

In Brief

Duckies will drop from sky at foundation's Golf Challenge

Over 500 golfers will golf for "our kids" at the Boca West Children's Foundation eighth annual \$100,000 Golf Challenge Monday, March 30 at Boca West Country Club.

The foundation is celebrating its 10th year and \$9 million raised for projects that serve at-risk youth. The event will begin with brunch and registration at 11 a.m., golf at 1 p.m. and a cocktail reception and auction at 5:30 p.m.

"Golfers are invited to come out and experience all four of Boca West Country Club's championship golf courses," said Pam Weinroth, the foundation's executive director/COO. "It will be a great day of golf and a



JASON JACKMAN

Plastic ducks will help raise money for the Boca West Children's Foundation.

wonderful way to help 24 local children's charities and the kids that these organizations serve."

The charities will vie for a portion of the \$100,000 awarded during the tournament. Each charity will receive between \$2,000 and \$10,000, depending on its placement.

Golfers will have the opportunity to golf on courses that have been ranked among the best in the world, alongside St. Andrews, Pine Valley, Pebble Beach and Pinehurst.

Just before the golf tournament begins, hundreds of plastic ducks will drop 40 feet from a net lifted in the air by a crane. The owner of the duck closest to the pin will win \$2,500.

Funds raised at the golf tournament will benefit at-risk children and their families in Palm Beach County. The organization funds project-based programming at 24 local children's organizations, allowing Boca West Children's Foundation to reach more than 5,000 children daily in meaningful ways. Boca West Children's Foundation volunteers give more than 250,000 hours of their time annually to its partner agencies with which the organization works.

Tickets are \$650 per person and include one duck. Individual ducks for the duck drop are \$50. Visit BocaWestFoundation.org to purchase tickets.

Theismann speaks at YMCA event

By Gary Curreri

In 1983, Joe Theismann won a Super Bowl for the Washington Redskins and was sitting on top of the world.

Just two years later, his career came to a screeching halt with a devastating leg injury on national television. It was among the many topics he covered as the keynote

speaker in front of over 500 guests at the 18th annual YMCA of South Palm Beach County Inspiration Breakfast March 4 at the Office Depot Global Headquarters in Boca Raton.

Theismann's football career ended on Nov. 18, 1985 when he suffered a gruesome, comminuted compound fracture of the tibia and fibula in his right leg while being sacked by linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson during a Monday Night Football game telecast by ABC from RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.

"I became very self-absorbed and thought the world revolved around me until Nov. 18, 1985," he said. "That night changed my life and changed who I wanted to continue to try and be as a person — to appreciate more and appreciate the relationships and enjoy the experience. You think you are the greatest thing since sliced bread and the world revolves around you, and I had to get taken down a long way to rebuild the person I want to be and it started that night."

The event — the Y's largest fundraiser of the year — featured Theismann, who is an entrepreneur and Emmy Award-winning NFL analyst for ESPN and the NFL Network. He worked as an analyst for more than 20 years.

Since 2011, Theismann, 70, has also worked on the Red-

skins preseason television broadcast team and appeared in two Hallmark films.

"I've spoken at various YMCA fundraisers around the country for years," he said. "They do such great stuff with kids. I have always had a very big soft spot in my heart for youth and for children. I want them to be able to have a life that they can be proud of and to be able to accomplish things in their life, and this is one way to do it."

Theismann said he lived near a YMCA growing up in South River, New Jersey and he used to go and shoot baskets at the facility.

"That was the big thing. It used to be a place to go during the winter. I guarantee you that the people remember their experiences at the Y and the people that helped with the opportunities that they had.

"I want people to realize the different things in their lives that have influenced them in a positive way to get you to where you are today," he said. "The YMCA is a big part of people's lives and what they are doing is providing an opportunity for the youth in South Palm Beach County to grow, to learn and to chase the dreams we have all chased in our lives."

Theismann spent 12 seasons with the Washington Redskins, where he was a two-time Pro Bowler and helped the team to two consecutive Super Bowl appearances, winning Super Bowl XVII.

Theismann was selected as the NFL's Man of the Year in 1982 for his community service and dedication to the health and welfare of children, and in 1983 he was awarded the league's Most Valuable Player Award.

In 2003, he was inducted into the College Football Hall

of Fame and in 2013 he received the Walter Camp Football Foundation "Distinguished American" Award. With every chapter of his life, Theismann has evolved from an athlete to the ultimate businessman and entrepreneur.

Theismann spoke about setting goals, developing the right kind of attitude, teaching children how to live a healthy life and be socially responsible.

"I enjoyed tremendous success as a professional football player," he said. "In 1984, I was the fourth highest player in the National Football League at \$1 million. It sort of pales in comparison to today. God bless the kids today. I hope they get everything they get. I think the winning share in the (1984) Super Bowl was \$118,000...it just shows how insignificant the money was and that it was all about the ring."

Theismann said winning the World Championship with the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XVII with a 27-17 win over the Miami Dolphins in 1983 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California was "a dream come true." He has a book coming out in June titled, "How to be a Champion Every Day."

"For years, I was a taker and I wanted to be a giver," said Theismann, who estimates he does between 60 and 70 presentations annually and said he is on the road about 220 days a year. "It is an incredible list of people who have spoken before me and I am honored to be on that list now."

Theismann was asked, if he could rewrite any part of his life would he?

"I am not a rearview mirror kind of guy," he said. "I prefer to look out the windshield than a rearview mirror. I think every experience I have gone through, good, bad...has taught me lessons along the way. Having trav-

eled as much as I have done and been around the kids more would be something that someone who does a lot of traveling would say. Truthfully, any experience I have gone through has made me a better person."

"Would I have liked to have not broken my leg?" he said. "Sure, but would I have been a different person had that not occurred? Probably. I just don't know if I would have been a better person."

Funds raised from the event go toward supporting the Y's financial assistance scholarships for youth development programs that provides everyone, regardless of income, the ability to participate in valuable, life-changing YMCA programs.

Past featured keynote speakers include five-time Olympic swimmer and 12-time medalist Dara Torres; former Miami Hurricanes head coach Mark Richt; former Miami Dolphins defensive end and Hall of Famer Jason Taylor; Miami Heat legend Alonzo Mourning, a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee; Jim Kelly, Hall of Fame quarterback and Buffalo Bills legend; U.S. Olympic gymnast Shannon Miller; Wally "Famous" Amos; Amway co-founder Rich DeVos, Orlando Magic owner; and former Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden.

"The YMCA of South Palm Beach County was extremely honored to welcome NFL icon Joe Theismann as our keynote speaker this year as he shared words of leadership and encouragement from his decorated career on and off the football field," said Jason Hagensick, president and CEO of the YMCA of South Palm Beach County. "His story of perseverance inspired our YMCA audience to commit to a positive attitude no matter what life throws at you."

Visit ymcaspbc.org/.



Theismann