, he’s been

a mentor, friend, and benefactor to my endeavors – and lacrosse at-large. His spirit for the game has lifted our community in many ways, and for that I'm supremely grateful."

Past Spirit of Tewaaron recipients include Dick Edell, Diane Geppi-Aikens, Sid Jamieson, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard, Roy Simmons Jr., Richie Moran, Bob Scott, Brendan Looney, Oren Lyons, Tina Sloan Green, George Boiardi, Welles Crowther, and Feffie Barnhill.

The Tewaaron Foundation has also named the 2020 Tewaaron Legends honorees as former University of Maryland star Kelly Amonte Hiller and former Johns Hopkins University star Dave Pietramala.

All three recipients will receive their awards at the 20th Anniversary Tewaaron Award Ceremony May 28, 2020, in Washington, D.C.

The Tewaaron Foundation will unveil the 2020 Tewaaron Award Watch List live at a special fundraising reception in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 13.

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. 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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