



Switch to 21st Century Auto Insurance. You could save hundreds.

Insurance provided through 21st Century Insurance and Financial Services or its Michigan through 21st Century Insurance Agency, Wilmington, DE, agent for its affiliated personal lines insurance companies. * National average of annual savings developed for newpolicyholders from 11/08 - to 03/08 who reported their prior carrier premium.



GET A QUOTE NOW →

Home | News | Politics | Opinion | Sports | Entertainment | Money | Go Momma | Blogs | Video | Weather | Traffic | Classifieds | Jobs | Real Estate | Cars | Site Map

Search


Site Web Archives - back to 1987 Google Newspaper Archive - back to 1901 powered by Google




Hernando

- [Company still plans to map cavern](#)
- [Domestic violence shelter seeks leader](#)
- [Sand, diesel fuel from crash close U.S. 98 for 5 hours](#)
- [Springstead shortstop Liberatore signs with St. Petersburg College](#)
- [State of game troubles Williams Hall honorees](#)
- [Why is crowding acceptable only at certain schools?](#)

Special report

- [Last mission to repair the Hubble telescope](#) 
- [Hubble space telescope discoveries have enriched our understanding of the cosmos. In this special report, you will see facts about the Hubble space telescope, discoveries it has made and what the last mission's goals are.](#)
- [More special reports](#)

Video report

- [For their own good](#) 
- [Fifty years ago, they were screwed-up kids sent to the Florida School for Boys to be straightened out. But now they are screwed-up men, scarred by the whippings they endured. Read the story and see a video and portrait gallery.](#)
- [More video reports](#)

Multimedia report

- [Rays fan guide to the Trop](#) 
- [Here are some insider tips to](#)

News | [Hernando](#)

[Print](#) [Email story](#) [Comment](#) [Email editor](#)

State of game troubles Williams Hall honorees

Former greats Foster and Jenkins say the policy on steroids is too lenient.

By DAWN REISS
Published March 22, 2005

HERNANDO - George Foster looks up. The twinkle in his eye makes him seem much younger than his 46 years. His muscles bulge beneath a fitted silver shirt. He is signing autographs at the Ted Williams Museum and can't stop grinning.

"He was like a little kid on the drive up," joked Ted Williams Museum staff member Sharon Aaron, who drove Foster from the 12th annual Induction Ceremony in Fort Myers on Wednesday. "He kept asking if we were there yet. It was like friends riding in the car. He's so down to earth and very funny."

The trip went by quickly, with Foster making wise cracks along the way. By the time Aaron and her co-workers arrived at the museum, they had come up with a new nickname for Foster: "Sir George."

"Yeah, they said Mister Foster and I told them to go call my father," said Foster, a five-time National League All-Star. "I'm not that old."

But a lot has changed since Foster's days as an outfielder with the Big Red Machine. A season without the World Series, steroids and players earning more money are affecting baseball.

While signing autographs at the museum Friday, Foster, Cy Young Award winner Ferguson Jenkins, both of whom were honored at last week's ceremonies, and Hall of Famer Monte Irvin agreed the game needs to start giving back to the fans and needs a tougher steroids policy.

"It has to be a lot better," Jenkins said. "I'm a fan now, and as an ex-player I think these players shouldn't be in such high esteem. If they break the law, things ought to be done. Unfortunately, the punishment now that is given to them is just a little slap on the wrist."

The policy, revised in January, contains penalties for positive test results, with first-time offenders being suspended for 10 days. Second-time offenders will be suspended for 30 days, third-time offenders for 60. Four-time offenders will be suspended for a year. All suspensions are without pay.

Jenkins said MLB should follow the United States Olympic Committee's policy. It states that a first-time offense means a two-year ban from competition and a second offense a lifetime ban for steroids or substance abuse related to steroids, said USOC spokesperson Darryl Seibel.

"Warn them the first time, and the second time they're out," Irvin said.

Foster said many teams won't be strict with players who draw fans and increase revenues.

"The GM (Kevin Towers) for the Padres even admitted it's tough to blow the whistle on someone when attendance is doubling, because it's going to affect your pocketbook," Foster said. "While they are making money on a player, they aren't going to do anything. They might go out and crack down on the marginal player or a player who has been in the major leagues for a long time that doesn't attract fans, but they aren't going to crack down on impact players."

Foster said the most important thing is to make young athletes aware of the dangers of steroids. "At least give them more information to make a sound decision."

Foster said baseball needs to cater more to children, where kids with good grades can get in for free and clubs are more involved in charity work.

Irvin sees skyrocketing ticket prices as a problem, going from \$2 for a box seat during the 1950s to \$60.

"I'm worried about that," Irvin said. "But I still think it's the greatest game invented and if it had not been so great, I think the owners and players would have killed it already."

Subscribe to the Times

[Click here](#) for daily delivery of the St. Petersburg Times.

Email Newsletters

Be the first to know. Register for free breaking news alerts and morning headlines.

ADVERTISEMENT

Field & Stream Brand Clothing
New Line Fall 09/10

09-10 FALL COLLECTION

SHOP NOW

Wear Your Passion Everyday.
www.fieldandstreambrand.com

Tropicana Field and area information.

[More multimedia reports](#)

Still, Irvin said, players have more money so can afford to spend time helping out their community. "Whether we want to be or not, we're role models," he said. "Once you get out there, the kids are going to look at you, imitate you, so try to do the right thing. Watch your conduct, try to perform as well as you can, and try to leave a good legacy."

Proceeds from Friday's event went to support the Ted Williams Museum and scholarship fund and the Ferguson Jenkins Foundation.

[Last modified March 22, 2005, 01:21:16]

Share your thoughts on this story

[Read our guidelines for comments](#)

First Name (only)

Location

Comment (May be published online and/or in print)

You have 250 characters left to comment.

Comments on this article



tampabay.com
Know it now.

Your one-stop money saving place.

Gift cards to great restaurants
...for HALF the price! [halfoffdepot.com /tampabay](http://halfoffdepot.com/tampabay) [click here and start saving!](#)

St. Petersburg Times **tbt** It's Your Times PolitiFact.com

© 2009 · All Rights Reserved · St. Petersburg Times
 490 First Avenue South · St. Petersburg, FL 33701 · 727-893-8111
[Contact Us](#) | [Join Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Subscribe to the St. Petersburg Times](#) | [RSS](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Standard of Accuracy](#) | [Terms, Conditions & Copyright](#)