TONIGHT’S PROGRAM
We’d like to thank the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and everyone being honored for their hard work, dedication and talent. And for making our community that much better.

CONSIDER THIS OUR VERSION OF A HIGH FIVE, STANDING “O” AND CHEST BUMP ALL IN ONE.
DEAR FRIENDS

Welcome to the 20th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards! We are excited to celebrate another year of “bests” in Cleveland sports.

We appreciate your attendance during tonight’s event. As a fundraiser for GCSC, your attendance at tonight’s award show allows us to continue our mission of bringing large scale sporting events to Northeast Ohio.

In 2019, GCSC experienced its most impactful year as an organization by hosting 13 major sporting events ranging from collegiate to professional sports. Due to the scale of these awarded events, Northeast Ohio saw an influx of an estimated $87,837,956 in economic impact.

This year, approximately 12,275 competitors visited the North Coast for GCSC-hosted events and 219 Northeast Ohio youth participated in our Youth Education through Sports programs that provided unique opportunities to experience various sports and events.

A major highlight of 2019 was MLB All-Star Week on July 5-9, which brought the top baseball athletes and their fans to Cleveland. The footprint of America’s favorite pastime extended beyond the ballpark including MLB PLAY BALL PARK at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland and countless community festivities. This event provided an estimated $65 million in economic impact to Northeast Ohio.

Having the opportunity to reach nearly $88 million in one year is a big achievement for our small non-profit. Our team is extremely thankful to the Northeast Ohio community and our partners, such as the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers and Mid-American Conference, as well as the City of Cleveland, State of Ohio and all of you, our incredible supporters, for helping us make Cleveland the preferred destination for large-scale sporting events.

In 2019, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission was also responsible for increasing its event portfolio through new and returning events that will create success within the organization and in the community for many years to come.

We hope you enjoy the celebration and appreciate your continued support throughout the coming year.

Doug Neary
Chairman

David Gilbert
President & CEO

ABOUT GREATER CLEVELAND SPORTS COMMISSION

Since 2000, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission is responsible for attracting over 200 sporting events which provide more than $811 million in economic activity to Northeast Ohio.

Greater Cleveland Sports Commission (GCSC) serves to measurably improve the economy of Greater Cleveland and enrich the community by attracting, creating, managing and enhancing significant sporting and competitive events.

GCSC supports the local economy, utilizes sports as a vehicle to forward community agendas and maintains a goal of producing events that are more successful when held in Cleveland than in other cities.

Greater Cleveland Sports Commission is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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Congratulations, Skylar Scarnecchia.
2019 Cleveland Clinic Sports Health Courage Award Winner

Skylar Scarnecchia
8th Grade, Champion Middle School (Warren, OH)

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Josh Studzinski, University Hospitals
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- Brown Gibbons Lang & Company
- Caffee, Halter & Griswald
- Chemical Bank
- Cleveland Browns
- Cleveland Cavaliers
- Cleveland Clinic Sports Health
- Deloitte
- Fifth Third Bank
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As we reflect on reaching this exciting milestone, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission looks forward to hosting many returning events and welcoming some new competitions to Northeast Ohio. In 2020, Cleveland will host 11 major sporting events, generating an estimated $19.9 million into the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Estimated Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JVA - Rock 'N Rumble</td>
<td>January 17-19, 2020</td>
<td>$3,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Ten Indoor Track &amp; Field Championship</td>
<td>February 28-29, 2020</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA DII Men’s &amp; Women’s Swimming &amp; Diving Championships</td>
<td>March 11-14, 2020</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Cornhole League</td>
<td>March 14-15, 2020</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA DI Men’s Basketball 1st &amp; 2nd Rounds</td>
<td>March 20 &amp; 22, 2020</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAC Baseball Championships</td>
<td>May 20-24, 2020</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Estimated Economic Impact:** $19,950,000
Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Committee and staff wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and all the companies who have donated their resources and expertise as well as our valued volunteers who have donated their time and energy to make the 20th Greater Cleveland Sports Awards a huge success!

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VOLUNTEERS
Mike Golic is a Northeast Ohio native and co-host of ESPN Radio’s weekday morning drive show, *Golic and Wingo*, alongside Trey Wingo and Mike Golic Jr.

Golic joined ESPN in 1995 as an NFL studio analyst on *NFL 2Night* and later joined *NFL Live*. He was a color commentator for the Arena Football League (1996-98, 2007-08) and ESPN/ABC college football games until the mid-nineties. As an eight-year NFL veteran, Golic played defensive tackle for the Houston Oilers (1986-87), Philadelphia Eagles (1987-1992) and Miami Dolphins (1993). During his time with the Eagles, Golic began his television career with a weekly segment on the *Randall Cunningham Show*. He received a Mid-Atlantic Region Emmy Award for his feature “Golic’s Got It.”

Since then, Golic has become a member of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Broadcasting Hall of Fame (2016) and the National Radio Hall of Fame (2018). He also was named the Walter Camp Man of the Year (2018), was inducted into the USA Wrestling Hall of Fame (2015) and was part of the inaugural St. Joseph’s High School Hall of Champions class (2015).


Golic is a 1985 graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he was an award-winning wrestler and served as captain of the football team during his senior season.
Play on CLE. We’ve got your Ankle Hamstring Knee Shoulder Elbow BACK.
AWARD VOTING PROCESS

Local sports and media outlets were invited to nominate athletes and select finalists from Northeast Ohio from the following nine counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Stark and Summit.

Finalists were selected in each of the following Greater Cleveland Sports Awards Categories:

- Male High School Athlete of the Year presented by University Hospitals Sports Medicine
- Female High School Athlete of the Year presented by University Hospitals Sports Medicine
- Male Collegiate Athlete of the Year presented by H. Jack’s Plumbing & Heating
- Female Collegiate Athlete of the Year presented by H. Jack’s Plumbing & Heating
- Professional Athlete of the Year presented by FOX Sports Ohio

A special awards committee was formed to select recipients for the following awards:

- Cleveland Clinic Sports Health Courage Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Cuyahoga Community College
- Sports Development Gold Medalist Award

The following is a sample of local media outlets asked to participate in the nomination process:

- Akron Beacon Journal
- Associated Press
- Cleveland.com
- Crain’s Cleveland Business
- Daily Record
- The News Herald
- The Plain Dealer
- ESPN Cleveland 950
- WAKR 1590
- WKRK 92.3
- WTAM 1100
- WEWS – TV 5
- WJW – TV 8
- WKYC – TV 3
- WOIO – TV 19

Best Moment presented by JACK Entertainment was nominated by the general public who provided their submissions for Best Moment in Cleveland Sports during 2019. The winning moment was based on the number of submissions.
2019
MALE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS
PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS SPORTS MEDICINE

Male High School Athlete of the Year Award is presented to one male high school athlete who has most distinguished himself through athletic excellence during the past year or athletic season and is in good academic standing.

Tanyon Bajzer
Gilmour Academy, Hockey
As a sophomore at St. Edward’s, Tanyon Bajzer led the Great Lakes Hockey League (GLHL) in goals (43) while also adding 26 assists for a league-leading 69 points. During the summer, Bajzer helped lead Team Ohio U-18 to USA Hockey’s U-18 Tier 1 National Championship, scoring 19 goals and 12 assists. Bajzer was selected to the GLHL 1st team for the second season and was also named 2nd team All-Ohio as a sophomore. He’s currently playing for Gilmour Academy’s Prep team, where he’s scored 17 goals and added 18 assists through 30 games.

Kyle Cusimano
Bay Village High School, Soccer
Kyle Cusimano helped lead Bay Village to a 16-0 regular season record and #1 ranking in the OHSAA DII state poll by racking up 32 goals; 26 of those goals during this season. He holds the school record with both 81 goals and 64 assists throughout his illustrious career. Cusimano was named 2019 Ohio Mr. Soccer while also being named Great Lakes Conference MVP as well as United Soccer Association National Player of the Year. He will be joining the Bowling Green State University’s soccer team in the fall.

Chris Livingston
Western Reserve Academy, Basketball
As a freshman, Chris Livingston was a 1st team All-Ohio pick in Division II as he led Akron Buchtel to the state final four averaging 23.7 points, 4.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game. Livingston also helped lead Team USA to win the FIBA U-16 Championships last summer, scoring 23 points and grabbing 6 rebounds in the championship game. Currently playing basketball at Western Reserve Academy, Livingston is the ESPN ranked #3 overall prospect in the Class of 2022.

2019
FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS
PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS SPORTS MEDICINE

Female High School Athlete of the Year Award is presented to one female high school athlete who has most distinguished herself through athletic excellence during the past year or athletic season and is in good academic standing.

Paige Floriea
Mentor High School, Track & Field
Paige Floriea enjoyed an outstanding season for the Mentor Cardinals track and field team where she won the 100M Regional Championship and District 200M Champion and was named Euclid Relays Most Valuable Female Track Athlete, At the 2019 OHSAA Division I State Girls Track & Field Championships, Floriea broke Jesse Owens Stadium’s long jump record, becoming the Long Jump State Champion and the first State Champion in Mentor High School history in long jump as well as the State Runner Up in the 200M dash and 3rd in 100M dash. Floriea was named 2019 News-Herald Track & Field Athlete of the Year and is ranked in the Top 20 for Ohio’s Mile Split Top Track Recruits list for Class of 2021.

Kierstan Bell
Canton McKinley High School, Basketball
As a senior at Canton McKinley, Kierstan Bell averaged career highs of 33.3 points and 9.6 rebounds per game during the 2018-19 season. She was named a member of the McDonalds All-American Team and Jordan Brand Classic in 2019. Kierstan capped off her career leading her team to three district titles and one regional title while holding 75 school, county and state records throughout her high school career. Bell was named Ohio Ms. Basketball for the third time in her career, joining LeBron James as the only other high school player to be named Ohio’s Player of the Year three times. Bell is currently a freshman on The Ohio State University Women’s Basketball team.

Kirsten Eppele
Strongsville High School, Softball
A two-sport athlete competing in both volleyball and softball, Kirsten Eppele led her Strongsville Mustang softball team to their first District appearance in the OHSAA tournament in nine years. She set seven school records with a .659 average, 46 runs, 47 RBIs, 19 doubles, 6 triples and 9 home runs and was an OHSAA 1st team all Cuyahoga County and First Team All-Ohio Selection in 2019. Eppele was also named Softball Player of the Year by the Cuyahoga County Softball Coaches Association and will be continuing her softball career at The Ohio State University in the fall.

Paige Floriea
Mentor High School, Track & Field
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2019 MALE COLLEGIATE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS
PRESENTED BY H. JACK’S PLUMBING & HEATING

Male Collegiate Athlete of the Year Award is presented to one collegiate male athlete/team that has most distinguished himself/itself through athletic excellence during the past year or athletic season and is in good academic standing.

Dominic Canzone
The Ohio State University, Baseball (Walsh Jesuit)
A senior outfielder for the Buckeyes, Dominic Canzone started all 63 games in right field, batting .345 with 18 doubles, two triples, 16 homers and 43 RBIs. He led the Buckeyes with 25 multi-hit games, 10 multi-RBI contests while also leading the Big Ten in hits (88), runs scored (66), slugging percentage (.620) and total bases (158). Canzone broke the program record by reaching base safely in 59-consecutive games in 2019 (second-longest active streak in the nation). Canzone was named First Team All-Big Ten, Big Ten All-Tournament Team, First Team Mideast-ABCA/Rawlings All-Region and Third Team ABCA/Rawlings All-American. Following his collegiate career, Canzone was drafted in MLB’s 8th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Danny Cody
Baldwin Wallace University, Baseball (Brecksville-Broadview Hts.)
The American Baseball Coaches Association/ Rawlings Division III Mideast Region Pitcher of the Year, Danny Cody excelled on the mound for the Yellow Jackets Baseball team in 2019. Cody owned a 9-1 record with a 1.89 ERA in 15 appearances, including 13 starts, logging 85 innings and 109 strikeouts. His nine victories and 109 strikeouts were both Baldwin Wallace single-season records. Cody was named to the DIII baseball First-Team, was an All-Mideast Region selection and an ABCA/ Rawlings First-Team All-Mideast Region selection. Additionally, Cody was named as the Kent Tekulve Ohio Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year. Following the season, he was drafted by the Houston Astros in MLB’s 17th round becoming highest baseball player drafted in school history.

Jordin James
University of Mount Union, Wrestling (Bedford)
The 2019 NCAA Division III National Champion at 133 pounds, Jordin James led the Mount Union Raiders to a 5th place team finish; the highest finish in program history. He became the third wrestler in program history to win an individual national title. James went 34-1 with six major decisions, four pins and led the team with 15 technical falls. He was 5-0 in Ohio Athletic Conference matches and finished first at the Messiah Petrobes Invitational, Pete Willson Wheaton Invitational and at NCAA Central Regional. Jordin was a First-Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference selection in 2019.

2019 FEMALE COLLEGIATE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS
PRESENTED BY H. JACK’S PLUMBING & HEATING

Female Collegiate Athlete of the Year Award is presented to one female athlete/team that has most distinguished herself/itself through athletic excellence during the past year or athletic season and is in good academic standing.

Naz Hillmon
University of Michigan, Basketball (Gilmour Academy)
After graduating from Gilmour Academy, Naz Hillmon excelled in her freshman year at University of Michigan appearing in all 34 games off the bench, averaging team-highs with 33 points per game, 7 rebounds per game and a .628 field goal percentage. She was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year, Big Ten Sixth Player of the Year, All-Big Ten Freshman Team and First Team All-Big Ten. She was named Big Ten Freshman of the week six times. Hillmon is currently averaging 15.6 points and 8.4 rebounds per game this season for top-25 ranked Michigan.

Emily Weigand
University of Akron, Volleyball (Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin)
Emily Weigand finished the 2019 season ranking first in the Mid-American Conference and top-20 in the nation in aces per set (.49). She helped lead the University of Akron to rank first in the MAC in total service aces. Weigand also finished second in the MAC with 1,058 assists and a 10.27 assist per set average. She was named a two-time MAC Setter of the Week, leading her Akron team to a 15-win season and tie for first place in the MAC East with an 8-2 record.

Olivia Bechtel
Miami University, Track & Field (Bay Village)
Olivia Bechtel set a new school record at Indiana’s Billy Hayes Invitational, running a 52.97 in the 400M to win the event. Bechtel is currently Miami’s record holder in both the indoor and outdoor 400M. Having broken the indoor record earlier this season, she leads the Mid-American Conference in the event and ranks 36th in the nation. Bechtel took home the 400M title at the MAC Championships and set a new school record. As part of a 4x400M team that set three school records, she qualified for NCAA East Regionals in the 400M and 4x400M as well as posted the best marks by any Red Hawk in all three sprint events (60M, 200M, 400M).
Cleveland Magazine is proud to support the GREAT CLEVELAND SPORTS AWARDS.

Each issue of Cleveland Magazine brings you the very best in arts and entertainment, dining, fashion, home and garden and health care.

2019 PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY FOX SPORTS OHIO

Professional Athlete of the Year Award is presented to the professional athlete who has most distinguished him or herself through athletic excellence during the past year or athletic season.

Nick Chubb
running back, Cleveland Browns
Nick Chubb, running back, enjoyed another outstanding season on the ground for the Cleveland Browns in 2019, finishing second in rushing yards in the NFL with 1,494 yards on 298 carries, averaging 5 yards per carry and 93.4 yards per game. Chubb also added 8 touchdowns and was a NFL Pro Bowl selection.

Stipe Miocic
Heavyweight Champion, UFC
In a highly anticipated rematch with Daniel Cormier, Stipe Miocic was victorious via a fourth-round knockout in the UFC 241 main event to re-claim the UFC Heavyweight Championship and has become one of the greatest heavyweights in UFC history. During his first reign as heavyweight champion, he successfully defended his championship three times, holding the record for most consecutive successful title defenses in the history of the UFC heavyweight division.

Roberto Pérez
catcher, Cleveland Indians
Roberto Perez played in 114 games behind the dish to lead the American League (AL). His 993 2/3 innings also led all AL catchers and was fourth in MLB. Perez did not allow a passed ball in all his innings caught and is the fourth catcher since 1930 with 118 games behind the plate. He led by throwing out 40.8 percent (20-for-49) of the runners who challenged him and set a franchise record with a .997 fielding percentage (three errors in 1,137 chances). Perez also excelled at the plate hitting .239, 24 homers (24) and 63 RBIs. He was a Rawlings Gold Glove Award winner, received the Wilson’s Defensive Player of the Year Award and Wilson’s award for the top defensive player in the game.

Collin Sexton
guard, Cleveland Cavaliers
Rookie Collin Sexton was the only Cavalier to suit up for all 82 games in the 2018-19 NBA Season. He was named to NBA’s All-Rookie Team in 2019, while averaging 16.7 ppg, 3 assists and 2.9 rebounds. Sexton recorded at least 23 points in a seven-game stretch, becoming the first rookie in franchise history to achieve that feat and the first freshman since Tim Duncan in 1998. Sexton was the third rookie in NBA history to average at least 16.0 points while shooting at least 40 percent from beyond the arc and 80 percent from the stripe; joining both Larry Bird and Steph Curry in this achievement.
Your Focus and Hours Worked,
Your Resilience and Envelopes Pushed,
Your Determination and Failures Conquered...
Has made you a Champion
COURAGE HAS A NEW DEFINITION

SKYLAR ANN SCARNECCHIA

COURAGE AWARD
PRESENTED BY CLEVELAND CLINIC SPORTS HEALTH

Skylar Scarnecchia, an eighth grader from Champion Township, Ohio, overcame major medical and physical obstacles to return to playing competitive sports.

In 2015, Scarnecchia began to experience discomfort on the bottom of her right foot causing her to limp. She was treated for plantar fasciitis, however the pain continued to intensify.

In efforts to find the cause of the pain, Scarnecchia’s mother asked for an MRI to be taken which revealed a tumor on the bottom of her foot. Scarnecchia, who was 10 years old at the time, was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a rare form of soft-tissue cancer.

A full-body scan found three additional spots on her lung. Her case was reviewed by the Cleveland Clinic tumor board who put together a treatment plan. Scarnecchia started chemotherapy, receiving treatment once a week for three months.

At the end of Scarnecchia’s treatment, a scan showed two of the three spots on her lung had gone away. However, the tumor on the ball of her right foot had not responded to chemotherapy. Because of the location of the tumor and the need to remove all of the cancer on her foot, amputation was recommended. This decision was made together with Skylar’s family and surgeon, Nathan Mesko, M.D., director of Musculoskeletal Oncology in the Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute and co-director of the Sarcoma Center at Cleveland Clinic.

In December 2016, Scarnecchia had surgery to amputate below the knee on her right leg. With the surgery and intense treatment that followed, she missed the entire fifth grade school year but remained determined to get back to playing sports. She was fitted for a prosthetic leg in March 2017, and then was sized for the prosthetic blade runner a few months later. By August 2017, Scarnecchia was back on the soccer field and then followed that by participating in travel basketball.

In July 2019, Scarnecchia’s family shared her routine follow-up showed that she is 32 months in remission. In addition to soccer, the middle schooler participates in track and field and volleyball. Scarnecchia recently signed with a professional talent agency and is excited to use that platform to increase awareness of sarcoma as well as prove to others that being amputee does not slow you down.

“Fighting for my life motivated me to inspire others and tell them I survived,” said Scarnecchia. “I’m so humbled and honored to be given this opportunity to start sharing my story and hopefully inspire other kids by letting them know they can win what they may think is tiring and impossible.”

Scarnecchia lives with Patricia and Jim, her parents, and Isaiah, her older brother. She has a public Instagram account, @IamSkylarStrong that she uses to raise awareness childhood cancer and life after amputation. Additionally, Scarnecchia has a pelican named after her from Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater, Florida, whose leg is permanently misshapen due to a previous injury.

Cleveland Clinic Sports Health Courage Award is given to an athlete who has displayed courage beyond the boundaries of the playing field to inspire those around them.
The Dolan Family, Cleveland Indians ownership group, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Cuyahoga Community College.

Lawrence “Larry” J. Dolan purchased the Cleveland Indians in 2000. As owner of the club, Larry served on the Major League Baseball Ownership Committee, Executive Council and co-chair of the MLB Diversity Committee. He was an honorary board member for the Catholic Community Foundation and the Catholic Charities Corporation. Civically, he was involved with the Greater Cleveland Growth Association.

Dolan’s community and charity works have included former president of the Christopher Foundation, Executive Board Member of the Geauga County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Board Member of the Cleveland Foundation and founder and former president of the Geauga County Public Library Foundation.

Dolan has six children, among them is Paul Dolan, current Owner/Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Indians.

In 2000, Paul Dolan took over as General Counsel for the club before transitioning to President in 2004. Dolan assumed his current role as Owner/Chairman and CEO in 2010 and became the primary control person of the franchise in 2013.

His involvement extends beyond the ballpark and into the Northeast Ohio community. Dolan’s work with the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland awarded him the 2017 inaugural Youth Champion of the Year. Additionally, Dolan is the Chairman, Board of Directors for United Way of Greater Cleveland from 2018 to 2020.

Dolan is an avid cyclist who routinely chairs and participates in Velosano, a year-round, community driven fundraising initiative to support lifesaving cancer research at Cleveland Clinic, and traditionally raises thousands of dollars for his participation in the yearly fundraiser.

“On behalf of my entire family, I want to thank Greater Cleveland Sports Commission for this incredible honor and their great support through the years,” said Paul Dolan, Cleveland Indians Owner/CEO. “From the day we purchased the club we recognized the role the Cleveland Indians play in the fabric of this entire community and have enjoyed over the years being stewards of this iconic organization.”

Under the Dolan Family’s team ownership, Cleveland Indians Charities (CIC), the team’s charitable arm, has been a supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland through financial, in-kind and volunteer efforts such as providing funding for scholarships for Youth of the Year finalists, supporting the Ready Reader Plus program and Brain Gain.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a person who, through their personal dedication and achievements has advanced sports in Cleveland.
Cleveland Indians are awarded the Sports Development Gold Medalist Award for their involvement and execution of the 2019 MLB All-Star Week as well as their unwavering support of Greater Cleveland Sports Commission’s (GCSC) hosted events over the past twenty years.

The team’s guidance and expertise during events such as MLB All-Star Red Carpet Show presented by Chevrolet, T-Mobile Home Run Derby and the 90th MLB All-Star Game, allowed the footprint of America’s favorite pastime to extend beyond the ballpark.

Due to the club’s partnership, Cleveland’s hosting of the 90th All-Star Game was praised by many visitors and media including USA Today’s Bob Nightengale who wrote, “Leave it to this proud city to bring back memories of good old-fashioned baseball, celebrating the beauty and essence of the sport, in a truly wonderful All-Star experience.”

Additionally, the Cleveland Indian’s support of community events such as First Pitch of Summer presented by Progressive and KeyBank, made it a reality for over 800 youth and community members to pitch a baseball from historic League Park to Progressive Field on a journey to become the first pitch ball for that evening’s Tribe game.

GCSC’s relationship with the Indians organization was strengthened through their support of the previously hosted Continental Cup which drew youth from around the world to Northeast Ohio to compete in a variety of sports including baseball. During this event, the Tribe provided Progressive Field as the location of the youth Championship game.

Throughout the past twenty years, the club has been an avid supporter of GCSC. Dennis Lehman, former Executive Vice President of Business for the Cleveland Indians, served for 20 years as an active Board of Trustee member. Lehman pioneered many firsts for the Sports Commission and served as a valued advisor throughout his tenure.

Newly added to GCSC’s Board, Brian Barren, President of Business Operations for the Cleveland Indians, will perpetuate the club’s support to continue the Sports Commission’s mission to attract events that will enrich the Northeast Ohio community.

The Sports Development Gold Medalist Award is awarded to an individual or group who has provided guidance and support through their hosting of championship events with Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.
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