

Bettman, Brodeur, O’Ree top Hockey Hall of Fame class

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
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NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, pioneering black player Willie O’Ree and Martin Brodeur, the league’s leader in wins among goaltenders, top the latest class for the Hockey Hall of Fame announced on Tuesday.

Bettman has been commissioner since 1993, during which time the NHL has expanded its footprint across North America and increased from 24 to 31 teams. During Bettman’s tenure, the league has gone from a \$437 million business to one with almost \$5 billion in revenue.

Along with Bettman and O’Ree in the builder category, forward Martin St. Louis, four-time gold-medal-winning Canadian women’s national team star Jayna Hefford and Russian Alexander Yakushev were part of the six-person class of 2018 that will be inducted Nov. 12 in Toronto.

“This is not something I was focused on and I’m speechless and grateful to be included with this group,” Bettman said. “I’m particularly honored to be part of a class that includes Willie O’Ree.”

NHL leading scorer Wayne Gretzky said Bettman’s efforts to help each club compete for the Stanley Cup has made the game stronger.

“His leadership and love for hockey is very evident,” Gretzky said. “Hockey has become more entertaining year after year, thanks



Bettman



Brodeur



O’Ree

in part to his passion for the game.”

O’Ree was the first black player in the NHL but he will be the third inducted into the Hall of Fame, joining Edmonton Oilers goalie Grant Fuhr and Canadian women’s national team captain Angela James.

O’Ree, a native of Fredericton, New Brunswick in eastern Canada, made his NHL debut in 1958 as a call-up for the Boston Bruins. The winger put up four goals and 10 assists in 45 NHL games during the 1957-58 and 1960-61 seasons despite being 95 percent blind in his right eye.

“This honor is long overdue as Willie has been a tremendous figure in our game both on and off the ice for over 60 years,” Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs said. “We are lucky to have been able to call Willie a Bruin when he made his debut

in 1958 and we could not be happier for him to finally receive the recognition he so greatly deserves.”

Eric Zweig, hockey historian and author of “Stanley Cup: 120 Years of Hockey Supremacy” and “Glory Days: Hockey in the 1950s and ‘60s,” said O’Ree played well for years in the Western Hockey League with Los Angeles and San Diego but didn’t get an opportunity with the Kings.

“Some of this, of course, may be due to the fact that he was blind in one eye — though I don’t know how many people were ever aware of that when he was playing,” Zweig said.

Now 82, O’Ree works for the NHL as diversity ambassador in the league’s “Hockey is for Everyone” initiative.” Sixty years after he broke the league’s color barrier, there are now about two dozen

black players currently on NHL rosters.

“This honor would not be possible if I had not rejoined the league in 1996,” O’Ree said. “I was given a second wind to give back to the game.”

The 46-year-old Brodeur was a three-time Stanley Cup champion with the New Jersey Devils who was elected in his first year of eligibility as the goalie with the most wins, shutouts and games played in NHL history.

The Montreal native was the last real standup goaltender as the position moved almost exclusively to the butterfly technique, and his puck-handling prowess led the NHL to institute the trapezoid behind the net as a way to increase scoring. In net, Brodeur has a league-best 369 wins and 125 shutouts in 1,266 regular-sea-

son games with the Devils and St. Louis Blues, and he won the Vezina Trophy four times. He won 113 playoff games and had a 2.02 post-season goals-against average. Brodeur also scored two regular-season goals and another in the playoffs — more than any other goalie.

“I was fortunate to play on great teams that allowed me to play with my own personality, which is so important to a goaltender,” Brodeur said.

The Devils retired Brodeur’s No. 30 in 2016 and later that year unveiled a statue of his famous salute outside their arena in Newark. Sharks forward Joel Ward said that same year the NHL should retire O’Ree’s No. 22 like Major League Baseball has with Jackie Robinson’s No. 42, which he wears as a tribute to the player who broke baseball’s color barrier.

St. Louis, a 5-foot-8 winger, put up 1,033 points in 1,134 regular-season games over 17 seasons, won the Cup with Tampa Bay in 2004 and an Olympic gold medal with Canada in 2014. He’s just the sixth undrafted player in league history with 1,000-plus points.

Hefford won four Olympic gold medals and seven world championships, putting up 30 points in 26 Olympic games. Yakushev became known to North American hockey fans during the 1972 Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union, with 11 points in eight games. He also won Olympic gold medals in 1972 and 1976.



Photo courtesy of John Adams
Hermiston’s Thomas Mabbott (right) and Mitchell Pimentel (left) show off their individual medals after claiming second and third place, respectively, at the 2018 Oregon State High School Clay Target League State Tournament at the Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club on Saturday. Mabbott tied with a Newberg athlete for first place with 99 targets hit but dropped to second after the tiebreaker. Pimentel beat out the competition in another tiebreaker to finish third with a 98.

HERMISTON: Sat atop standings for most of season

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doing the right thing like learning the fundamentals,” he said.

As Mabbot, who earned second place (99 points) after a tie-breaking reverse run with Newberg’s Ryan Kramer, and Pimentel, who finished third with a score of 98, others also contributed to the 13-point victory.

Cody Adams, in the boys novice competition, finished third with 83 points. Five other Hermiston athletes finished in the top 15, and three were in a seven-way tie for 13th.

Tyler Pearson finished tied for seventh place (97) and Kaden Smith also finished in a three-way tie for 10th place (96). Cole Smith, Tyson Stocker and Chase Smith all tied for 13th place (95) with other athletes from Arlington, Madras, Mountain View and Estacada.

Other locals also made the trip to Hillsboro, including Echo’s Natalee Sherbahn, who finished third in the girls junior varsity competition. Sherbahn finished with 72 points.

The Ukiah/Pilot Rock High School team had some top finishes in the novice and junior varsity

competition.

Lokey Breeding of Pilot Rock finished tied for second in the boys junior varsity class with 90 targets hit, but took home third place on a tie-breaker, while teammate Gauge Hill finished tied for fifth with 87 points.

In boys novice class, Ukiah’s Cadney Bacon finished fourth with a 77 and Pilot Rock’s Johnathin Hascall was fifth with a 72.

Arlington High School competed and place two shooters in the top 15. Chloe Goss finished second in girls novice with a 79 and Brett Troutman finished tied for 13th in boys varsity with 95.

Rounding out the team standings were Madras (472), Medford (463), Molalla (462) and Oregon City with 459 points.

Throughout the eight-week season, Hermiston handily made its way to the top of the Class 1A Conference 4 standings. It put together 8,024 points — nearly 200 points better than second-place Molalla (6,288.5).

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OSU: Only run scored on Gretler’s single

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hits with six strikeouts. Barrett Loseke and Matt Cronin combined to pitch three scoreless innings of relief.

Michael Gretler’s base hit in the second put Oregon State (53-12-1) up 1-0. The Beavers looked ready to add to the lead when Kjerstad lost Trevor Larnach’s fly in the sun and it bounced over the fence for a ground-rule double.

Adley Rutschman was on first and Larnach on third when Tyler Malone grounded to first and Jared Gates threw to second to start a double-play attempt. Rutschman ducked as he approached the bag — rather than sliding or peeling off away from the play — and was called for interfering with shortstop Jax Biggers. It was ruled a double play, Larnach was ordered back to third base, and Knight struck out Gretler to end the inning.

“It appeared Rutsch was doing everything he could to get out of the way,” Casey said. “The ball left the guy’s hand. They weren’t near one another, so I don’t agree with the call. We had that run taken off the board right there, so that makes it tough.”

The play seemed to swing the momentum Arkansas’ way.

Heimlich (16-3) issued a walk and gave up back-to-back singles for the Razorbacks’ first run in the fifth. Heimlich then hit two straight batters to bring home another run. Arkansas extended its lead to 3-1 after second baseman Nick Madrigal’s bobble trying to throw to second on a grounder.

Christian Chamberlain replaced Heimlich and walked the first batter he



AP Photo/Nati Harnik
Arkansas’ Jax Biggers is hit by a pitch during the fifth inning of Game 1 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals against Oregon State in Omaha, Neb., Tuesday.



AP Photo/Nati Harnik
Oregon State coach Pat Casey watches action during the fifth inning of Game 1 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals between Oregon State and Arkansas in Omaha, Neb., Tuesday.

faced, making it 4-1. Chamberlain struck out 11 in 4 2/3 innings but also walked five.

Oregon State is in the same position it was in back in 2006 when it won its first title. The Beavers lost their CWS opener and lost Game 1 of the finals against North Carolina before winning the last two. They also are the first team since 2010 to make the finals after losing their first game in Omaha.

“We have to come out tomorrow with more of an edge,” Rutschman said. “There’s something about facing elimination that you can’t really explain. I hope we come with fire and energy tomorrow.”

HEIMLICH’S STRUGGLES

Heimlich’s first two appearances in Omaha didn’t draw much reaction from the crowd other than cheers from Oregon State supporters. That was mostly the case again Tuesday, though there were scattered boos when he was introduced before the game and a woman behind the Arkansas dugout stood and gave a thumbs-down with her right hand.

Last year, Heimlich left the team before the CWS when it was revealed he had pleaded guilty to molesting a young relative when he was 15. The university allowed him to return to the team this year. He served two years of probation and went through a treatment program but denied wrongdoing in recent interviews with Sports Illustrated and The New York Times.

UP NEXT
Game 2 is Wednesday. The winner of Game 1 has won 11 of the 15 finals since the best-of-three format began in 2003.

LEGION: Hermiston wins on Prewitt’s walk-off

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Beers scored on a groundout to the shortstop.

Roberts started on the mound for Hodgen and lasted four innings. After allowing three hits and a walk in Idaho’s five-run first, he gave up only one hit and one run with two strikeouts over his final three frames. Beers pitched 2 2/3 innings and allowed a run and Large pitched one strikeout in 1/3 inning.

In the opener, Hodgen scored two runs in the bottom of the first when Simons doubled, Field walked and Tucker Zander singled to load the bases. Simons and Field would score on a Idaho

error for a 2-0 lead. Its only other run came in the sixth when Sweek hit a RBI single to left to score Field.

Hodgen tallied seven errors in the first game and only four of Idaho’s nine runs scored were earned.

Hodgen Distributing will be back in tournament play starting on Thursday in Walla Walla for the Bruin Classic.

Hermiston splits with Pasco

The Hermiston Legion baseball team used a late rally of its own in the second game of a doubleheader to salvage a split on Tuesday. After losing the opener

to Pasco by a 12-8 score, Hermiston trailed 5-0 of the second game when it came to bat in the bottom of the seventh and scored six runs — all with two outs — to earn the win on a walk-off single by Seth Prewitt.

Gavin Hunter started the rally with a hit-by-pitch, Tyson Stocker doubled and Spencer Juul walked to load the bases with two outs. Back-to-back fielding errors by Pasco allowed three runs to score, giving Hermiston hope. Then Ethin Randolph hit a RBI double to get within 5-4, putting the tying run on third and the winning run on second.

And with an 0-2 count, Prewitt knocked a hit into

center field to score both for the win.

In the opener, Hermiston (5-16) led 4-1 after four innings thanks to an RBI double by Rustin Edmiston and a RBI single from Juul. However Pasco answered with an eight-run fifth where it collected seven hits and two walks on Hermiston pitchers Hunter and Randolph.

Hermiston closed the gap in the sixth inning with RBI singles from Juul and Randolph, a RBI groundout by Prewitt and a the help of a Pasco error to make it a 10-8 game. But Pasco responded with two more runs in the seventh to seal the win.