



NEWS RELEASE

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RIVER CATS UNVEIL MARIO ENCARNACION HUMANITARIAN AWARD Community Service Award Dedicated to Former Cats Star

West Sacramento, Calif. -- The Sacramento River Cats announced the creation of the Mario Encarnacion Humanitarian Award in a pre-game ceremony at Raley Field on Opening Night, April 14th. The award, named after the late River Cats star, will annually honor a young student athlete who shows a commitment to his or her teammates and classmates. The team will announce the 2006 finalists and the inaugural winner of this award at Raley Field late in the 2006 baseball season.

“Everyone in the River Cats family was shaken with the loss of Mario,” said Alan Ledford, River Cats president, general manager and COO. “We hope that this award, in some small way, will help Encarnacion’s legacy live on forever.”

The winner of this award will be presented with a personalized commemorative gift and the individual’s school athletic department will receive a moderate grant courtesy of the River Cats Foundation.

The River Cats encourage any community members to submit nominations for the inaugural winner of the award. Nominations should include the nominee’s name, age, school, contact info and a brief synopsis of why the nominee is deserving. Finalists and winner will be chosen by the award’s panel in late July. Nominations for the award will be accepted through July 15th via e-mail (tasaro@rivercats.com) or via mail at:

Mario Encarnacion Award
C/O Community Relations Dept.
Sacramento River Cats
400 Ballpark Dr.
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Encarnacion, who played for the River Cats during the 2000 and 2001 seasons, passed away in October in Taiwan, where he was playing professionally. He is survived by his wife, Rosana, and his son, Mario Jr..

--River Cats--

**Pacific Coast League Champions
2003, 2004**

**Pacific Coast League, South Division Champions
2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005**