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Boys & Girls Clubs to honor Howie Long in 'Hometown Hall of Fame'

Boston Business Journal by Mary Moore

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The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston on Wednesday will host the launch of a new Pro Football Hall of Fame program, which honors the hometown roots of the sport's legendary players.

Howie Long, former all-pro defensive end for the Oakland and Los Angeles Raiders, will receive the honor Wednesday. Long is a Charlestown native and spent countless hours at the Boys & Girls Club of Boston's facility in Charlestown. Allstate Insurance Company is sponsoring the new national football program, called "Hometown Hall of Famers".

Recipients, like Long, are recognized at ceremonies and presented with plaques in their hometown communities. Long's plaque will remain hanging on the wall at the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club. A "Hometown Hall of Famer" road sign with Long's name will be installed in Charlestown.

Long later moved out of Charlestown and was a star player in three sports at Milford High School, earning a full scholarship to play football at Villanova University. He was drafted in the second round of the 1981 National Football League draft by the Oakland Raiders and played one season in Oakland before the franchise moved to Los Angeles.

In 1983, Long was on the Raiders team that won Super Bowl XVIII, beating the Washington Redskins. He played for 13 years and was selected to the Pro Bowl eight times and recorded 84 career sacks.

He was selected to the NFL's All-Decade team of the 1980s and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2000.