

## **Laureus World Sports Awards, Barcelona 2006**

# **BARCELONA TO STAGE 2006 LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS**

- **New international venue for world's leading sports awards**
- **Global TV audience will watch glittering Awards Ceremony**
- **'Barcelona is very happy to welcome the Laureus World Sports Awards', Mayor of Barcelona**
- **'2006 Laureus World Sports Awards will be unforgettable,' says Laureus Academy chairman Edwin Moses**

**BARCELONA, December 1, 2005** – The seventh annual Laureus World Sports Awards is to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from May 20-22, 2006.

The announcement was made by Miguel Indurain and Edwin Moses, members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, at Barcelona International Convention Centre. Also present was the Mayor of Barcelona, Joan Clos and Guy Sanan, Chief Executive Officer of Laureus. The Spanish city was selected at the end of a bidding process lasting six months and involving several other cities.

The Laureus World Sports Awards is recognised as the premier honours event in the international sporting calendar and the Awards Ceremony provides a high profile focus as stars of the sporting world come together to salute the finest sportsmen and sportswomen of the year.

Last year's Awards Ceremony, in the presence of His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain, was attended by the legends of the Laureus World Sports Academy, Hollywood stars Jackie Chan, Morgan Freeman, Teri Hatcher and Marcia Gay Harden, and Real Madrid and England football star David Beckham and his wife Victoria Beckham. Among the many award winners present were Roger Federer, Kelly Holmes and Greece football coach Otto Rehhagel.

Edwin Moses, Chairman of the Laureus World Sports Academy, a unique collection of 40 of the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen of all time, said: "This is an important step for Laureus. Barcelona's long and distinguished sporting history, combined with its modern facilities and its undoubted appeal as one of the world's most fascinating and attractive cities will ensure a unique event. I am confident that the 2006 Laureus World Sports Awards will be an unforgettable experience."

Spain's Miguel Indurain said: "I am very excited that the Laureus World Sports Awards will be coming to Spain. I would like to thank the City of Barcelona for making it possible. Sport is a passion for the Spanish people and I know we will be given a very warm welcome when we come here in May.

"It has been a magnificent year for Spanish sport with Fernando Alonso winning the Formula One World Championship, the emergence of Rafael Nadal as one of the world's top tennis players and Rafael Benitez winning the European Champions League with Liverpool, so I cannot think of a better time for the Laureus World Sports Awards to be held in Barcelona," added Indurain.

The Mayor of Barcelona, Joan Clos, stated, "Barcelona is very happy to welcome the Laureus World Sports Awards to the city."

"The fact that Barcelona has been chosen to host the Laureus World Sports Awards demonstrates once again the quality of the city as a centre for high-profile international events of worldwide importance."

"The organisational and logistics talents available within the city, backed up by a world-class infrastructure, make Barcelona the ideal venue for events of global stature."

"Sport is close to the hearts of all the people of Barcelona, and we are delighted to support Laureus in its goal of helping underprivileged young people by establishing Sport for Good Foundation projects in so many countries around the world."

The Laureus World Sports Academy, which consists of 40 of the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen of all time, decide by secret ballot who should receive the annual Laureus World Sports Awards. Nominees are chosen by a Selection Panel of key sports media from over 80 countries.

The members of the Laureus World Sports Academy are: Giacomo Agostini, Severiano Ballesteros, Franz Beckenbauer, Boris Becker, Ian Botham, Sergey Bubka, Bobby Charlton, Sebastian Coe, Nadia Comaneci, Yaping Deng, Kapil Dev, David Douillet, Emerson Fittipaldi, Sean Fitzpatrick, Dawn Fraser, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Tony Hawk, Miguel Indurain, Michael Johnson, Michael Jordan, Kip Keino, Franz Klammer, Dan Marino, John McEnroe, Edwin Moses (Chairman), Nawal El Moutawakel, Robby Naish, Ilie Nastase, Martina Navratilova, Jack Nicklaus, Pelé, Gary Player, Morné du Plessis, Hugo Porta, Vivian Richards, Mark Spitz, Daley Thompson, Alberto Tomba, Katarina Witt and Yasuhiro Yamashita.

The Academy also volunteer their services as global ambassadors for the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, the charitable arm of the Laureus World Sports Awards. The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation was set up to promote the use of sport as a tool for social change. Its work focuses on helping young people overcome poverty, homelessness, war, violence, drugs, discrimination and AIDS. So far over 130,000 underprivileged young people have been helped in 38 projects around the world.

The 2006 Awards Ceremony, to be staged in Barcelona on May 22, will provide a fitting climax to two days of exciting sports events. Previous years have seen the Laureus Golf Challenge, hosted by Gary Player, the Laureus Tennis Challenge, involving Boris Becker and Ilie Nastase, and the Laureus Regatta, which has featured yachts crewed by members of America's Cup teams.

The Laureus World Sports Awards was established in 1999 by Founding Patrons DaimlerChrysler and Richemont, who are represented through their brands of choice Mercedes-Benz and IWC Schaffhausen. The Awards Ceremony was held in Monaco from 1999 to 2003 and in Estoril, Portugal, in 2004 and 2005.

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*For photos of this and other Laureus events please visit [www.laureusarchive.com](http://www.laureusarchive.com)*

*NB: Information correct at time of going to press*