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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Female Athletes Given their Due in the City of Champions**

Mary Lou Retton Joins WGF in Honoring Pittsburgh's Women in Sports

PITTSBURGH (September 28, 2007) – Women in Pittsburgh can do more for sports than root for the Steelers – just ask any of the 25 trailblazing honorees that will be celebrated by the Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) at their event on October 13, 2007 in honor of women in sports. WGF Executive Director Heather Arnet, who led the teenage “Girlcott” of Abercrombie & Fitch in 2005, will be joined by Olympic Champion and special guest speaker Mary Lou Retton on stage to honor the outstanding achievements that women in the City of Champions have made to the world of sports.

Recently Pittsburgh has become a leader in positioning women in leadership roles in the local athletic economy. **Women in Sports: Leveling the Playing Field** will celebrate women who are using their passion for sports to create equal opportunities for current and future generations of female athletes.

The event is being co-chaired by Tanya J. Hagen, M.D., Primary Care Physician to the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the few women in this role nationally. The event will honor 25 women including Arik Iso, Pittsburgh Steelers Athletic Trainer, who is the first and only fulltime female athletic trainer in the NFL. Other honorees include Suzie McConnell-Serio, holder of the NCAA's all-time career assist record and recent inductee into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Susan Frietsche, Senior Staff Attorney at the Women's Law Project who recently

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successfully defended a women's field hockey team in a Title IX case against Slippery Rock University, and the Pittsburgh Passion, Pittsburgh's all-female football team and recent winners of the national championship in their league.

This is the third year that WGF has honored women who are doing extraordinary work in fields of special economic interest to the Pittsburgh region. In 2005, WGF honored women in science, in 2006 women in finance and manufacturing, and now in 2007 women in sports.

"Pittsburgh is a proud sports town and WGF is proud to celebrate these women on the thirty-fifth anniversary of Title IX," says Heather Arnet, Executive Director of the Women and Girls Foundation. "We hope the inspiring stories of these honorees will encourage young girls to get involved in sports as a hobby and as a future career."

Women in Sports: Leveling the Playing Field will take place at Heinz Field on October 13, 2007 at 6pm. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 412-434-4883 or go www.wgfpa.org .

Honorees:

- Shelly Anderson, Sport Columnist, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
- Susan Bassett, Director of Athletics, Carnegie Mellon University
- Agnus Berenato, Head Coach, University of Pittsburgh Women's Basketball Team
- Leslie Bonci, Adjunct Professor of Nutrition and Sports Dietician, UPMC
- Suzy Broadhurst, Three -time West Penn amateur golf champion, Director of Corporate Giving, Eat N' Park
- Swin Cash, Professional Basketball Player, WNBA

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- Teresa Conn and the Pittsburgh Passion, 2007 National Women's Football Association Champions
- Susan Frietsche, Lead Attorney on Slippery Rock University Title IX Case
- Jan Gallaway, Member, Pittsburgh Puffins Women's Hockey League
- Leah Gray, President, Women's Division of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association
- Cindy Himes, Director of Communications and Alumni Relations, Pittsburgh Penguins
- Ariko Iso, Athletic Trainer, Pittsburgh Steelers
- Elaine Jewart, Founder and Owner, Jewart's Gymnastics
- Phyllis Jones, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Westinghouse High School
- Victoria Lewis, 14-year old gymnast at Woodland Hills
- Anne Madarasz, Director, Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Heinz History Center
- Suzie McConnell-Serio, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Duquesne University
- Sonya Narla, Winchester Thurston Athletic Star
- Patricia Paytas, Vice-President of Community and Public Affairs, Pittsburgh Pirates
- Katherine Pippy, Manager and Founder, Girls' Ice Hockey League of Western Pennsylvania
- Becky Reitmeyer, Director, Pittsburgh Sports League
- Carol Semple-Thompson, Award winning amateur golfer
- Keturah Vactor, 14-year old start basketball player and teacher at the Boys and Girls Club

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- Marcedes Walker, University of Pittsburgh Women's basketball star center
- Elise Roby Yanders, Financial Manager for female athletes, Merrill Lynch

The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) is an independent community-based foundation with a mission to achieve equality for women and girls in the region. Through a combination of public advocacy, coalition building and grantmaking, WGF seeds, supports and strengthens women's and girls' efforts to achieve social and economic justice in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

www.wgfpa.org

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