

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2010

MATRIX:MIDLAND presents:

What: Sean Tuohy – “The Blind Side: The Evolution of a Game”

When: Thursday, February 25 – 7:30 pm

Where: Auditorium, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640

Cost: \$20 adults; \$14 students

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

Ticket “Buy Page”: <http://www.mcfta.org/tickets/calendar/view.aspx?id=10300>



A message of hope and inspiration awaits when MATRIX:MIDLAND Winter Escape presents **Sean Tuohy – “The Blind Side: The Evolution of a Game”** on Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland. Tickets cost \$20 for adults; \$14 for students. Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org. Cosponsored by The Dow Chemical Company.

“In our house, we believe in miracles.”

Sean Tuohy takes the audience behind the scenes of the Tuohy household with a heartwarming message: “In our house, we believe in miracles.” Telling personal anecdotes with his signature southern charm, Sean brings to life the story of Michael Oher, a homeless teenager turned first-round draft pick NFL football player.

In sharing his fascinating story of compassion, commitment and life-altering second chances, the father of the family that inspired *The Blind Side* – the best-selling book and block-buster film starring Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw – asks all of us to consider a simple question: how many other kids just like Michael Oher are falling through the cracks every day? And how can we make an impact big enough to change a broken system? It’s a multi-dimensional story of hope told through the lens of sports and a community of support.

“It’s easy to beat a kid up. The hard thing is to build him up.”

Sean Tuohy knew what it meant to be the poor kid in a private school – he had been one himself. Raised in New Orleans, Sean’s father coached basketball at the prestigious Isidore Newman School. After his father suffered a massive stroke, Sean continued to attend the private school, where he found himself on his own more than he ever anticipated.

With sports as his “meal ticket” through high school and college, he left New Orleans for the University of Mississippi on a basketball scholarship. When Sean walked off the court after his final game, he had shattered every major SEC assists-related record and become a legend in the SEC hall of fame for leading the Ole Miss Rebels to their first and only SEC Tournament Championship.

“An American success story.”

“Sean was an American success story: he had come from nothing and made himself rich,” wrote author Michael Lewis in his book *The Blind Side*. Drafted by the NBA’s New Jersey Nets in 1982, he opted to continue his career overseas before returning to the United States to be with his

father in his final days. Sean became a successful entrepreneur, building a company that now owns and operates 70 fast food restaurants, including Taco Bell and Long John Silver's.

Sean is in his ninth season as an NBA broadcaster for the Memphis Grizzlies, after several years as an analyst for radio broadcasts at Ole Miss as well as national broadcasts for Westwood One and CBS radio. In addition to his demanding business, broadcasting, school and church schedules (he also helped to create one of the fastest growing evangelical churches in Memphis, the Grace Evangelical Church), Sean is heavily involved in supporting several minority students at Briarcrest Christian School. "It's easy to beat a kid up. The hard thing is to build him up," Sean says. With that philosophy in mind, Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy brought Michael Oher into their home, supported him through school, and eventually adopted him as their son.

Sean has been married to his college cheerleader sweetheart, the former Leigh Anne Roberts, for 27 years, and they are the proud parents of daughter Collins (23) and sons Michael Oher (23) and Sean, Jr. (16).

MATRIX:MIDLAND presents professional, world-class entertainment to the mid-Michigan region. For over 30 years, Matrix has hosted an extraordinary schedule of cutting-edge entertainment including cinema, music, comedy, family programs, world-renowned authors and more.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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