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PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS GET INVOLVED
WITH "COACHES CARE"

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MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL coaches and players help to rebuild America's Gulf Coast

BOSTON (MA) --- College coaches helped to spearhead an effort to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and now coaches and players from the professional ranks have joined the growing team to help benefit "Habitat for Humanity."

"The response has been outstanding," says Virginia Tech head basketball coach Seth Greenberg who is the chairman of the organizing committee. "It is great to see teams from the NBA, NFL, NHL and Major League Baseball getting involved. As I have said from the outset, if we are going to make an impact we need to come together as one big team and the professional sports teams have certainly done that."

Presently 16 professional sports franchises have gotten involved by donating an autographed item to the online eBay auction, which will begin on Wednesday Sept. 14.

Teams with coaches and or players involved in the "Coaches Care" effort include the Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, Buffalo Bills, Calgary Flames, Charlotte Bobcats, Columbus Blue Jackets, Los Angeles Angels, Memphis Grizzlies, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Wild, New Jersey Nets, New York Giants, New York Knicks, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Tampa Bay Lightning and Vancouver Canucks.

Unique autographed items from Tom Coughlin (Giants), Marc Crawford (Canucks), Vladimir Guerrero (Angels), Shawn Green (Diamondbacks), JP Losman (Bills), Lou Pinella (Devil Rays), John Smoltz (Braves), Darryl Sutter (Flames), John Tortorella (Lightning) will be included in auction, which is being administered by SnappyAuctions.com.

"It's great to see these teams taking the lead and getting involved," says Greenberg. "The concept was to supplement all of the other great things that teams like the Angels, Bills, Canucks and others have already initiated. Hopefully more pro teams will donate items to the auction in the coming days."

The website AllCoachesCare.com has been created to provide more information and to give coaches, players, teams and schools a place where they can make their contribution to the online auction. All money raised through the auction will go directly to Habitat for Humanity, and will be administered by MissionFish.org, the official non-profit liaison for eBay.

In addition to autographed memorabilia, coaches have donated some great “experiences,” such as 18 holes of golf at Pinehurst No. 2 with North Carolina head basketball coach Roy Williams and a trip to the Big 12 tournament with Bob Knight and the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Greenberg himself plans to commit a few unique experiences to the auction, including “The Hokie Experience,” which include an all-access pass to the 2006 ACC Tournament.

“We need everyone to get involved,” he says. “I can’t stress that enough. If every professional sports team donated just one item to the online auction, we can raise a lot of money.”

Greenberg, who appeared on “Fox and Friends” on Tuesday morning, has been a guest on CNBC, ESPN Radio and The Jim Rome Show to discuss the “Coaches Care” project. On Thursday he will appear on ESPN’s morning program, “Cold Pizza.”