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**GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME NAMES 2012 INDUCTION CLASS**  
**Pair of Braves Headline All-Star Group of Athletes, Coaches, and Officials**

MACON, GA - The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Honors Court met at the museum on Friday to select the Hall of Fame's Class of 2012. After extensive deliberation, the committee chose **Jack Bauerle, Sally Smalley Bell, Bob Boylston, Tracy Ham, Cliff Kimsey, and John Smoltz** to be the next inductees into the GSHF.

The six members of the 2012 class were selected from a pool of 35 finalists who remained in consideration following the Hall's Consulting Committee meeting in August. "The members of the Honors Court are faced with some very tough decisions each year", said Ben Sapp, the GSHF's Interim Director. "The high level of talent represented by the finalists this year is a testament to the past and continued excellence of our state's athletic programs."

**Jack Bauerle** is the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach at the University of Georgia. His women's teams have captured 4 NCAA Team Championships and over 50 Individual Championships. His men's teams have finished in the top ten nationally for eight consecutive years and have produced nine Individual Championships. Between the two teams, Coach Bauerle has mentored over 200 All-Americans while garnering 13 SEC and 5 NCAA Coach of the Year Awards. In 2008, Bauerle was named Head Coach of the United States Women's Swimming Team for the Beijing Olympics. His swimmers won a record 14 medals.

**Sally Smalley Bell** is a native of Dublin who has become one of the top women's basketball referees in the world. She began her career working for the Georgia High School Association going on to become one of the most respected referees on the college, professional, and international circuits. During her officiating career, she worked 15 Women's Final Four tournaments, the 1996 Olympics, and multiple playoff and All-Star games in the WNBA. In 1991 she received the Naismith Award as women's basketball's Official of the Year.

**Bob Boylston** grew up in Atlanta playing football before going on to become an accomplished high school, collegiate, and professional football official. Boylston began his career with the Georgia High School Association refereeing prep contests from 1964-1974. He also refereed 110 games in the SEC including seven bowl games and one national championship game. In 1978 Boylston became an NFL referee where he officiated 405 games before retiring in 1998. During his time in the NFL, he called a record nine Conference Championship Games and officiated two Super Bowls. Boylston attended college at the University of Alabama where he played offensive and defensive line for Paul "Bear" Bryant.

**Tracy Ham** grew up in Gainesville, FL before moving to Statesboro to attend Georgia Southern University. As the Eagles' quarterback, Ham led GSU to back-to-back NCAA I-AA National Championships in 1985 and 1986. A prolific runner and passer, Ham left Georgia Southern as the only player to rush for more than 3,000 yards and throw for over 5,000 yards in a college career. Ham passed on opportunities to play in the NFL to remain at the position of quarterback in the Canadian Football League. He played on two Grey Cup championship teams and was named the league's Most Outstanding Player in 1989. Ham is also an inductee of the College Football and Canadian Football Halls of Fame.

**Cliff Kimsey** was born in Cornelia where he played fullback on Cornelia High School's undefeated 1936 football team. While at Cornelia, he was selected to play in the first Georgia High School Association All-Star Game and was a three year letterman on the baseball team. At the University of Georgia, Kimsey shared a backfield with GSHF inductees Frank Sinkwich and Lamar "Racehorse" Davis and played tailback, fullback, and blocking back during his collegiate career. In 1942 Kimsey was the recipient of UGA's Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. Following his graduation from the university, Kimsey served as an infantryman in the Pacific during WWII.

**John Smoltz** played Major League baseball for 21 seasons spending 1988-2008 as a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves. He compiled a career record of 213-155 (.579) with a 3.33 ERA. He was selected as the National League Cy Young Award winner in 1996 and was a 7 time All-Star. He amassed an outstanding postseason record of 15-4 (.789) and was named the National League Championship Series MVP in 1992. Smoltz led the league in strikeouts in 1992 and 1996 and was a member of the Braves World Series Championship Team in 1995. In addition to his role as a starting pitcher, Smoltz also spent several seasons as a closer saving 154 games for the Braves and leading the league in saves in 2002.

The Class of 2012 represents the very best Georgia has to offer in athletics, coaching, and officiating. Each member of the Class of 2012 will be honored at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on February 25, 2012 in Macon.

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