



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 22, 2012**

**CLASS OF 2012, ED DEFORE TO BE HONORED AT GSHF INDUCTION CEREMONY**  
**Pete VanWieren Will Emcee at BB&T Sponsored Event on February 25**

MACON, GA – The 2012 Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at the Macon City Auditorium on Saturday, February 25. During the ceremony, Jack Bauerle, Sally Smalley Bell, Bob Boylston, Tracy Ham, Cliff Kimsey, and John Smoltz will be honored as the newest members of the Hall of Fame.

Ed DeFore will also be honored at the event as the recipient of the Erk Russell Spirit Award. DeFore has served on Macon's City Council for 41 years and is being honored for his unfailing dedication to sports in Macon and Middle Georgia. The Erk Russell Spirit Award recognizes contributions to sport that mirror the enthusiasm that Erk Russell brought to coaching football and to all of life's endeavors.

The ceremony and all of the Hall of Fame Weekend activities are presented with the support of BB&T. "BB&T is glad to be a part of such a meaningful event for our community," said David Lanier, BB&T Regional President. "It is truly a privilege for us to have a role in honoring the inductees of the Hall of Fame."

Longtime Atlanta Braves broadcaster Pete VanWieren will act as Master of Ceremony at the banquet on Saturday night. VanWieren called Braves games for 33 years retiring after the 2008 season. He recently completed a book titled, *Of Mikes and Men: A Lifetime of Braves Baseball* and has been named Georgia Sportscaster of the Year 11 times.

The Class of 2011 and over 20 other Hall of Famers will greet fans at the Hall of Fame's annual FanFest on Saturday afternoon. FanFest will be held at the museum in Downtown Macon from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

*Bios on each of the 2012 inductees are attached. Media wishing to cover the event are invited to a press availability with the Class of 2012 at 5:15 PM on Saturday, February 25 at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Museum. Members of the media are also welcome to attend the ceremony that will immediately follow at the Macon City Auditorium. Credentials for the ceremony will be distributed during the press availability.*

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