



Item: VI.b.e.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve naming the FAU softball field the “Joan Joyce Field.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Consistent with University Policy 1.8, University elements may be named in honor of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the University, or to the State of Florida, or to the fields of education, government, science or human betterment and who are of recognized accomplishment and character. The FAU Athletic Department seeks to name the FAU softball field the “Joan Joyce Field” to honor the legacy of a woman whose contributions to the University are unmatched and whose accomplishments and character impacted this institution in incalculable ways.

Joan Joyce was one of those rare individuals to enjoy success, in multiple sports, as both a player and a coach. After concluding an illustrious playing career in softball, basketball, volleyball, and the LPGA tour, Coach Joyce was named head softball coach at FAU in 1994. She was the only FAU softball coach in program history, racking up 1,002 wins, and eight Conference Coach of the Year titles in three different conferences over her 28-year career. Under Coach Joyce, the program's accomplishments are unparalleled: eight-consecutive Conference Championships and NCAA Tournament appearances between 1997 and 2004; 12 total Conference Championships; and eleven total NCAA Tournament appearances.

Coach Joyce was involved as a coach and a player at the highest levels of softball. Her coaching experience includes a four-year stint in the women's professional softball ranks, and she won the World Series in each of those seasons. She also coached and played softball with many of the nation's top collegiate coaches. A member of the National Amateur Softball Hall of Fame, Coach Joyce holds a career pitching record of 753 wins and 42 losses. Included in her totals are 150 no-hit, no-run games and 50 perfect games. At the plate she posted a career batting average of .324. Coach Joyce counted striking out Ted Williams, one of the greatest hitters of all time, in 1961 as one of her most notable achievements.

Coach Joyce has been inducted into numerous halls of fame including:

- FAU Athletics Hall of Fame (2019)
- A-SUN Hall of Fame (2018)
- National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2013)
- Florida Sports Hall of Fame (2012)

- Palm Beach Sports Hall of Fame (2008)
- New England Women's Sports Hall of Fame (1999)
- International Sports Federation Hall of Fame (1999)
- Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame (1998)
- Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame (1995)
- National ASA Hall of Fame (1983)
- Connecticut ASA Hall of Fame
- Women's Hall of Fame of Connecticut
- Hank O'Donnell Hall of Fame
- Connecticut Basketball Hall of Fame
- Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame
- Greater Waterbury Hall of Fame
- International Women's Sports Hall of Fame
- Conference USA Hall of Fame (2022)

Coach Joyce passed away on March 26, 2022. She left behind a legacy that will be felt at FAU and in the sporting world forever.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Upon approval, the softball field will be painted with the name “Joan Joyce Field.” Additional signage for the stadium will be designed and installed for the 2023-24 season.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to this proposed board action.

Presented by: Brian White
Vice President and Director of Athletics

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