



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**1997 UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM
TO BE INDUCTED INTO ARIZONA SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

(PHOENIX) -- The 1997 University of Arizona's Men's Basketball National Championship team will become the first team to be inducted into the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, the Phoenix Regional Sports Commission announced today. Voted on by the public, the team joins former NFL player Randall McDaniel, World Champion rodeo cowboy Ty Murray, former MLB pitcher Curt Schilling and Olympic gymnast Kerri Strug as a member of the 2011 class.

"The first ever public team vote came down to the wire. We had a number of great teams nominated and more than 2,000 total votes were cast," said 2011 Arizona Sports Hall of Fame Chairperson Anthony Casarona. "We're excited to recognize and honor the 1997 Arizona Wildcats Men's Basketball team for their National Championship title. They are a great addition to our 2011 class."

The 1997 Wildcats, led by Head Coach Lute Olson, accomplished the unprecedented feat of beating three number one seeds in the tournament including the University of Kentucky Wildcats in overtime to win the title.

"We are extremely proud of the selection of our 1997 NCAA Championship basketball team as the first team honored by the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame," said University of Arizona Director of Athletics Greg Byrne. "Its accomplishment represents a great moment in our history and a great moment for our University, Tucson and the state of Arizona. To be the first team picked statewide among the many outstanding teams in the election process is truly a remarkable honor for the University of Arizona."

The Hall of Fame honors athletes, coaches and administrators who have made significant contributions to Arizona sports. The Arizona Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 1957 by the Phoenix Press Box Association. The Association held 36 induction ceremonies before ceasing operations in 1991. The Sports Commission assumed custodianship of the Hall of Fame and held inductions in 1999, 2001 and 2002. The Sports Commission re-launched the Hall of Fame in 2009 as its largest annual fundraiser.

The 2011 class will be inducted into the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame during the Induction Ceremony on March 31 at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino. General admission tickets are \$75 each. Individuals can enter promotional code HEGL7XV55L for \$25 off general admission tickets now until March 11. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.phoenixsports.org.

About the Phoenix Regional Sports Commission

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the Phoenix Regional Sports Commission was created in 1988. The mission of the Sports Commission is to "Enrich Our Community Through Sports" by representing the citizens of the Valley to bring national and international sporting events to the state, assist in the promotion of existing events and teams, and support youth sports programs. To learn more about the Sports Commission, please visit www.phoenixsports.org.