

Martha Watson, a Four Time Olympian, Gains Hall of Fame

Martha Watson, who learned to run and jump as a teenager with the Long Beach Comets and graduated to Olympic Games eminence, has been elected to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Her induction was announced Wednesday in Indianapolis, site of the Hall of Fame. The voting was conducted by The Athletics Congress, the national governing body for the sport.



Martha Watson

Other inductees are Jim Bush, winner of countless championships as coach at Occidental and UCLA; Eulace Peacock, one of the top sprinter-long jumpers in the 1930s, who shared the world 100-meter record at 10.3 seconds; and Bud Held, a former world record holder in the javelin.

The four, who bring the total enshrined in the Hall of Fame since it opened in 1974 to 122, will be formally inducted in ceremonies at this year's TAC convention in Honolulu Dec. 12.

They were selected from among 11 candidates in voting that included members of the Track & Field Writers of America, TAC, current athletes, and all living Hall of Fame members.

"I loved competing," said Watson from her home in Las Vegas. "I did it because I enjoyed it, not because I expected anything (in return). But it's nice. It's nice because a lot of people have always been in my corner — my family, my friends, coaches, track fans.

"This award is really for them, a way of saying thank you to them. I remember all those years that my family had to sacrifice, coming up with traveling money to go here and there.

"It's a very proud moment."

Hall of Fame curator Jack Rose, who has watched Watson compete all over the world, said Wednesday, "Martha is solid as a rock, a fine woman, a great athlete and competitor. I wouldn't

want to play blackjack against her (Martha is a blackjack dealer at Caesars Palace).

"She has been under Hall of Fame nomination for several years. She is most deserving."

Dave Rodda, who coached Watson for eight years, says she is "by far the greatest ambassador the United States has ever had in women's track and field, both internationally and nationally,

in terms of longevity and of Olympic accomplishments. She has a genuine feeling and concern for her sport and the athletes. She had rivals — competitive rivals. Everyone respected Martha. I was her coach, but we were more like friends."

Watson, 40, represented the United States in four Olympiads — a high for a Long Beach athlete. She competed in the long jump in the Olympic Games of 1964 in Tokyo, 1968 in Mexico City, 1972 in Munich and 1976 in Montreal. She also ran on 400-meter relay teams in '72 and '76. Her lifetime best in the long jump was 21-7½. She set a world indoor best at 60 meters.

Watson was head manager of an all-star United States women's team that competed in Bremen, West Germany in 1985. She has been selected manager of the women's Olympic track team for the 1988 Games in South Korea.

She competed with the Comets, at Franklin Jr. High, Poly High, Tennessee State and the Lakewood International TC. She also studied for a master's at Long Beach State and coached at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

She was the Long Beach Century Club's Athlete of the Year in 1976.

Watson was honored by Paran Lodge No. 1508 and Alpha Temple No. 1180 at a Dinner and Dance on Wednesday, December 2 at the Elks Lodge in the Nucleus Shopping Plaza.

MITCHELLS

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order because they are trying to steal black dignity and black political progress by destroying our leaders," he continued.

"Meese has been systematically stacking the courts with racist judges, filling the U.S. Attorneys offices with racist prosecutors who are forced to resign if they refuse to do his will. An example is the U.S. Attorney for North Carolina, who resigned a few months ago, charging Meese with obstructing justice in the Jim and Tammy Bakker investigation," Mitchell continued.

Michael, an attorney, former assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City, and two term City Councilman, currently the State Senator for the 39th district of Baltimore City, has a reputation for expertise in minority businesses and 8-A contracts. Michael vigorously contended that he was retained to perform general legal services for Wedtech and to improve its black minority image as its first black minority law firm. He was also to recruit black subcontractors, and help to organize joint ventures. A retainer contract for legal services was entered into with Wedtech officials, before any word of a federal

GIVEAWAY

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every \$25 payout on Slot, Video Poker machines, plus, Keno and Bingo games too, casino customers get additional free coupons. (\$50 payout earns 2 coupons etc.)

6:30 p.m. is the magic drawing hour each evening through Christmas Eve. 15 lucky winners everyday will share \$5,000. The Grand Prize Drawing for the Lewis Home will be held on Sunday, December 27, at 10:00 p.m.

This special promotion has Santa's official North Pole Seal of approval. Naughty or nice, everyone will have a ball and the chance at Christmas cash and a new home for the holidays. Complete details available at the 'Count-down to Christmas' promotion booth. As always, Palace Station continues to give all of Las Vegas the greatest promotions in town — no matter what the season. This Holiday, count down the days to Christmas with Palace Station.

investigation surfaced. Actually, the retainer contract for his legal services was signed shortly after Wedtech, a Hispanic firm, received the widely publicized award for Minority Entrepreneur of the Year at The White House, presented by Vice President George Bush for President Reagan, who personally commended the company.

On the first trial date, Wednesday, October 21st, Judge Norman Ramsey declared a mistrial, because four prospective jurors reported overhearing another white jury member in the jury room threaten "to shoot or kill the Mitchells," if selected to hear the case.

Following the mistrial and dismissal of the panel of 90 prospective jurors, Judge Ramsey called for a Grand Jury investigation into the threats.

The second trial began the following Monday, October 26th, with a new panel of jurors. Normal judicial practice should have required a postponement of the trial to clear the atmosphere of bias against the defendants.

The Mitchell brothers charge gross prosecutorial misconduct. During jury selection, prosecutors used seven of their ten strikes to remove blacks. One other strike was used to remove a white citizen who admitted participation in civil rights demonstrations during the 60's and 70's. Eight of their ten strikes were based on color or civil rights activity.

Prosecutors constantly referred to "bribery" during the trial, in spite of the judge's warning that no bribery was charged or in evidence.

Not one solitary piece of evidence of wrongdoing by the brothers was presented during the trial.

"The prosecutors were out to legally lynch us," said Clarence Mitchell. "They appealed to the racism of the nine white jurors because even their own witnesses never accused my brother or me of any wrongdoing."

Courtroom observers, the majority of Maryland's black community and a substantial segment of the white community, expressed concern that the testimony against the Mitchells was by four Government witnesses, all of whom have been convicted of Wedtech related charges and who were identified by the prosecution as former "liars who are now telling you the truth."

Citing the inconsistencies between their conspiracy acquittal and the other findings, the Mitchells are committed

to carry their fight, if motions to set aside are denied, to the U.S. Courts of Appeal until "we are totally vindicated."

Essentially, the Mitchells have been convicted of agreeing to lobby although in the court record there is no indication that they did anything improper, or that they knew that Wedtech was a corrupt company. In fact, the evidence was quite clear that the Wedtech officers hid their various illegal activities from the Mitchells and provided them with indications that it was a bonafide corporation.

Their mother, Juanita, founder of the NAACP Youth Movement, stated: "My sons are freedom fighters and have been from their youth. This long harassment has been aimed at silencing strong voices."

The Mitchells and their supporters, locally and nationally, who have established a Mitchell defense fund, view the confrontation as an ongoing attempt by the lame duck Reagan Administration to discredit black political leadership everywhere.

They cite problems now facing other black elected officials and civil rights leaders throughout the nation.

The Mitchell Defense Fund leaders included C. Delores Tucker, former Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, Co-Chairperson of the Fund; Rev. Maurice Dawkins, retired OIC Congressional Liaison, Co-Chairperson; and Howard T. Robinson, Sr., Coordina-

tor. Congressman Parren J. Mitchell; George Haley, Esquire; Chris Eltey; Rev. Willie Barrow; Bishop John Hurst Adams; Coretta Scott King; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Esquire; Dr. Al poussiant; Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Esquire; Dr. Benjamin Hooks; and Robert M. McGotten.

Annual "Christmas Food Challenge" To Benefit Community Food Bank and Senior Nutrition Program

The Third Annual KLUC-FM 98 "Christmas Food Challenge" to benefit Community Food Bank of Clark County and the Senior Nutrition Program is scheduled to kick off Monday, December 7 with disk jockeys Mike O'Brian, "The Breakfast Flake" at the Fashion Show Mall and Julio, "The Gardener" at the Boulevard Mall. Through December 20 everyone is asked to bring non-perishable food items to help the favorite D.J. win the challenge.

Last year's food drive netted more than 100,000 pounds of food to assist hunger programs in Clark County.

For more information call 648-7618.



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