February 19, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I would like to nominate Joseph J. Galat to be inducted into the Miami University Cradle of Coaches. This prestigious honor would be fitting for the 1962 graduate whose MU accomplishments include captain of the football and wrestling teams, Outstanding Student Athlete Award, member of the All-Mid-American Conference team, football coach, head wrestling coach and 1982 Miami Hall of Fame inductee. Over the last sixty years Mr. Galat has left his mark on every level of football, from high school, collegiate, professional, international, and especially youth.

Joe began his coaching career at the university level at Miami, Yale and Kentucky with such mentors as Bo Schembechler and Carm Cozza. He made his way to the NFL alongside John McVay with the New York Giants and later with the Houston Oilers. He traveled to Russia and coached American football clinics. Soon after he became head coach and general manager in the Canadian Football League with both the Montreal and the British Columbia teams.

In addition to being a player, a coach, and a manager, Mr. Galat was a color sports commentator with the Candadian Broadcasting Company and has authored two books on football. Coaching Youth Football and The 100 Yard Classroom are both filled with wisdom and knowledge on how football develops self-discipline, character and team work. His life lessons learned within the game are shared to show their value off the field.

Few of “Mighty Joe’s” accomplishments compare to his project of the last 27 years and that is being the founder and president of American Youth Football. Creating the world’s largest youth football and cheer program which serves over 1,000,000 children in 50 states is his way of “giving back.” Not only does his organization encourage the learning of a sport but emphasizes academics, community involvement and character development. Joe continues to oversee the regional and national championship tournaments as well as the day-to-day business of working with coaches, parents and players.

Every experience in Coach Joe Galat’s football journey; player, captain, coach, manager, broadcaster, author and league director have demonstrated a dedication to the benefits of being involved in sports. I cannot think of a better example or more worthy person to be a member of the Miami University Cradle of Coaches.
Sincerely,

Tracy A. McKinney
Class of 1986

***Nominee's Name**** Joseph Galat

***Nominee's Maiden Name**** *n*/a

***Nominee's Sports Coached***

Coached Football: NCAA (Miami University, Yale University, University of Kentucky, Youngstown State), World Football League (Memphis Southmen Grizzlies), NFL (New York Giants, Houston Oilers), and Canadian Football League (Montreal Alouettes, British Columbia Lions)
Coached Wrestling at Miami University and Yale University

***Nominee's Current Address****

1000 South Pointe Drive TH9, Miami Beach, FL 33139

***Nominee's Years Played/Coached at Miami****

Played football 1959-62 Co-captained football team 1960-1962
Wrestled and captained wrestling team 1959-62
Miami Football coach 1964-1969
Wrestling head coach 1963-1969

***Nominee's Graduation Year**** 1962

***Nominee's Letters Earned****

Three football letters earned
Three wrestling letters earned

***Nominee's Phone Number**** (305)790-8559

***Nominee's Email Address**** Joe@ayf.me

***Nominee Active or Retired****?*

Joe is the president and CEO of American Youth Football, the world's largest youth sports league. AYF is the top pathway for youth players to earn academic scholarships to continue their education.

***List Criteria for Induction That Apply to Nominee****

Section A Criteria:

1. Miami University Bachelor of Science degree 1962
2. Earned 3 varsity letters in football, 3 varsity letters in wrestling
3. Full time assistant varsity football coach 1964-1969
4. Full time head varsity wrestling coach 1963-1969

Section B Criteria:

1. Professional football coach for over 30 years
2. Coached Miami football to two MAC championships, (1964, 1966), coached Miami wrestling to four MAC championships, coached Yale University football to two Ivy league championships

*(Coached 8 league championships)*

Section C Criteria:

1. Coached professional football for over 30 years including 7 years as a head football coach, (Montreal Concorde/Alouettes, BC Lions), General Manager for 4 years (Montreal and BC)
2. Coached wrestling for 10 years including 6 years as head coach (Miami University, Yale University)

*(Thirteen years head coaching experience)*

***Additional Honors and Awards****

During Joe's tenure as a student athlete at Miami he was awarded:

Freshman Defensive Captain
All MAC Second team
Nine "Lineman of the week" awards 1960-61
Co-captain of the football team 1960-1962
Captain of Wrestling team 1959-1962
Tribe Miami President 1962
Outstanding Student Athlete 1962 (Currently the John Brickles Award)

During Joe's Miami coaching career:

Assistant Coach of MAC Football 2 Co-Champs 1964, 1966
Head Coach of 4 MAC wrestling champions 1964, 1965, 1968, 1969
Wrestling Coaching record 58-18
Miami Coach of the Year 1965, 1968
Inducted into Miami University Hall of Fame 1982

***Who Submitted This Nomination?**** Tracy McKinney

***Relationship to Nominee**** Daughter

***Phone Number**** (513)571-1913

***E-Mail Address*** tmckin314@gmail.com

***Additional Information*:**

American Youth Football, founder and CEO:

Joe is referred to as the “Coach of a million kids” by the people he works with through American Youth Football. The league he started over 25 years ago has grown into the world's largest youth sports organization. Joe’s goal is that through the game of football, children have the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, leadership, character development, teamwork and the importance of academic achievement. AYF gives back by providing academic scholarships for its alumni players so they can continue their education in college. Each year AYF awards 60 scholarships making it a top pathway for young athletes to succeed in college. The first round of the 2023 NFL draft included 5 AYF alumni.

Changing the game for the better:

With Joe’s experience at the collegiate and professional level he was instrumental working with Field Turf to install safer artificial surfaces at universities and professional football stadiums across the US and Canada. The technology behind the Field Turf playing surface changed the game of football by improving safety for the players and durability for the institution.

Military Service: Joe proudly served in the Marines* for four years.

Miami Coaching tree:

Joe has been privileged to share his coaching journey with legends from Miami such as Bo Schembechler (Miami), Carm Cozza (Yale), Bill Narduzzi (Yale, UK, Youngstown), John McVay (Memphis, Giants) and Ed Biles (Oilers). His coaching journey embodies the meaning behind Miami’s cradle of coaches.

***Correction from electronic application***


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DARIUS CURRY - COLORADO STATE
LOREN WARD - FLORIDA ATLANTIC
ELIJAH MOORE - FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
ISAIAH MARSHALL - KANSAS
CAMERON JONES - UCLA
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SA'KYLEE WOODARD - NEW MEXICO
GAEL OCHOA - UNLV
PAYTON WOODYARD - ALABAMA
KEYLEN ADAMS - VIRGINIA TECH
JONATHAN WILLIAMS - ARMY WEST POINT
DAMARION WITTEN - OHIO STATE
BRYCE WEST - OHIO STATE
I'MARION STEWART - MICHIGAN
JEREMIAH BEASLEY - MICHIGAN
JACOB ODEN - MICHIGAN
DAVION GAUSE - NORTH CAROLINA
TYLER BURHAM - DELAWARE
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ERIC SMITH - LIBERTY
RONALD JACKSON - GRAND VALLEY STATE
KHALIL TAYLOR - CALIFORNIA U OF PA
DOMINICK SELVETELLI - LAFAYETTE
ETHAN HATTON - SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
CHRISTIAN GARRETT - DELAWARE STATE
ETHAN WINTERBOTTOM - HOBART (LAX)
KEYONTE ARRINGTON - ALABAMA A & M

## WE CAN CHANGE THE GAME!

To those of you in the annals of football, Joe Galat is a name that is synonymous with all that is good about America's gridiron game. The man who has held every position in professional football was born in Painesville, Ohio and has dedicated his life to playing, scouting, coaching, managing and teaching the game he was truly born to be a part of. To the surprise of nobody, Galat continues to study the game and educate others on how to play the game and what football represents. All of this after a life on the front lines.

Galat played for Harvey High School in Painesville, Ohio. A decade before Galat's enrollment, his coach mentored legendary football Coach Don Shula. Don returned to his alma mater each year to encourage and motivate the players at his former high school. Shula encouraged Joe that although he lacked size, his courage and his quickness could change the game. As it turns out, he was right. "Mighty Joe"as he was known by his High School teammates was eventually selected to The All-Ohio All-Star Team.

Joe attended Miami (Ohio) University where he captained both The Redskins Football and Wrestling teams. The University known as The 'Cradle of Coaches' remains a force in the Mid-American Conference today. Seven of Joe's teammates went on to play in the NFL while Joe Galat was named Outstanding Student Athlete and a member of the all Mid-American conference team. After graduation, Galat's football apprenticeship would continue under the legendary coaching trio of Bo Schembechler, Carm Cozza, and John McVay (Vice-President of the San Francisco 49ers) tallying five Superbowl Rings, and Grandfather to Sean McVay now the LA Rams Head Coach. Galat's experience and quickness as a player led to Coach Joe Galat's implementation of a unique defensive system of zone blitzes and gap control that changed the game.

After a respected tour as an innovative assistant coach in the NCAA at Yale, Miami, Kentucky and in the NFL with the New York Giants and Houston Oilers, the pride of Painesville was finally hired as Head Coach and General Manager of the CFL's Montreal Alouettes by then owner George Allen. In a hockey crazed province, Joe surprisingly hired the first French Canadian Coach in the CFL, Mr. Jacques Dussault. Galat told Dussault "we can change the game" and diligently initiated clinics to teach and motivate the game in the province of Quebec. Joe's legacy is the intense interest in football that remains strong to this day in the French Canadian Community.

## THE GREATEST TURF ON EARTH

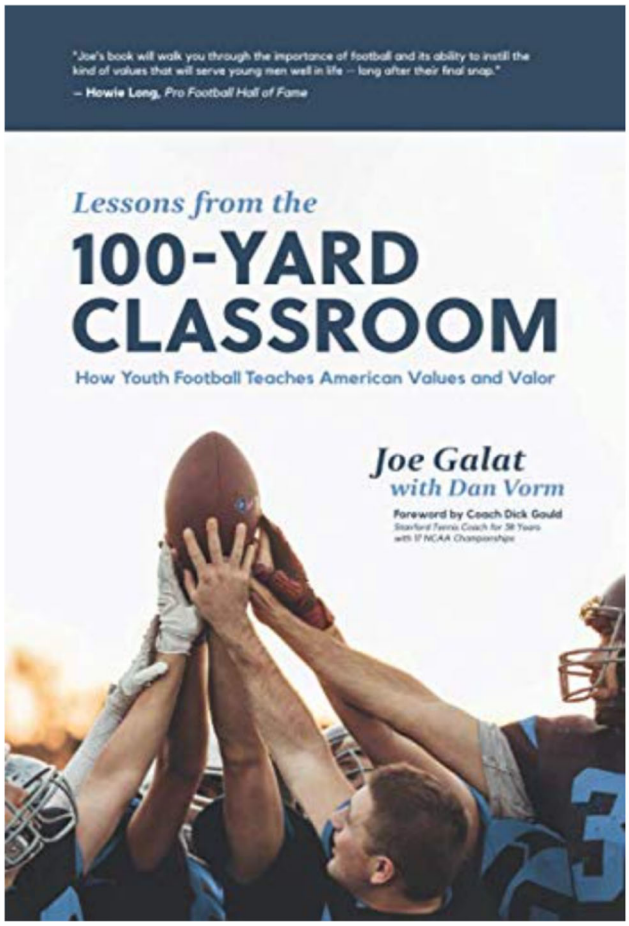
While returning to Montreal for his Daughter's admission to McGill University in 1999, Galat was asked by John Gilman, founder and former Chief Executive Officer of FieldTurf, to help introduce the upstart company called FieldTurf, a near perfect replication of a grass sports field. Gilman told Galat that with his contacts and range in the world of football, FieldTurf would be

able to get in the door of the High Profile Football Teams in the NFL and NCAA. The rest is history.

Galat called on many NFL and Major College coaches and general managers. With John and Joe working the phones, the contracts came at a steady pace while the results of independent research proved that FieldTurf was a safer and more durable surface than a good natural grass field. In addition to his Presidential duties with American Youth Football, Coach Joe currently holds the title of Vice-President of High-Profile Sales at FieldTurf. To anyone that knows the company, no other artificial turf producer has ever had as many high-profile installations as FieldTurf – in large part due to Galat's work within the circles of NFL and NCAA football. As John Gilman and Galat agreed all along, "we can change the game".

## GIVING BACK

With all this time spent on the big stage of coaching and managing professional and college football teams, Galat always made a point to volunteer his time to attend Youth Football League Functions. Jim Taft, (Former Pop Warner Commissioner of 25 years) recognizing the many advantages of having a man like Joe Galat in an organization, asked him to serve as President of American Youth Football. Galat's strategy for the growth of American Youth Football (AYF) became simple: change the rules and traditions of the game creating unlimited weight divisions and restrict older kids from playing younger age kids. Create Community involvement and recognize Academics of Student Athletes, Award Coaches, and Honor those who gave back by inductions into the AYF AYC Hall of Fame. Galat created the philosophy "AYF completes the Circle of Giving Back". Today, AYF has the largest enrollment and is the most innovative youth organization in the USA. The National Football League has selected AYF as a National Youth Football Partner and works with Galat and his youth football organization on making the game better for the kids. AYF has given back over 18 million dollars worth of equipment to their member communities. In youth sports where parents and coaches often lose their focus on the kids, Galat often notes "we can change the game".




**"I have known Joe Galat since I was 13 years old. Over that period of time, he has impacted the lives of countless young men, including yours truly. I am a big believer in football's ability to instill the kind of values in young men that will serve them well in life long after their final snap. Joe's book walks you through the importance of the game, and its ability to impact young men. I hope you enjoy Joe's book as much as I did; it's a great read."**
**– Howie Long**
**Fox Sports**
**6 Time Pro Bowl**
**Pro Football Hall of Fame**

**Ken Wolfert** is with **Joseph James Galat**.
Aug 9, 2020 ·

This should be the proper time today to recall a significant event. 50 yrs ago this week coach Joseph James Galat afforded me the opportunity to host the very first of its kind HS sportsmedicine workshop at Camp America nearby Miami University in Oxford, Ohio! The leaders in AT education said it wouldn't work, that is, all but Joe! The succesful proof allowed us to bring it to campus. It grew from the 22 we had that first year to nearly 400 split into 2 back to back weeks with beginning, intermediate & advanced groups. It evolved to offering undergraduate & graduate academic credit. Over the next 15 yrs they came from nearly every state including Balbo in the Canal Zone. One young high schooler rode a bus from Tampa all by himself. The concept spread to many colleges thanks to Hugh Grubiss with Cramer Products taking it nationally and these week long summer programs went on to inspire many vocations as athletic trainers. Its no wonder you moved on from coaching the elite to providing proper instruction & motivation for youth football. Once a teacher, always one no matter the age! Thanks coach Joseph James Galat 👏