



Inspirational Cindi Hart to be Honored as 2007 Reverend Charles Williams Award Recipient

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Contact:

John Dedman, Indiana Sports Corporation, (317) 237-5016

INDIANAPOLIS – Cindi Hart, local coach, athlete and cancer survivor, will be honored with the 2007 Reverend Charles Williams Award at the annual Pathfinder Awards Banquet on Sunday, June 24 at Conseco Fieldhouse.



The award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves through direct service to youth in the Indianapolis community. Formerly known as the Chairman's Award, the award was renamed the Reverend Charles Williams Award in July 2004 in honor of the late president of Indiana Black Expo.

“Sharing much of what Reverend Charles Williams stood for, Cindi is a perfect recipient for the award that memorializes his life,” said Tom King, ISC Chairman of the Board. “Her incredible passion and love for coaching and teaching kids is inspirational, and has gone a long way to making our community a better place for many of our youth.”

Hart plays many roles in the sports community of Indiana. She has been a competitive cyclist for more than 20 years, as well as a long and short-track speedskater. She is the head coach of the IndySpeed speedskating program for the state of Indiana, and also for U.S. Speedskating and the Special Olympics. In addition to founding IndySpeed, she is also the club's grant writer. As a coach, Hart led the USA Special Olympics Speedskating team to its best-ever finish at the 2004 World Winter Games. She has also coached five cycling athletes to national medals, including two national champions.

“Reverend Charles Williams gave so much of himself to improve our community and encourage our youth to work hard and aim high,” said Joyce Rogers, President and CEO of Indiana Black Expo. “That is exactly what Cindi does through her coaching and guidance of young speedskaters and cyclists here in central Indiana. These youngsters are learning valuable life skills and growing into our next generation of community leaders through Cindi's dedication and commitment to them.”

However, Hart's achievements span far beyond the coaching sphere. Following a 2004 diagnosis of breast cancer, Hart underwent a bilateral mastectomy and several rounds of chemotherapy. For most, simply going through the whole experience would have been difficult enough. Then again, Cindi Hart is not most.

Throughout her treatment, Hart continued to competitively train and only two days after she started treatment, Hart was victorious at the Indiana State Championships Track Cycling Championships. Three weeks following her surgery, Hart broke the women's 40+ national 1500-meter speedskating record by seven seconds. Her heroism throughout her trials and tribulations earned her the "Woman of Character" title from the Indianapolis Star.



"To do what you love and love what you do is a true blessing," said Hart. "To be able to share this with others is a labor of love. To witness and be a part of the evolution from child to athlete to champion is an honor beyond compare. To receive the Reverend Charles Williams Award in recognition of doing something I love is priceless."

The Pathfinder Awards Banquet is held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary Youthlinks Indiana Charity Golf Tournament, co-presented by Indiana Sports Corporation and Indiana Black Expo. Over the years, more than \$5.2 million in event proceeds has been distributed back into the community to support youth-based sports programs and initiatives through CHAMPS (Champions in Life) grants and other programs. This year's Pathfinder Awards will feature Mike Tirico of ESPN's Monday Night Football and ABC Sports as master of ceremonies, and track & field legend Carl Lewis and Indiana basketball great George McGinnis as the National Pathfinder Award and Indiana Pathfinder Award recipient, respectively.

This year's tournament will take place on Monday, June, 25, at five premier Indiana golf courses: Brickyard Crossing Golf Course, Broadmoor Country Club, Crooked Stick Golf Club, The Hawthorns Golf & Country Club and Meridian Hills Country Club.

For more information on Youthlinks Indiana or to purchase a golf package or Pathfinder Awards ticket, contact Chris Brelage at (317) 237-5035 or chris.brelage@indianasportscorp.com.

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