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Sports Legends Team Up to Perpetuate One Hockey Player’s Legacy and “Assist” Deserving Young Athletes

They Play Their Hearts Out. Let’s Support Them.

TAMPA, Fla. – Jan. 6, 2020 – Jason Ritchie found solace and purpose on the ice. More than just a sport, hockey taught him invaluable life lessons, especially the importance of teamwork, accountability and dedication. After his untimely passing, his parents wanted to honor his legacy by launching a foundation that uses hockey and other sports to help other youth discover and live up to their potential.

Ruslan Fedotenko, Barry Larkin, Dee Gordon and Will Floyd are among more than 30 [sports legends](#) scheduled to participate in a celebrity golf tournament fundraiser on Jan. 10 for the Ritchie Hockey Foundation (RHF), the organization started in Jason’s honor. The tournament is the focal point of the RHF 2020 Legends of Sport Weekend, which also includes a [Youth Baseball Clinic](#) on Jan. 9 and a [Youth Goalie Clinic](#) on Jan. 11.

Baseball Camp, Golf Tourney and Hockey Clinic Benefit Local Youth

RHF is proud to partner with the Rays Baseball Foundation to host a baseball clinic for Tampa Bay youth. Aspiring sluggers from Rays RBI Tampa, Burg Baseball and Sheffield Family Foundation will run drills with current and former professional baseball players, including hometown legend **Gary Sheffield**. It will be held at the University of Tampa Baseball Field and begins at 5 pm.

The golf tourney will be held on January 10 at TPC Tampa Bay, a Golf Digest 4.5 star-rated course that has been named one of the top five golf courses in Florida by Florida Golf Magazine. Proceeds from the event will benefit Tampa Bay Lightning’s “Guide the Thunder” Program, Rays RBI Tampa, Burg Baseball and Sheffield Family Foundation.

The Youth Goalie Clinic will be held on Saturday morning in conjunction with the “Good As Gould Goalie School” at Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel, the largest ice facility in the southeast. This will be the fourth year in a row that the Foundation has hosted this free event to support young hockey players and give back to Bay area youth.

The Foundation’s Mission

All funds raised will help advance the foundation’s mission to provide resources and mentoring to hard-working, deserving youth who share in Jason’s drive and dedication – kids who play their hearts out on the ice. “Hockey was what Jason loved. This foundation was established to help deserving youth who share his same passion for sports,” said Donna Ritchie, president of The Jason Ritchie Hockey Foundation and Jason’s mother. After Jason was tragically killed in a car accident in 2009 while driving home from a hockey game, Donna and her husband, Bob, CEO of American Integrity Insurance

Company, channeled their grief into starting the foundation, which has raised more than \$1M since its inception.

“We’re thrilled that these sports legends, along with so many generous members of the community, have joined with us to honor Jason and help us empower young athletes to achieve their dreams,” said Bob Ritchie. “Although our primary focus is hockey, we’re proud to expand the foundation’s reach by including high-profile athletes from other sports.”

For more information about The Ritchie Hockey Foundation, please visit <http://ritchiehockeyfoundation.org/>.

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About The Ritchie Hockey Foundation (JRHF)

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation (RHF), established by the Ritchie family in memory of Jason Ritchie who was tragically killed in a car accident in 2009, aims to provide resources and mentoring to youth who share in Jason’s drive and dedication. The RHF will help to shape the lives of tomorrow’s leaders by investing in deserving youth recognizing that hockey builds Character, Commitment, Teamwork, Persistence, Selflessness, Academic Excellence and Sportsmanship. The RHF is funded exclusively by individual and corporate donations as well as grant funding from other sources.