



## **CC Sabathia Wins Battle for 2009 Warren Spahn Award**

***First tiebreaker in award history gives Sabathia his third consecutive win***

**OKLAHOMA CITY (October 26, 2009)** — Warren Spahn Award organizers announced today that CC Sabathia of the New York Yankees is the 2009 Spahn Award winner.

But it wasn't an easy road to being named this year's best left-handed pitcher in Major League Baseball. Sabathia had some stiff competition from Houston Astros lefty Wandy Rodriguez. Based on award criteria including strikeouts, wins and ERA, Sabathia and Rodriguez were tied when the regular season ended.

Greg Spahn, son of the late Warren Spahn and member of the Spahn Award board, said it's the first tie in the award's 11-year history. The board used winning percentage as the tiebreaker and Sabathia came out on top.

"It was a battle right down to the very end," Spahn said. "We're thrilled with the caliber of left-handed pitchers in Major League Baseball today, and we congratulate CC and Wandy on their spectacular performances this year."

This is Sabathia's third consecutive Spahn Award. He's closing in on Randy Johnson's record of four consecutive wins from 1999 to 2002.

"I am honored to receive the 2009 Warren Spahn Award," Sabathia said. "My wife Amber and I have had the privilege of being in Oklahoma City the last two years and we're always impressed by their first-class event and warm hospitality."

The Spahn Award is named after Oklahoman and National Baseball Hall of Famer Warren Spahn, who holds the Major League Baseball record of 363 wins as a left-handed pitcher. The Spahn Award is presented at the Warren Spahn Award Gala, hosted by Oklahoma City's Bricktown Rotary Club in January at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame & Jim Thorpe Museum.

"It's important to note that CC is demonstrating the same consistency that my dad did throughout his career," Spahn said. "Great pitchers are all about being able to do it year after year."

Spahn Award Chairman Bill Hickman said it will be a pleasure to welcome Sabathia back to Oklahoma City for this year's award presentation. "CC Sabathia is a world-class athlete and also an all-round class act. His gracious participation in the past two Spahn

Award galas has raised Oklahoma City's profile as a big league city and enriched even more the legacy of baseball legend Warren Spahn."

Past Spahn Award winners include: CC Sabathia (2007 — 2009); Johan Santana (2004, 2006); Dontrelle Willis (2005); Andy Pettitte (2003); and Randy Johnson (1999 — 2002).