

CHEVY'S GIVING MORE



No monthly payments till spring for qualified buyers on Malibu

PLUS 0% APR*

← LEARN MORE

*No payments for 120 days from date of purchase through Ally only. May require down payment. Not available in Washington, D.C. Length of contract limited. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 1/3/11.

Mobile | News Feeds | E-Newsletters | Text Messaging | E-Edition

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Homes | Rentals | Deals | Dating | Classifieds | Place an ad

news-press.com
Fort Myers, Florida • Southwest Florida

Find what you are looking for ...

Search



HOME LOCAL NEWS TOPICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT WATCHDOG MULTIMEDIA OPINION MOMS CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVERTISE

Bonita Springs Cape Coral Estero Fort Myers Lehigh Acres North Fort Myers Sanibel Island South Fort Myers Other communities

Comment, Blog & Share Photos
Log in | Become a member | Search people

POWERED BY YOU AND **THE NEWS-PRESS**

Director helps Classic grow

Local tournament hits national stage

BY DAVID DORSEY • DDORSEY@NEWS-PRESS.COM • DECEMBER 24, 2010

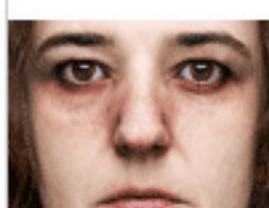
Comments (1) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

1 | 2 Next Page

If the State Farm City of Palms Classic appears to have taken a new direction in recent years, there's a reason.

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Adblade™



How To Stay Asleep

Scientists in Cambridge discover an all natural sleep aid to help you sleep all night... [Learn more](#)



Do Not Buy Car Insurance!

Fort Myers - Your auto insurer hates this. Obey this one trick to get extremely cheap rates. [Learn more](#)



Mortgage Rates Hit 2.99%

The Fed is forcing rates down. If you owe less than \$729k you have to refi now to lock in low rates [Learn more](#)



'Kill Your Wrinkles'

Mom discovers shocking \$5 method for erasing wrinkles. Dermatologists hate her for revealing... [Learn more](#)



Age 45+ Or Older?

An incredible way to soothe & relieve your joints with this safe, all-natural discovery... [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

His name is Ron Riley.

Riley, executive director of Classic Basketball, Inc., grabbed the proverbial baton from president Bill Pollock in 2003.

Since then, Pollock, who began his involvement with the Classic in 1985 - he helped transform the 16-team tournament from a local event to a national one - has passed on all of the major behind-the-scenes duties to Riley.

Riley, in turn, has driven the Classic from a national event to an international one. Ulm (Germany) Urspringschule became the first European team to participate in the Classic this year.

"Bill is so good for this tournament because he cares about the event," said Donnie Wilkie, selector of the tournament's field. "He cares so much about the kids. He cared about every single dollar that was spent. He really put us in a place where Ron could really come in and hit the ground running.

"What Ron has done, is he has doubled or even tripled the existing sponsor base. When Bill came along in 1985, there really was no sponsor base. So they've done really two different things. There would be no Ron if there was no Bill."

The Classic finished Wednesday night with ESPN's Dick Vitale at midcourt, congratulating both teams, taking the microphone and declaring, "That was awesome, baby!"



Purchase this Photo

Urspringschule's Kevin Bright drives to the basket against New Church defender Jonathan Riles in the Signature Series Championship at the State Farm City of Palms Classic at Bishop Verot High School on Wednesday. (John David Emmett/news-press.com)



Broadcast announcer Dick Vitale attends the City of Palms Classic championship game at Bishop Verot on Wednesday. (John David Emmett/The News-Press)

RON RILEY

Who: Executive director of Classic Basketball, Inc., since 2003

AGE: 60

FAMILY: Married to Pat Riley for 38 years, they have one daughter, Kristi, 30

OTHER JOBS: Executive director of the Caloosa Catch and Release fishing tournament series for 23 years; professional writing instructor at FGCU; major gift officer for Art of the Olympians

Related Stories

- Annual classic marks end of a career for some
- Tigers lay out welcome mat
- Editorial: Reform state budget, don't destroy it

Related Topics

- Sports - Sports Etc.

Contextual linking provided by Topix

CHEVY'S GIVING MORE



No monthly payments till spring for qualified buyers on Traverse

PLUS 0% APR*

← LEARN MORE

*No payments for 120 days from date of purchase through Ally only. May require down payment. Not available in Washington, D.C. Length of contract limited. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 1/3/11.

Mobile | News Feeds | E-Newsletters | Text Messaging | E-Edition

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Homes | Rentals | Deals | Dating | Classifieds | Place an ad

news-press.com
Fort Myers, Florida • Southwest Florida

Find what you are looking for ...

Search



HOME LOCAL NEWS TOPICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT WATCHDOG MULTIMEDIA OPINION MOMS CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVERTISE

Blogs Columnists Forums Opinion Submit a photo Submit letter to the editor

Comment, Blog & Share Photos
Log in | Become a member | Search people

POWERED BY YOU AND **THE NEWS-PRESS**

Director helps Classic grow

Local tournament hits national stage

BY DAVID DORSEY • DDORSEY@NEWS-PRESS.COM • DECEMBER 24, 2010

Comments (1) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

Previous Page 1 | 2

(2 of 2)

Riley recently joined the staff at Art of the Olympians as a major gift officer. The museum displays art by Olympic athletes at 1300 Hendry St. in the Fort Myers River District.

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Adblade™



How To Stay Asleep

Scientists in Cambridge discover an all natural sleep aid to help you sleep all night... [Learn more](#)



Do Not Buy Car Insurance!

Fort Myers - Your auto insurer hates this. Obey this one trick to get extremely cheap rates. [Learn more](#)



'Kill Your Wrinkles'

Mom discovers shocking \$5 method for erasing wrinkles. Dermatologists hate her for revealing... [Learn more](#)



\$5 Wrinkle Secret Exposed

Florida: Mom discovers \$5 wrinkle trick. Dermatologists are scared you will learn this secret. [Learn more](#)



Drive in Florida?

6/17: Obama backs new insurance regulation. See if you qualify for new 2010 rates starting at \$1/day [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

"I'm very excited about that," Riley said. "It's such a neat thing in Fort Myers."

Riley grew up in North Arlington, N.J., and graduated from Queen of Peace High School. He attended Newark State College but dropped out in 1972 in order to become a stockbroker.

Riley moved to Fort Myers in 1978 and continued working as a broker until 2003. He earned a degree in English literature from the University of South Florida in 1997 and has a masters in management from FGCU.

"I love the academic atmosphere," Riley said. "I was really challenged by it."

Riley continues to challenge himself by raising money and balancing the Classic's ever-growing budget. He has another challenge as well: trying to watch some of the basketball games. He spends most of the tournament fielding phone calls and dealing with any logistical problems or questions that continually arise.

Asked about his love for fishing, Riley laughed.

"Do I fish?" Riley said. "Yes. How much do I fish? About as much as I watch basketball."

Wilkie said the Classic should continue to improve, although they keep creating tough acts to follow.

"He has presided over putting this tournament to a different level," Wilkie said of Riley. "We always used to say, 'I don't know how we can get any bigger. I don't know how we can get any better.' Well Ron came in and said, 'I know exactly how we can



Purchase this Photo

Urspringschule's Kevin Bright drives to the basket against New Church defender Jonathan Riles in the Signature Series Championship at the State Farm City of Palms Classic at Bishop Verot High School on Wednesday. (John David Emmett/news-press.com)



Broadcast announcer Dick Vitale attends the City of Palms Classic championship game at Bishop Verot on Wednesday. (John David Emmett/The News-Press)

RON RILEY

Who: Executive director of Classic Basketball, Inc., since 2003

AGE: 60

FAMILY: Married to Pat Riley for 38 years, they have one daughter, Kristi, 30

OTHER JOBS: Executive director of the Caloosa Catch and Release fishing tournament series for 23 years; professional writing instructor at FGCU; major gift officer for Art of the Olympians

Previous Page 1 | 2