

The World Has Spoken: Mascot Hall of Fame Announces Historic 2026 Induction Class

Fans in 109 Countries Vote In Cocky, Miles, Goldy Gopher, Mrs. Met and Cosmo

WILMINGTON, DE, UNITED STATES, August 7, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Joy, it turns out, doesn't need a passport. After a global campaign that pulled in votes from 109 countries across six continents, the Mascot Hall of Fame has named its Class of 2026 — five characters whose reach goes well past the sidelines, ballparks, and arenas they call home.



The 2026 Induction Class

“

This year's election demonstrates something we've always believed”

Christopher Bruce, Co-Founder and Owner of the Mascot Hall of Fame

COCKY — University of South Carolina
MILES — Denver Broncos
GOLDY GOPHER — University of Minnesota
MRS. MET — New York Mets
COSMO — Brigham Young University

Chosen through a mix of public voting and ballots from the Mascot Hall of Fame Executive Committee, this class represents decades of performances, community work,

school spirit, and fan engagement that earned them a permanent seat at the table.

The 2026 election ranks among the most internationally supported in the Hall's history. A handful of votes appeared to originate from the frozen continent, but after bouncing through satellite networks, determining whether they came from scientists, support staff, or perhaps a few overly enthusiastic penguins proved impossible.

"Mascots create memories that last a lifetime. They inspire kids, young and old, unite communities, comfort people in difficult moments, and remind us that laughter is something we

all share and need. Support from 109 countries is humbling. It proves mascots are genuinely global ambassadors of happiness."

"Our mission is to serve and elevate the mascots of the world by being the definitive global hub for mascot culture," he added.

The 2026 induction campaign was sponsored by The [Conspiracists](#) - A Comedy Mockumentary available on Amazon Prime and other streaming platforms.

Two Milestones Worth Noting

A first for female mascots. Mrs. Met becomes the first female mascot ever inducted into the Mascot Hall of Fame — recognition for more than six decades of baseball tradition and the role female mascots have played in the sport.

A first for the Mets. With Mrs. Met joining the already-inducted Mr. Met, the New York Mets become the first pro sports organization with two mascots in the Mascot Hall of Fame. Mr. and Mrs. Met were officially married in a pregame ceremony at Shea Stadium in 1964 — so in a sense, this induction has been six decades in the making.

Meet the Class of 2026

COCKY — "The Heart of Gamecock Nation"

One of college athletics' most recognizable personalities, Cocky is a multiple-time national champion mascot performer whose comedic timing and crowd work have made him a fixture of Gamecock pride on campus and across the community.



Trivia: Cocky has taken home the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Mascot National Championship title more times than any other mascot in the competition's history.

MILES — "The Pride of Broncos Country"

Since debuting in 2001, Miles has powered Mile High crowds into a frenzy while anchoring one of the NFL's most active community-service mascot programs, bringing smiles to kids throughout Colorado.

Trivia: Miles is a Bronco — the horse, not a linebacker — and his design was inspired by the team's original 1960s bucking-horse logo.

GOLDY GOPHER — "College Sports' Master Entertainer"

Unmistakable grin, legendary dance moves, and a spinning head that's become a signature move — Goldy has spent decades defining what mascot entertainment looks like at the collegiate level for the University of Minnesota.

Trivia: Goldy Gopher has been performing since 1952, making him one of the longest-running mascots in college sports.

MRS. MET — "The First Lady of the Mascot Hall of Fame"

First introduced during the Mets' early years, Mrs. Met has represented generations of baseball fans and helped shape one of sports' most iconic mascot families — and now makes history as the Hall's first female inductee.

Trivia: Mrs. Met's 1964 "wedding" to Mr. Met is widely considered one of the earliest scripted mascot storylines in professional sports.

COSMO — "The Ultimate Game Changer"

Gravity-defying acrobatics and viral halftime routines have made Cosmo a genuine game-changer for collegiate mascot performance, raising the bar for what a mascot program at Brigham Young University — or anywhere — can do.

Trivia: Cosmo the Cougar has performed backflips and tumbling passes difficult enough that BYU's mascot program regularly recruits from the university's competitive cheer and gymnastics ranks.

Five Fan Bases, One Distinction

Columbia, South Carolina. Denver, Colorado. Minneapolis, Minnesota. Queens, New York. Provo, Utah.

Five communities now share something reserved for very few: a mascot forever enshrined in the Mascot Hall of Fame.

The Hall will coordinate hometown celebrations with each organization, with details on induction festivities, appearances, and events to be announced in the coming weeks.

More Than a Hall of Fame

The Mascot Hall of Fame celebrates far more than memorable performances. It honors the characters who brighten hospital rooms, energize packed stadiums, visit classrooms, champion charitable causes, and remind us that a simple smile can change someone's day.

For updates on the 2026 Induction Celebration, stories on the newest Hall of Famers, and future nomination announcements, visit the [Mascot Hall of Fame website](#).

About the Mascot Hall of Fame

The Mascot Hall of Fame recognizes and celebrates the world's greatest mascot characters and the performers who bring them to life, honoring excellence in performance, creativity, community impact, and fan engagement. Through storytelling, education, and annual inductions, the Hall preserves mascot history while inspiring future generations of performers.

Our mission is to serve and elevate the mascot world by being the definitive global hub for mascot culture—honoring excellence, documenting history, spotlighting innovation, and celebrating the performers who bring characters to life.

We are committed to recognizing the legends of the past, amplifying the voices of today's mascots, and shaping the future of the craft through storytelling, community, and creativity.

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