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## News Release

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## Catch some star power at Celebrity Poker and Golf

During Wildhorse's two-day Celebrity Poker Tournament & Golf Game August 18-19 poker players can enjoy a brush with fame and a chance at the poker tourney's \$20,000+ in prize money while golfers can tee off with the multi-talented celebrities.

On Friday, August 18, the general public will have the chance to rub elbows with over a dozen stars such as Ken Griffey, Sr., Maurice Lucas, Jerome Kersey, Richard Roundtree and more at a free public Meet & Greet from 5pm-7pm at the casino. Then the poker players will display their poker faces at the Celebrity Poker Tournament starting at 8pm.

On Saturday, August 19, the poker play will continue at 7pm. Buy-in is \$100 with a \$10 entry fee. Players can signup from 5pm-8pm on Friday. Contact Billie Robbins at 541-966-1549 or visit [Wildhorse.com](http://Wildhorse.com) for poker player information.

On Saturday morning, golfers can tee off at 8am with the stars in a Celebrity Golf Game. To enter the Golf Game, contact Kelly Bell at 541-966-1510 by Monday, August 14th. The entry fee is \$150/person, or \$550 for a team of four.

Actor Brett Cullen will appear at the Wildhorse Celebrity Poker Tournament & Golf Game. At right

Cullen appears in the TV show West Wing as actor Alan Alda's vice-presidential running mate.

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**Here is a complete list of the participating celebrities followed by bios.**

**Ken Ackerman, KATU-TV News Anchor**

**Fred “Downtown” Brown, Seattle Sonics**

**Bob Cook, Trail Blazers**

**Steve Cooke, Pittsburgh Pirates**

**Brett Cullen, Actor**

**Tommy Davis, Los Angeles Dodgers**

**Thomas Patrick Gorman, New York Mets**

**Ken Griffey, Sr., Cincinnati Reds**

**Bob Gross, Trail Blazers**

**Jerome Kersey, Trail Blazers**

**David Lucas, Oregon State Beavers**

**Maurice Lucas, Trail Blazers**

**Richard Roundtree**

**Sonny Sixkiller, UW Huskies**

**Ken Ackerman, KATU-TV News Anchor**

Ken, a news anchor with ABC affiliate KATU-TV in Portland, is a Northwesterner who grew up in Olympia before heading south to the University of Southern California to attend college. He began his broadcast career in 1984 as a sportscaster in California and North Carolina, and then moved to Portland in 1989 as a sports reporter. Eight years later Ken accepted a feature reporting assignment and went on to earn dozens of broadcast awards, including three NW Emmy Nominations. In 1996 Ken began a six-year stint as the studio host of a new Portland morning show. He serves on the Doernbecher Jr. Executive Board, mentors youths at the St. Mary's Home for Boys and reads to school children in the SMART Reading program. Ken also plays for the Portland Trailblazer Alumni Basketball team, is a member of a men's USTA tennis team at West Hills Racquet Club and enjoys sailing on the Columbia.

**Fred “Downtown” Brown, Seattle Sonics**

No player has ever spent more time with the Sonics without playing for another team than Fred Brown in his 13 seasons with Seattle. Two decades after his retirement Brown is still prominent in the Sonics record book. He is second in franchise history in games played and points scored, both to Payton, and the two guards rank in the same order in field goals made and attempted. Brown was there when the Sonics posted their first winning season in 1971-72 and during his rookie season teamed with point guard Lenny Wilkens—the same Wilkens who coached Brown for half his career. Brown was also there in 1974-75, when the Sonics made their first playoffs appearance. The following season he had his career best 23.1 points per game average. Brown joined the Sonics in

1971 out of the University of Iowa. He still resides in Seattle where he works for Bank of America. His two sons played Pac-10 basketball (Bryan, UW; Terik, Oregon) and like Fred, both coach in the Seattle area.

### **Dr. Robert Cook, Trail Blazers**

As team physician during the Trail Blazers' winning years, Cook should be seen as a very important part of the winning equation, since his job was to keep big men with weak knees out on the court. In 1988, when the Cold War was still hot, he was even accused of aiding the Soviets, since he had been treating big man Arvidas Sabonis, whom the Blazers drafted in 1986. In the 1988 Olympics the Soviets beat the Americans with Sabonis, a Lithuanian, on the winning side. Since Cook had spent months working with Sabonis on his injured Achilles' tendon, callers to the Blazers office termed him a "traitor". Said Cook at the time "If you put politics and national pride ahead of that, well, that's sad. If we're not prepared to beat the Soviet athletes in their best health, we don't deserve to win. Withholding athletic care is no avenue to a gold medal." Earlier, Cook noted, while working with the medical infantry in the Vietnam War, he treated wounded Viet Cong. "I would never withhold treatment from anybody for any reason," he said.

### **Steve Cooke, Pittsburgh Pirates**

Born in Lihue, Hawaii, Steve began with the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 28, 1992 at 22 and played for six seasons, five with the Pirates and his last year with the Reds. In his first year he went 10-10 with a 3.89 ERA in 32 starts, becoming Pittsburgh's first rookie left-hander since 1966 to reach double figures in wins. The following year, he dropped to 4-11 as he began a tumble caused by bursitis in his shoulder that ended his career early, in 1998. He had a career ERA of 4.31 with 26 wins and 36 losses.

### **Brett Cullen, Actor**

He surfs and he acts says his website. Brett Cullen has appeared in more than 50 films and TV movies over the past 20 years, including such blockbusters as "Apollo 13", "On Golden Pond", and the "Thorn Birds". In May of this year he starred as Navy Capt. Todd Gelfand in the last two episodes of the TV series NCIS. He also appears as a regular in the show Pepper Dennis, which began on the WB in April. Last year he had guest appearances on a variety of popular TV programs: CSI: Miami, West Wing, Lost, Monk and Desperate Housewives. In 2004 he starred in the movie "Suburban Madness" as the husband of Clara Harris, who ran her husband over three times with her Mercedes Benz. And in 2003 he landed a role as the dad in a Disney cable movie, "Virtual Perfection". For a full listing of his movies and TV shows, see [www.brettcullen.com](http://www.brettcullen.com). Incidentally, in 2000 his website won second place in an annual contest for fan websites. The fans made the selection. Maybe it was the complete glossary of surfing terms. Gnarly.

### **Tommy Davis, Los Angeles Dodgers**

One of the National League's top hitters, Tom had back-to-back Championships. He played Major League baseball for 18 years for 10 teams, the first eight for the Dodgers, with an enviable career batting average of .294. His .320 pinch-hitting batting average is a Major League record for those with 150 or more at-bats. He was the first National Leaguer to capture successive batting crowns since Stan Musial (1950-52). Growing up

in Brooklyn, he was a Dodgers fan, but didn't play for them until they moved to LA. It was a special treat to be playing for them in the 1963 World Series when he batted .400 to lead the Dodgers in a four-game sweep of the Yankees. An outstanding basketball player and teammate of Lenny Wilkens, Tommy was convinced to pursue baseball instead by Jackie Robinson. He was born in Brooklyn on March 21, 1939. Now living in Rancho Cucamonga, he works in the advertising specialty business for national clothing firm and donates time to BAD, Baseballers Against Drugs.

### **Thomas Patrick Gorman, New York Mets**

Born in Portland, Tom joined the Montreal Expos in 1981, and then was traded to the Mets in exchange for Joel Youngblood on August 4, 1982. Released by the Mets on April 1, 1986 he went on to play for the Phillies in 1986 and the Padres in 1987. In his four years with the Mets he had a winning percentage of .550 and an ERA of 4.10. Perhaps his most memorable game, and the latest ever played in pro baseball, started on July 4, 1985, and finished at 3:53 on the morning of the fifth, against the Atlanta Braves. When the post-game July 4 fireworks went off at 4 a.m. Atlanta police and fire departments received frantic calls from people who thought the city was under attack. Tom gave up two game-tying homers in extra innings, including one in the bottom of the 18th, but received credit for the win after the Mets scored five runs in the top of the 19th. Tom is a Gonzaga graduate.

### **Ken Griffey, Sr., Cincinnati Reds**

Griffey Sr. made his reputation with the "Big Red Machine", the Cincinnati Reds of the 1970's. Griffey, born April 10, 1950, was introduced to Major League Baseball on August 25, 1973. He played for the Cincinnati Reds (1973-81, 1988-90) New York Yankees (1982-86), Atlanta Braves (1986-88) and Seattle Mariners (1990-91). . "Senior", as he is sometimes known, to separate him from his son, "Junior", is the first professional baseball player in history to have played on the same team with his son, Ken Griffey Jr. They were together on the Mariners and even hit back-to-back homers in the first inning of a Seattle loss Sept. 14, 1990. Both men were born in Donora, Pennsylvania, but made Cincinnati home. Griffey won the MVP Award at the 1980 All-Star game and had an overall .307 hitting average in his first nine-year stint with the Reds. More recently he was a batting coach, until suddenly resigning from the Reds in 2002. The Reds inducted him into their hall of fame in 2004.

### **Bob Gross, Trail Blazers**

Bob was another important cog in the Blazers machine that took the 1977 NBA championships. Bob was relatively unknown at Long Beach State and many were surprised when Portland chose him in the 1975 draft as the 25th overall pick. The year of the championship was his second with Portland, the greatest season in the team's history. A quick forward, Gross made a huge contribution to the team's running and fast turnaround style. In the crucial game five of the 1977 final series against Philadelphia, Gross had one of the most impressive games in NBA finals history, making 10 of 13 field goals and five of five from the line, with five assists, three steals and a 110-104 victory for the Blazers. The following year, 1977-78 he had his best year, with career highs in points, 12.7, rebounds, 5.6, and assists, 3.5. He played for Portland for six years, then

finished his professional basketball career in San Diego in 1983.

### **Jerome Kersey, Trail Blazers**

Selected by the Blazers in the second round of the 1984 NBA draft, Jerome attained a field goal percentage of .465 in over 1,100 games from 1984 to 2001, hitting a peak of .549 in 1985-86. During his years with the Blazers Jerome had seven straight seasons of scoring averages in the double digits and twice went to the NBA Finals. In the 1995 expansion draft the Toronto Raptors chose Jerome, who was then signed as a free agent by the Golden State Warriors that same season. The following year he joined the Lakers, and the next season the SuperSonics, finally playing for the Spurs in 1999—where he got a championship ring—and the Bucks in 2000. He most recently has worked for the Milwaukee Bucks as an assistant coach.

### **David Lucas, Oregon State Beavers**

Son of Trail Blazers star Maurice Lucas, David attained an average of 19.1 points per game at OSU in his senior year. He was twice selected to the Pac-10 Conference's all-star men's basketball team. He took a break after his 2004-05 season before signing in December, 2005, with Sport Lisboa Benfica of Portugal, a team with eight Americans on its 18-man roster. Earlier, in July, he competed in the Global Hoops Summit in Las Vegas, an event intended to bring professional hopefuls to the attention of the NBA or overseas teams. Lucas started in five games there, averaging over 19 points per game and gaining the exposure he was seeking.

### **Maurice Lucas, Trail Blazers**

Known during his career as a "Bad Boy" enforcer, Maurice was one of the stars of the Portland Trail Blazers' 1977 championship team, joining his close friend Bill Walton to drop the Lakers, then Philadelphia and take the title. Both men have had sons who played outstanding college basketball. Lucas the dad began in the ABA, where he gained his enforcer title playing on the Spirits of St. Louis "Bad Boys" team. He also played a year for Kentucky in the ABA before joining Portland the next year, the NBA championship season.

### **Richard Roundtree, Actor**

Richard Roundtree made his place in acting history with his role as the detective Shaft, which he played in three feature films and a television series of the same name. However, he has acted in over 85 movies and television shows, appeared on Broadway and even played college football on scholarship at Southern Illinois University. After Shaft he quickly moved on, to star in a number of films with some of Hollywood's most legendary actors. "City Heat" with Clint Eastwood, "Diamonds", with Robert Shaw, "Man Friday" with Peter O'Toole, "Game for Vultures" with Richard Harris, and "Inchon" with Laurence Olivier, to name just a few. Richard's recent work has been just as impressive, having added the smash hit thriller "Seven" with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt, and the critically acclaimed "Once Upon A Time...When We Were Colored". Other recent features include "Steel" with basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal and the highly successful "George of the Jungle" for Disney Pictures. The NAACP nominated him for an Image Award as Best Actor in a Drama Series for his work as Mr. Thomas on the

highly acclaimed FOX series, 413 Hope Street. Richard devotes his time to projects concerning children and is an excellent photographer and an avid golfer. A grandfather, Richard makes his home in Agoura Hills, California, with his wife Karen, daughters Tayler-Marie, Morgan and his son John James.

### **Sonny Sixkiller, UW Huskies**

Sixkiller is still a hero to Husky fans. In 1970 he became the quarterbacking spark for a team that was 1-9 in 1969, taking it to 6-4 in 1970 and 8-3 in 1971. Known as a running team, under Sixkiller Washington went to the air. He introduced himself to the nation by completing 16 of 35 passes for 277 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-16 upset of Michigan State. It was his first varsity game, and the Associated Press named him national back of the week. Sixkiller, a Cherokee, became known as the top American Indian football player in the country, a position that sometimes became a burden for a young player fresh out of high school in Ashland, Oregon. Sixkiller still finds in his mailbox Sports Illustrated magazines from Oct. 4, 1971, the one with him on the cover. People he doesn't know still come up to him and talk to him about this game, this year, this pass. They show him the purple and gold "6-Killer" T-shirts that any self-respecting kid wore then. They sing "The Ballad of Sonny Sixkiller," which a Seattle disc jockey composed. In a recent article he said, "I feel really proud that I was at the University of Washington. Even now, I love the opportunity to stay close to some of these young athletes, just to get to know them. I enjoy all of it."

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is the Pacific Northwest's highest paying casino, with a record \$9.3 million slot jackpot. The Resort includes a 24-hour casino, hotel, RV Park, 18-hole golf course and Tribal museum. It is located just minutes off I-84 at Exit 216, four miles east of Pendleton. For more information: 1-800-654-9453 or [www.wildhorseresort.com](http://www.wildhorseresort.com). Wildhorse is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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