

Contact: Leslie Spencer  
Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp  
(513) 345-3054W or (513) 290.1079C  
[LSpencer@CincyUSA.com](mailto:LSpencer@CincyUSA.com)

Jackie Reau  
Game Day Communications  
(513)929-4263W or (513)708-5822C  
[JReau@GameDayPR.com](mailto:JReau@GameDayPR.com)



## **PLAYING BALL WITH THE BOYS: CSPN Holds 5TH Annual Awards Banquet To Honor 2010 Local Sports Accomplishments**

CINCINNATI (March 28, 2011) – The 5th annual Cincinnati Sports Professionals Network (CSPN) Awards Banquet will pay tribute to athletes, sports professionals, businesses and events for their accomplishments in 2010 on Monday, May 9 at 6 pm at the Sharonville Convention Center. Coach Bob Huggins, will serve as the guest speaker and local media personality, Betsy Ross, will emcee the event.

Tickets, which include dinner and the program, cost \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10. Student tickets are also available for \$35. FOR VIP, which includes a private reception with Coach Huggins & all award recipients before the event are \$100/person or \$900/table of 10. For the fourth year, CSPN is providing the complimentary Cincinnati USA Sporting Event Ticket Preview for each person that attends the banquet over \$100 in complimentary tickets to showcase our regions sports programs.

Tickets and sponsorships are selling fast. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual CSPN banquet is brought to you by Presenting Sponsor Skyline Chili and the following partners: Advanced Transportation Systems, Lexus RiverCenter, Performance Lexus, Flying Pig Marathon, Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp, Keating, Muething & Klekamp Law, Clear Channel, Cincinnati Enquirer, Prestige Audio Visual, PEP, Trophy Awards and Game Day Communications.

Proceeds from the event go toward the CSPN scholarship fund. To inquire for a sponsorship or to make a reservation, call Leslie Spencer at 513.345.3054 or email [LSpencer@CincyUSA.com](mailto:LSpencer@CincyUSA.com). Cincinnati Sports Professional Network serves as a networking organization for area sports professionals offering regularly scheduled programs and an annual awards ceremony for the sports business community. CSPN is a program of the Greater Cincinnati Sports Corporation.

“This annual event is an opportunity to acknowledge some of the people who have played a part in the Cincinnati and NKY becoming nationally-recognized sports destination and one of the best places to play, coach and watch the sports we love, said Mike Moeddel, GCSC chair. “We look forward to celebrating another successful year for the Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp. and everyone with whom we work.”

“I am thrilled to be part of such a prestigious event,” said Betsy Ross. “Every year some of the most accomplished men, and women, in Cincinnati area sports are recognized for their accomplishments at this dinner, and this year is no exception. I am honored to be the first woman to MC this awards ceremony.”

CSPN Annual Award Winners Categories Recipients are nominated by individuals and businesses throughout the region. The CSPN selection committee is comprised of a cross-section of our membership; criteria are based on the following: 1) success, 2) measurable impact to the community, and 3) local connection.

### **Award Recipients include:**

- **Sports Story:** Cincinnati Reds 2010 Season
- **Sports Life Time Achievement-** Bob Roncker, Running Spot
- **Sports Executive-** Mike Bobinski- Xavier University Athletic Director
- **Corporate Partner-** Bank of Kentucky
- **Sports Event** – Western & Southern Tennis Masters
- **Sports Media Personality** – Paul ‘Doc’ Daugherty, Enquirer
- **CSPN Scholarship Student-** TBA at the banquet

- **Special Tributes-** 1) Bruce Flory, Special Recognition for Leadership of the Western & Southern Open; 2) Minor League 2010 Champion Cincinnati Cyclones 3) NKU Men's Soccer Div. II National Champions and 4) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UC Men's Basketball NCAA Div I Championship Team

## Speaker Bio:

A proven success as a program builder, recruiter and game strategist who has won 670 games as a collegiate head coach, Bob Huggins has compiled a 670-241 (.736) record entering his 29th season as a head coach, which includes stints at Walsh College (1980-83), Akron (1984-1989), Cincinnati (1989-2005), Kansas State (2006-07) and West Virginia (2007-present). He ranks fourth in total victories and 10th in winning percentage among active Division I head coaches.

Last year, Huggins guided West Virginia to one of the most memorable seasons in school history. The Mountaineers reached the NCAA Final Four for the first time since 1959 and won their first BIG EAST championship. WVU recorded a school record 31 victories and also posted a school-best 13 BIG EAST victories, finishing the season ranked No. 3 in the final ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll.

As basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati, Huggins registered a 399-127 record (.759) during his tenure, making him the winningest coach in terms of victories and percentage in the school's rich basketball history. The Bearcats advanced to postseason play in each of his 16 seasons, reaching the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament three times and in 1992, appearing in the Final Four. Huggins directed Cincinnati to 10 conference regular season titles and eight league tournament titles.

Huggins directed the Bearcats to successive finishes in the Final Four and Elite Eight. Over the ensuing seasons, he developed young and inexperienced squads with as many as three freshmen starters into squads that captured two more league titles and made another pair of NCAA appearances. Huggins surprised the basketball world in 1998 by directing a team that had only one returning starter to a 27-6 record, conference regular season and tournament titles, a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament and a Top 10 finish in the polls. Huggins' 2002 team, unranked when the season began, posted a 31-4 record, setting a Cincinnati mark for victories.

Huggins has also directed star-studded teams, while developing the individual talents of players such as consensus All-Americans Danny Fortson, Kenyon Martin and Steve Logan, to a succession of conference championships and NCAA tournament runs.

Bob Huggins earned the Ray Meyer Award as the Conference USA Coach of the Year a record three times (1998, 1999 and 2000), and was a unanimous choice as the Conference USA Coach of the Decade. He was selected as national coach of the year by ESPN.com in 2002. He was named co-national coach of the year by The Sporting News in 2005 and was Basketball Times' National Coach of the Year in 1998. He earned national coach of the year recognition from Hoop Scoop in 1992 and Playboy in 1993.

Bob was a three-year all-Ohio selection and the 1972 Ohio Player of the Year while playing for his father, Charles, at Indian Valley South High in Gnadenhutten, Ohio. He first attended Ohio University but transferred to West Virginia after his freshman season. Huggins was a three-year letterman for the Mountaineers under Gardner from 1975-77. A two-time Academic All-American, Huggins graduated from West Virginia magna cum laude in 1977 and received his master's in health administration from WVU in 1978.

###