



## **Jiminy Christmas! John Brooks Wins Teegins Award for Excellence in Sportscasting**

***"Little Joe" Washington to present award at Warren Spahn Award Gala on January 26 in OKC***

**OKLAHOMA CITY (December 22, 2009)** — Organizers of the Warren Spahn Award Gala announced today that John Brooks, the former "Voice of the University of Oklahoma Sooners," is the 2009 Bill Teegins Excellence in Sportscasting Award winner.

The Teegins Award is presented annually to an outstanding sportscaster with Oklahoma ties. While best known as the play-by-play announcer for OU football and basketball from 1976 to 1991, Brooks was also the voice of Oklahoma City Blazers hockey and University of Tulsa football and basketball.

Randy Cassimus, chair of the Teegins Award selection committee, said it will be a pleasure to present this year's award to Brooks. "The Teegins family and the board are delighted with the selection of John Brooks as the 2009 winner. He is the living definition of 'iconic Oklahoma sports broadcaster' and a very deserving recipient."

Brooks has broadcast over 2,900 events and is a six-time recipient of the Oklahoma Sportscaster of the Year award. His "Oklahoma Classic Memories" garnered the Coca-Cola/Powerade National Sportscast of the Year in 2000. Brooks is well known for exclaiming "Jiminy Christmas" after touchdowns and outstanding plays made by the Sooners. He is also a children's book author and is currently on a national tour promoting the most recent addition to his Bobby Bright children's book series.

The Teegins Award is named in honor of the late play-by-play announcer for the Oklahoma State University men's basketball team. Bill Teegins donated many hours to the Oklahoma sports community as a volunteer and was inducted posthumously into the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2002.

Brooks said he first met Teegins when he was a young sportscaster in Amarillo. "We were all blessed, although way, way too short of a time, with someone who fulfilled his dreams and went on to greatness. He was a gentlemen and a true pro, and I am honored to have my name linked with his and with the esteemed group of previous winners."

Former All-American halfback Joe Washington will present the Teegins Award to Brooks. Washington was a key ingredient in the Sooners' 1974 and 1975 national titles.

During his career at OU, Washington finished as the all-time leading rusher in school history.

Washington will present the award to Brooks at the Warren Spahn Award Gala, hosted by Oklahoma City's Bricktown Rotary Club and the Jim Thorpe Association. The gala will be held on January 26th at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame & Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City. Tickets are available now. Proceeds will benefit several local charities including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Autism Walk, Red Ribbon Week, Christmas Connection and Alzheimer's Walk.

Previous Teegins Award winners include Bob Carpenter, Joe Simpson, Bob Barry Sr., Bobby Murcer, Curt Gowdy and John Rooney.

In addition to the Teegins Award, the Warren Spahn Award will be presented at the gala to this year's best left-handed pitcher in Major League Baseball. The 2009 Spahn Award winner is CC Sabathia of the New York Yankees, who won the World Series Championship in November. Sabathia was named the 2009 American League Championship Series MVP.

For more information, visit [OKCSpahnAwards.com](http://OKCSpahnAwards.com). To purchase tickets, contact Bill Hickman at 405.605.2375 or [hickman@hickmanlawgroup.com](mailto:hickman@hickmanlawgroup.com).