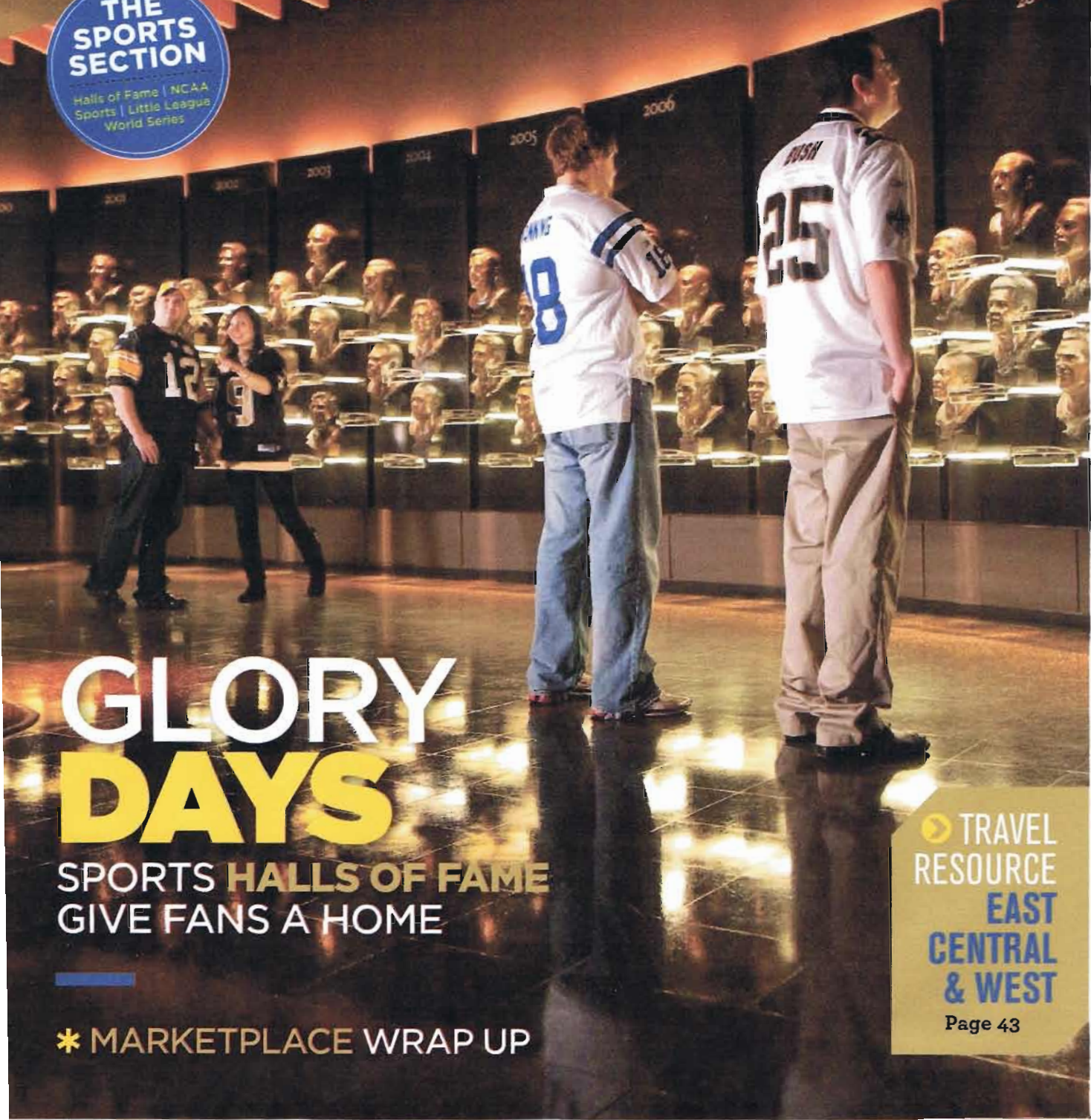


Destinations

March/April 2010

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

**THE
SPORTS
SECTION**
Halls of Fame | NCAA
Sports | Little League
World Series



GLORY DAYS

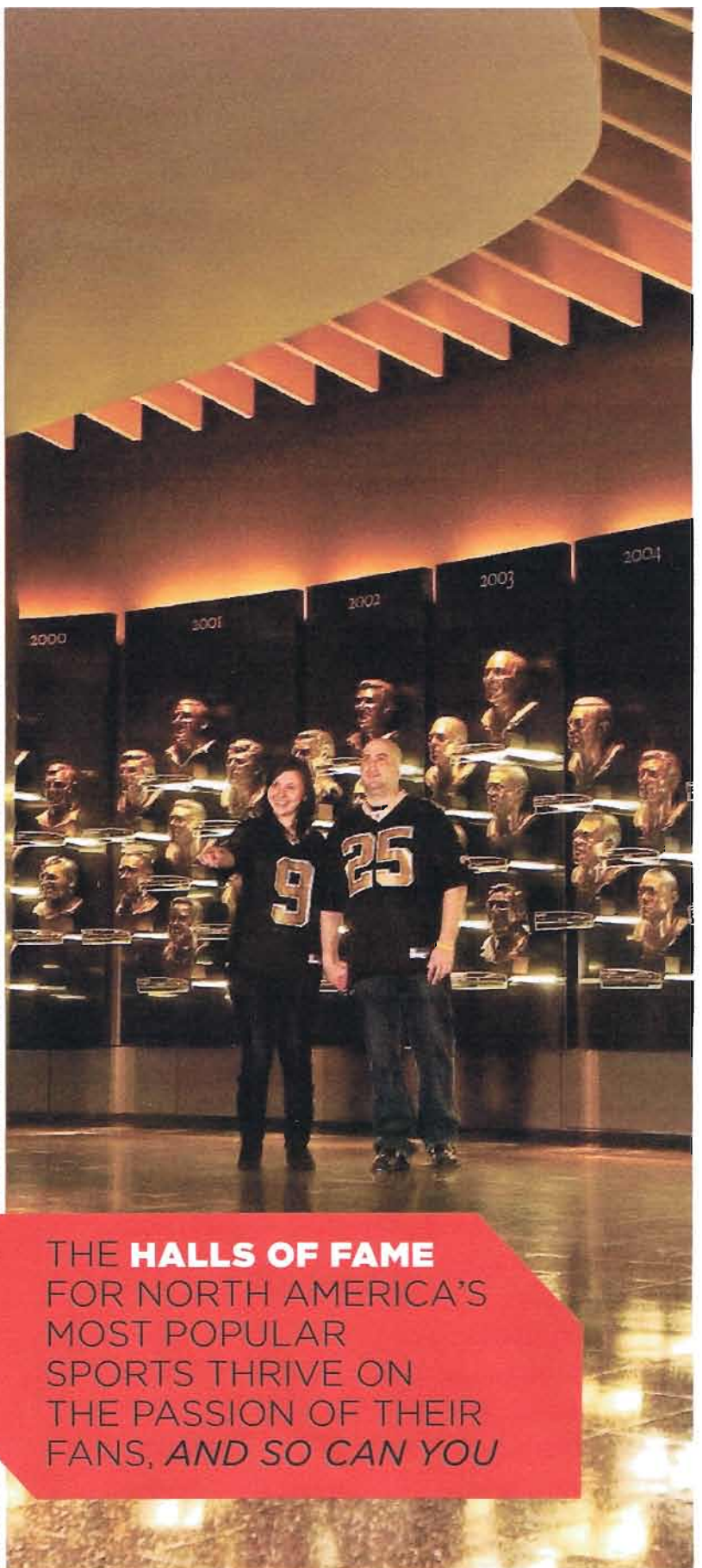
SPORTS HALLS OF FAME
GIVE FANS A HOME

* MARKETPLACE WRAP UP

▶ TRAVEL
RESOURCE
EAST
CENTRAL
& WEST
Page 43

Deck These HALLS

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN



THE **HALLS OF FAME**
FOR NORTH AMERICA'S
MOST POPULAR
SPORTS THRIVE ON
THE PASSION OF THEIR
FANS, *AND SO CAN YOU*

The Halls of Fame are built on individual skill and athleticism, guts, camaraderie, and luck, performed with the clock ticking down and the threat of losing it all. But they thrive on the passion and dedication of sports fans.

If just hearing the phrase “Do you believe in miracles? Yes!” makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck, and if you remember where you were March 23, 1994, the night Wayne Gretzky scored his NHL record-breaking 802nd goal, chances are, hockey is in your blood.

And if you're a rabid football fan, you can visualize Dwight Clark pulling in Joe Montana's pass in the back of the end zone with 58 seconds left in the 1982 NFC Championship Game against the Cowboys.

In basketball, you remember 1980 NBA Championships. During the fourth quarter of Game 4, with the Sixers trailing 2-1 to the Lakers in the NBA Finals, Dr. J executed the legendary Baseline Move, a gravity-defying behind-the-board reverse layup.

Or maybe the moment that most defines your passion for baseball is Cal Ripken's victory lap around the bases in Camden Yards in 1995 when he surpassed Lou Gehrig's 56-year-old record for consecutive games played (2,130).

These are the moments that drive sports fans to visit the Halls of Fames for North America's most popular sports and what will keep them coming back year after year.



BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

When YMCA physical education teacher James Naismith decided to hang a peach basket 10 feet high, he could not have imagined Michael Jordan flying through the air or Larry Bird peppering threes from long range. Since opening in 1959, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. has inducted 293 coaches, players, referees, contributors, and teams and has showcased the evolution of the game.

Last year, Michael Jordan entered the Basketball Hall of Fame, the athlete who many regard as the greatest basketball player of all time. Though Jordan had top billing at the induction, many felt Rutgers Women's Basketball Coach Vivian Stringer stole the show. She told the crowd that “girls no longer have to be just cheerleaders,” a reminder that the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall isn't just about the NBA or even about male athletes.

Historians and writers make the rounds as well. When ESPN writer Jackie McMullan wrote her book, *When The Game Was Ours*, with Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, a stop at the Hall of Fame was an automatic. But it's not all about history. Terry Lyons, a consultant for the Hall of Fame after years of working in the NBA front office, says this Hall is one of the best when it comes to year-round activities. For example, the Hoop Hall Classic—held every Martin Luther King Weekend—boasts many future NBA first-rounders. And at the Basketball Hall of Fame, visitors aren't just spectators. Every Sunday is the weekly shooting contest for visitors, and courts are made available throughout the week for clinics.

★ Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

1000 W Columbus Ave., Springfield, Mass. | (413) 781-6500 | www.hoophall.com

WHERE TO STAY: The Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place hotel is the largest in town. www.sheraton.com/springfield. If you're taking the whole family, don't miss the Dr. Seuss Memorial to see sculptures of his most famous characters.

WHERE TO EAT: If all that basketball gives visitors the munchies, Pazzo Ristorante and Pazzo After Dark can settle your food and entertainment appetites.

FOR GROUP RATES: Call (413) 231-5513 or visit www.hoophall.com/group-inquiries.



International Tennis Hall of Fame

www.tennisfame.com

★ Located in Newport, RI, the site of where American tournament tennis began, it's home to more than 20,000 feet of tennis-related fun. You can play against your family on the game's original surface—grass—or come watch ATP pros in the Campbell's Tournament in July.



NASCAR Hall of Fame

www.nascarhall.com

With the grand opening and induction ceremony happening this May, you now have another reason to return to Charlotte following Marketplace 2009 and Southern hospitality. Take in the 150,000-square-foot museum, highlighted by a celebration of top racetracks in the Glory Road area and a speedy racing simulator.



HEIR JORDAN:

WHEN MJ WAS ENSHRINED LAST SUMMER, THE HOF OPENED THIS EXHIBIT, WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM NIKE.

the time was how much I was going to be involved in the evolution of the product and how much I loved the creative process. Also, no one knew how well I would play. I didn't even know. I had no idea.



HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

To the north lies the origin of a sport bred on grit, grace, skill, and toughness. For every fan who ever had pictures of Mark Messier, Bobby Hull, or Wayne Gretzky taped on their walls as kids, the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto is their icy Mecca. Giving fans an opportunity to snap a shot with one of the most storied and revered trophy in sports, the venue is packed with incomparable hockey memorabilia.

Visitors will find the first Stanley Cup, although you won't see to many NHL hockey players anywhere near it. "No player I've ever brought to the Cup room will touch any kind of trophies," says Kelly Masse, director of corporate and media relations for the Hockey Hall of Fame. "Then again, Sidney Crosby broke that superstition last year by touching his conference trophy, and the Penguins went on to win the whole thing."

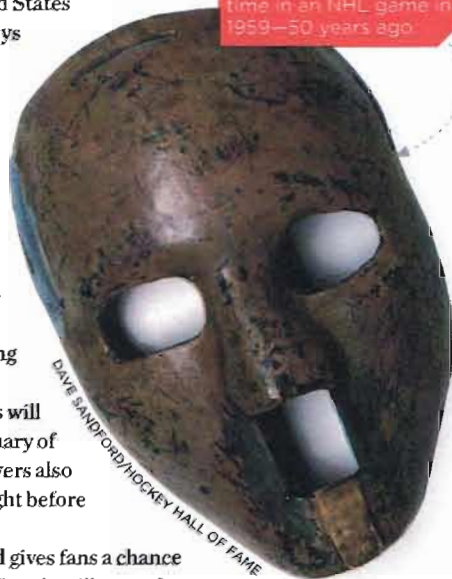
The Hall features gems like the Lucky Loonie, a Canadian coin that was secretly placed under the ice at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games, which many believe help the Men's and Women's Canadian hockey teams win Gold. "Weeks after the Games," Masse says, "our phones were ringing off the hook with people wanting to see it."

Fans also clamor to put a wrister past the goalie in the Hall's video simulator. "There's a great story with that one," Masse says. "I took Vicki Movsessian, who won Gold with the United States Hockey Team, to play. A couple of 250-pound guys didn't know who she was and were laughing that she wouldn't know what to do. After she proceeded to hit every target, they were shocked. They came out of the Hall with a lesson."

The Olympic medal collection exhibit is among the more recent and exciting highlights. In 2007, the Hockey Hall of Fame began working with the Olympic Museum in Lausanne Switzerland to borrow 137 medals from 46 Olympic Games, the first time the medals were allowed to leave the country. But the Hall is also celebrating 100 years of the Montreal Canadiens, including a recreation of the famed Montreal Forum. Visitors will get to take in what was long considered the sanctuary of the game. Stalls of some of the franchise's top players also sit there, allowing you to imagine what they thought before they laced up for destiny.

The Hockey Hall of Fame's Induction Weekend gives fans a chance to connect with their favorite players in person. "People will come from all over just to ask their heroes anything," Masse says. "But sometimes it's just to see them. One guy was waiting in line since 2 a.m. the night before after driving for 15 hours to meet Mario Lemieux. He simply wanted to shake his hand. Mario begged him to let him autograph something, but the man wouldn't do it. He just smiled and said, "This was more than enough."

Jacques Plante used this mask for the first time in an NHL game in 1959—50 years ago.



DAVE SANDFORD/HOCKEY HALL OF FAME



World Golf Hall of Fame

www.wgfv.com

Learn about Jack, Arnie, and all golfing legends in the beauty of St. Augustine, Fla. Highlights include the Science of Golf program for children, a celebration of Bob Hope, golf's greatest celebrity ambassador, and Trophy Tower, holding some of the game's most revered hardware.



National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame

www.racingmuseum.org

This Saratoga Springs, NY-based museum houses stories of some of the most gifted athletes of them all—horses. From a simulator which allows you to "hyah!" like Willie Shoemaker to learning how to shoot your own "photo finish" from a special racing photography tour, saddle up for a whole new outlook on this classic sport.

* Hockey Hall of Fame

30 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, Canada | (416) 360-7735 | www.hhof.com

WHERE TO STAY: Westin Harbour Castle (westinharbourcastletoronto.com)

WHERE TO EAT: The Bottom Line on Front Street West is recommended, both for its sports bar setting and proximity to top Toronto attractions. Or, if you can't get enough ice time, Wayne Gretzky's restaurant on Blue Jays Way features Grandma Gretzky's Perogies. (gretzky.com/restaurant)

FOR GROUP RATES: Call (416) 933-8292 or e-mail groups@hhof.com



PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

It's always Sunday on George Halas Drive in Canton, Ohio, where legends bruised and bled to battle for first downs and field position and to send their fellow leatherheads to victory.

Immortals enshrined at the Pro Football Hall of Fame are forever known as champions, even if they never raised the immortal Lombardi trophy.

Longtime Buffalo Bills Quarterback Jim Kelly, for example, came out on the losing end four times in the Super Bowl, yet endless Buffalo faithful made the drive to relive his greatest hits. Michael Irvin, when inducted, told the NFL commissioner that if he had been to the Hall of Fame as a young man, he may have had more appreciation for his gifts and avoided mistakes in his life, such as drug use. The following year, every rookie was flown out to experience the Hall. "That's what blows you away if you come, particularly on Hall of Fame weekend," Motts says. "These huge men you watched every week can be reduced to tears as they realized how far they've come and how many people helped them get here."

But for football fans, any time of year is a special time to tour the Hall. The Lamar Hunt Super Bowl

Gallery, the most popular new attraction at the Hall, gives fans the chance to relive the best of 44 championship contests. There, even the agony of defeat is worth remembering. Titans' fans relive Kevin Dyson stretching for the end zone to send the Super Bowl into overtime, only to be brought down one excruciating yard short. On the other end of the spectrum, Patriots fans' hearts swell at the memory of kicker Adam Vinatieri lining up for the field goal attempt that sent the team from a punchline to heavyweight in Super Bowl XXXVI.

The 256 busts of the supreme football players who have been inducted awe even those fans who never experienced a championship season. "The Hall of Fame is more than a museum to some people," Motts says. "It houses their memories."



The game-worn Philadelphia Eagles helmet belonging to Chuck Bednarik, who played on offense and defense in the 1960s.

* Pro Football Hall of Fame

2121 George Halas Dr. NW, Canton, Ohio | (330) 456-8207

www.profootballhof.com

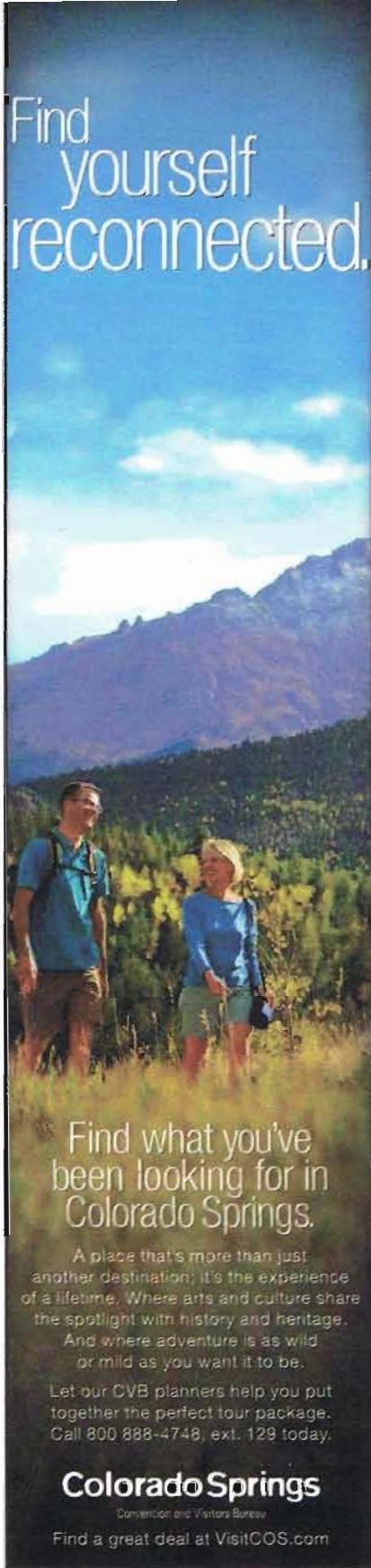
WHERE TO STAY: The most famous hotel is the McKinley Grand Hotel on Market Ave. S (www.mckinleygrandhotel.com).

Many also choose to stay in nearby Cleveland to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, especially since the Pro Football Hall offers a deal when you visit both museums.

WHERE TO EAT: Seafood-friendly Bender's keeps the football theme going as the Canton Bulldogs, charter members of the NFL in the 1920s, often ate there (www.endersrestaurant.com)

FOR GROUP RATES: (330) 456-8175 or e-mail groupsales@profootballhof.com

Find yourself reconnected.



Find what you've been looking for in Colorado Springs.

A place that's more than just another destination; it's the experience of a lifetime. Where arts and culture share the spotlight with history and heritage.

And where adventure is as wild or mild as you want it to be.

Let our CVB planners help you put together the perfect tour package. Call 800 888-4748, ext. 129 today.

Colorado Springs

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Find a great deal at VisitCOS.com



BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

For a sport that's Bible is its record book and its lifeblood is statistics—at-bats, ERA, WHIP, on-base percentage, RBI—the Baseball Hall of Fame brings the numbers to life.

Unlike plenty of other museums, the Baseball Hall of Fame lives and breathes and works up a sweat. In fact, each Father's Day in Cooperstown means the Classic Legends Game, featuring Hall of Famers and recently retired players going head to head. Last year featured 91-year-old Bob Feller pitching against 52-year-old Paul Molitor. Eric Ahlquist, editor for the *Cooperstown Crier*, recalls Feller saying to the younger Brewer legend, "There are two rules. Number one, no hitting up the middle and two, no bunting." (For the record, Molitor singled.)

A trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown can send you right back to childhood as you pass through exhibits packed with artifacts and photographs that comprise the pastime's storied history. Even if you can't get enough muddied uniforms and scuffed batting helmets, it would take a few trips to see all the Baseball Hall of Fame's 35,000 artifacts and millions of photographs and newspaper clippings.

New exhibits like "Viva Baseball" showcase the progression and globalization of the game, from the origins of Caribbean baseball a century ago to the early Latin major league heroes such as sweet-swinging Roberto Clemente. With Barry Bonds recently breaking Hank Aaron's hallowed record, the exhibit "Chasing the Dream" shows Hammerin' Hank was far more than his 755 career home runs. Craig Muder, director of communications for the Hall, says the exhibit gives visitors a glimpse into Aaron beyond the game. "It gives you a clearer picture of his life, so you understand what he did off the field," he says. Overcoming death threats as he closed in on Babe Ruth's record in 1974 and emerging as an assured leader of the struggle for racial equality, visitors will be reminded that he was more than a baseball hero—he was just a hero, period.



* Baseball Hall of Fame

288 Goose St., Fly Creek, NY 13337 | (800) 505-6455

www.community.baseballhall.org

WHERE TO STAY: Hotel chains are recommended for accommodations, such as the Best Western on Commons Drive.

WHERE TO EAT: While visiting, check out Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard for mill-made fudge and cave-aged cheddar cheese.

FOR GROUP RATES: (607) 547-0312

Punch Your Ticket

THREE FUTURE SUPER BOWL CITIES

XLV, 2011

DALLAS, TEXAS

northtexassuperbowl.com/news/planners

For the first time, the Super Bowl will be played in Dallas-Fort Worth, at Arlington's new palace of football—Cowboys Stadium. The venue holds more than 100,000, which means the game will likely break the attendance record. Plans have been announced for 16 events in four cities around the region, including the NFL Experience, which will be at the Dallas Convention Center.

XLVI, 2012

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

our2012sb.com

Another first in Super Bowl history—the game is set for Indy at Lucas Oil Stadium, and the events will take place in the city's downtown or close to it.

XLVII, 2013

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

neworleanssaints.com

Who Dat champs New Orleans Saints will host the city's 10th Super Bowl, but the first since Katrina destroyed parts of the Superdome, which is in the midst of a \$219 million facelift. The Superdome is also slated to host 2012 BCS College Football Championship and the 2012 NCAA Men's Final Four.