

Physicians Regional first in area to perform robotic-arm knee surgery

Physicians Regional Healthcare System CEO Joe D. Pinion announced that the hospital is the first in Southwest Florida to perform robotic-arm knee surgery. The first surgery was successfully performed by orthopedic surgeon Frederick F. Buechel Jr., M.D.

"We are very pleased to bring this innovative technology to the Southwest Florida community," said Mr. Pinion. "Now, an even broader base of patients will be able to experience the benefits of robotic surgery."



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RIO® Robotic Arm Interactive Orthopedic System

Dr. Buechel utilized the RIO Robotic Arm Interactive Orthopedic System, developed by MAKO Surgical Corp., to perform a new, minimally invasive partial knee resurfacing procedure called MAKOplasty, which is used to treat early to mid-stage osteoarthritis of the knee.

The RIO system features a tactile robotic arm and 3-D virtual patient spe-

cific visualization system that enables surgeons to precisely target only the diseased portion of the knee, without compromising the healthy bone and tissue surrounding it. Potential benefits of this minimally invasive procedure include a shorter hospital stay, more rapid recovery and a more natural feeling knee following surgery.

"Precision is key in planning and performing partial knee surgeries," said Dr. Buechel. "For a good outcome, you need to align and position the implants just right. Precision in surgery, and in the pre-operative planning process, is what RIO can deliver."

In fact, the system provides the surgeon with a pre-surgical plan that details the technique for bone preparation and customized implant positioning using a CT scan of the patient's knee. During the procedure, the system creates a three-dimensional live-action, virtual view of the patient's bone surface and correlates the image to the pre-programmed surgical plan. As the surgeon uses the robotic arm, its tactile, acoustic and visual feedback limits the bone preparation to the diseased areas and provides for more optimal implant positioning and placement for each individual patient.

The RIO is now part of the Robotic and Laparoscopic Surgery Center at Physicians Regional, which also features the da Vinci-S Surgical System. ■

Famed Coach Don Shula to headline LMHS fundraiser

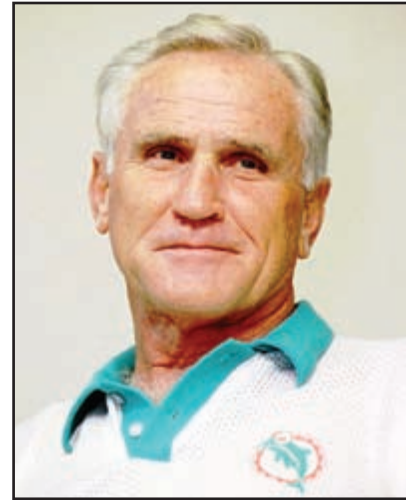
The Lee Memorial Health System Foundation will host an exclusive reception and dinner with legendary coach and mentor Don Shula on Thursday, Nov. 12.

The "Evening with Don Shula" will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and full gourmet dinner with wine pairings. Naples Mayor Bill Barnett has partnered with the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation on the event and will serve as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Coach Shula, an iconic NFL figure, lost his wife to breast cancer and works extensively through his own foundation to raise funds for the cause. He rarely makes personal appearances on behalf of other charities, but was very moved by the care low-income and indigent women are receiving at Lee Memorial Health System's Regional Cancer Center in Fort Myers. Coach Shula will greet guests, sign autographs and will speak at the event delivering an "Everyone's A Coach" motivational speech. The speech will discuss applying winning sports strategies to the corporate world and people's personal lives. Coach Shula will also take questions from the audience on the state of the NFL today and his history-making

1972 "Perfect Season" with the Miami Dolphins.

Silent and live auctions will include hand-signed memorabilia from some of the greatest heroes in sports, including Tiger Woods, Tom Brady, Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, Dan Marino, Johnny Unitas and Jason Taylor. Guests will also have the opportunity to bid on a hand-signed guitar from all of the members of The Rolling Stones, original works of art by Darryl Pottorf and the opportunity to attend the 2010 Masters at Augusta and



COURTESY PHOTO

Coach Don Shula

the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

"We are honored to have Coach Shula headline this truly special evening to benefit women who are battling cancer in our community and are in need of care," said Sharon MacDonald, vice president oncology and chief foundation officer.

The event is being held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at Shula's Steak House in Naples. Tickets are \$500 per person. Sponsors of the event are Mercedes-Benz of Naples, which will showcase a selection of its 2010 models, and Florida Gynecologic Oncology.

Seating is limited and reservations can be made by calling 985-3550. ■

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