

SPORTS
Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers

MAY 26 – AUGUST 20, 2006

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

**FROM THE NEGRO LEAGUES TO THE FRONT OFFICE
WITH 76ers PRESIDENT BILLY KING
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (July 14, 2006) – Jackie Robinson left an indelible imprint on history when he emerged from the Brooklyn Dodgers dugout in 1947, becoming the first black player to break Major League Baseball's color barrier. Years later, basketball great Bill Russell left a similar mark when he led the Boston Celtics to an NBA championship as the first black coach of a major professional sports team in the United States. Today, minorities continue to break barriers in the world of sports and achieve success at the highest levels, both on the field and in the boardroom. On Thursday, August 3, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the National Constitution Center presents "From the Negro Leagues to the Front Office" with **Philadelphia 76ers President Billy King**, moderated by **CBS 3's Beasley Reece**. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. This program is held in conjunction with the Center's summer exhibit, *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*.

This special program will take a look at the achievements minorities have made in the rise from athlete to manager to owner and the challenges that remain with 76ers President Billy King, who will examine topics such as disparity in salary, the unattained promise of the Rooney Rule in football, and the successes of star athletes like Arthur Ashe and Tiger Woods in sports with traditionally low levels of minority representation.

-MORE-

ADD ONE/NEGRO LEAGUES TO FRONT OFFICE

Billy King was named President of the 76ers on May 26, 2003, and is entering his ninth season with the team. Prior to joining the 76ers, King served as an assistant coach for the Indiana Pacers under Larry Brown for four seasons. He joined the professional ranks after spending four seasons as an assistant at Illinois State University under former 76ers assistant bench coach Bob Bender. He also spent one year as a color analyst for ESPN's basketball coverage of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Former National Football League player Beasley Reece became CBS 3's lead sports anchor in July, 1998. In addition to anchoring the station's weekday sportscasts and serving as sports director, Reece hosts Sunday Kickoff, the station's football pre-game show and CBS 3 Sports Zone, the station's popular Sunday night sports program.

From May 26 through August 20, 2006 the National Constitution Center is hosting ***Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers***, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition that tells the stories of 35 athletes and their performances in 17 different sports. The exhibit also features an exclusive National Constitution Center created section, *Local Legends*, as a tribute to hometown heroes who have made a difference in the Philadelphia sports community.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers is free with regular museum admission of \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition.

The Constitution Center's showing of the *Sports* exhibit is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. The *Daily News* has a longstanding tradition for excellent

-MORE-

ADD ONE/NEGRO LEAGUES TO FRONT OFFICE

sports coverage by an award-winning staff. *Daily News* sports writers also are seen each weekday on *Daily News Live* from 5-6:30 p.m. on Comcast SportsNet. The show is currently in its ninth season.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising."

###