



GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INCOMING CLASS OF 2022

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Chairman Loran Smith is pleased to announce the following individuals have been selected for induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. The 66th Annual Induction Ceremony will be held the weekend of February 18th and 19th, 2022. Activities will begin Friday, February 18th, with GSHF Burgess Golf Classic hosted at Idle Hour Golf and Country Club. Friday evening, the annual Jacket Ceremony will be held at the Hall. On Saturday at midday the annual Stifel FanFest Autograph session will once again be held at the Hall. FanFest is open to the public and free of charge. Saturday evening, we close out the weekend with the 66th Annual Induction Ceremony held at the historic Macon City Auditorium. Please meet the Class of 2022:

James Bankston - One of UGA's most decorated male swimmers, James Bankston started out as a diver but transitioned to freestyle swimming. He won six SEC titles for the Bulldogs. In one season alone in 1957, James dominated the Freestyle events, winning the 220-yard freestyle, 440-yard freestyle, and the 1500-meter freestyle. He placed 6th at the National Championships in the 1500-meter. He was recognized as an All-Time Letter-winner in Swimming and Diving at UGA in 1957, 1958, and 1959, and still holds three SEC swimming records today. Upon leaving college, James became the Director of Glynn County Recreation in 1961, forming the first swimming and diving team in Glynn County. He then became the Sr. Vice President of Rich Sea Pak and retired after 40 years of service.

Alan Chadwick - A former football player, Alan Chadwick began coaching high school football at Marist School as an assistant in 1976, becoming their head coach in 1985. In 36 seasons coaching for Marist, Alan's teams have never missed the playoffs, reaching the state finals in 1987, 1989, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2017, and 2020; winning in 1989, 2003, and 2020. In 1991, Alan received the Wayman Creel Coaching Award for outstanding contributions to coaching, and in 2004, he received the R.L. "Shorty" Doyle Award for coaching excellence from the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association. This past August, Alan crossed the 400-win mark making him the 36th high school football coach to reach such a milestone and is third all-time in Georgia history.

Stewart Cink - Originally from Florence, Alabama, but calling the Peach State his home, Stewart Cink attended Georgia Tech, playing golf for the Yellow Jackets. After graduating in 1995, he turned professional, joining the PGA Tour in 1997 and garnering Rookie of the Year. A consistently successful golfer, Stewart placed third in the Masters (2008), PGA Championship (1999), and the U.S. Open (2001). He then won the British Open in 2009 after a four-hole playoff against Tom Watson. Stewart won the Safeway Open in 2020, and more recently won the RBC Heritage in April. He became the fourth player to win twice in the same PGA season after turning 47. Each Fall, Stewart co-hosts the East Lake Invitational which benefits the East Lake Foundation.

Warrick Dunn - At Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, Warrick Dunn played quarterback, cornerback, and running back. The latter proved to be his strong suit and took him to FSU under legendary Coach Bobby Bowden, where he rushed for over 1,000 yards in three straight seasons and was a three-time First-Team All-ACC selection, winning a National Championship his freshman year. Drafted by Tampa Bay in 1997, Warrick was named AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. Signing with the Falcons in 2002, he would rack up 5,981 yards during his time in Atlanta and was named the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year in 2004. Outside of football, Warrick established his own charity and started the Homes for the Holidays program, providing homes for single-parent families.

Deon Grant - A USA Today High School All-American at Josey High School in Augusta, Georgia, Deon Grant helped lead the Eagles towards a state football championship. He was the #1 ranked DB in the country out of high school. He'd play collegiately at the University of Tennessee under legendary coach Philip Fulmer. Deon's leaping interception in the 1998 BCS National Championship Game sealed the win for the Volunteers. He was selected as a consensus first-team All-American in 1999. He also won SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 1999 and led the country in interceptions. Drafted by the Carolina Panthers in 2000, Deon would spend 12 seasons in the NFL playing with the Panthers, Jaguars, Seahawks, and Giants. He helped lead the Giants' defense in victory at Super Bowl XLVI against the New England Patriots.

Steve Holman - A fixture on Atlanta sports radio since 1980, Steve Holman, the "Voice of the Hawks", started his career as a broadcast assistant for Boston Celtics' legendary play-by-play commentator Johnny Most. Once Steve arrived in Atlanta, he called Falcons games and Atlanta Chiefs soccer matches. In 1989, he would start calling games for the Atlanta Hawks and has never missed a broadcast. He was awarded Georgia Sportscaster of the Year in 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2019 by the National Sports Media Association. Steve also received Gabby Awards from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters three years in a row and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2017.

Bob Horner - At Arizona State, Bob Horner was the first winner of the Golden Spikes Award given to the best amateur baseball player in the country. He was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 1978, where he would spend nine seasons. Bob hit a home run in his first major league game against pitcher Bert Blyleven of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was named National League Rookie of the Year that season. In 1982, Bob was the captain of the Braves when they won the NL West title, their first in 13 seasons. In 1986, he became the 11th player in MLB history to hit four home runs in a single game. In his ten-year career, Bob batted .277 with 218 home runs and 685 RBIs. His career fielding percentage was .977. Bob was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.

Eric Zeier - A standout quarterback at Marietta High School in Marietta, GA, Eric graduated ahead of his class and joined the University of Georgia Bulldogs in 1991. There he went on to become a Heisman Trophy contender, compiling a 26-14-1 record as a starter, and winning three Bowl games during his tenure. Eric set 67 school records while at UGA, and an additional 18 SEC records, including becoming the SEC's all-time passing leader in 1994, and only the third quarterback in NCAA Division 1 history to throw for more than 11,000 yards in his college career. Named the American Football Coaches Association First-Team All-American quarterback in 1994, Zeier closed out his 4 years at UGA with 877 of 1,461 attempts for 11,153 yards, 67 touchdowns, and 37 interceptions. After several years in the NFL playing for the Cleveland Browns, Baltimore Ravens, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Atlanta Falcons, he returned to UGA, and has served as a color analyst on the Georgia Bulldogs Sports Network since 2007.

Legends

Bill Bartholomay - William "Bill" Bartholomay was a successful business executive from Chicago before leading a consortium to buy the Milwaukee Braves. The Braves were having much success in Milwaukee, including winning a World Series in 1957, but Bill saw the potential to bring the first professional baseball team to the Deep South and set his eyes on the newly built Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. Bill worked with local civic leaders and in 1966 brought the Braves to Atlanta. In 1976, Bill sold his controlling interest in the team to Ted Turner, who in turn introduced the Braves to a national audience through his TBS network. Bill passed away in March 2020 at the age of 91.

Bobby Dews - Born in Iowa but raised in the small town of Edison, Georgia, Bobby Dews went on to play college baseball and basketball at Georgia Tech. He was drafted by the MLB's St Louis Cardinals where he played and managed the Cardinals farm league before joining the Atlanta Braves in 1974. Bobby helped turn the Braves farm league around in the 1980's, providing the team with top prospects and talent. After spending multiple years on Bobby Cox's Major League staff, he retired in 2006 as the Brave's bullpen coach and worked tangentially with the club on and off the next several years. Bobby passed away in December 2015 at the age 76.

Roy Hartsfield - Roy Hartsfield was born in Riverside, Georgia in 1925. He made his major league debut with the Boston Braves and played three seasons before going into the managerial side of baseball. Roy skippered for the Spokane Indians and the Hawaii Islanders, the latter winning the Pacific Coast championship in 1975 and 1976. He briefly coached for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Atlanta Braves in the major leagues. Roy was hired as the first manager of the expansion team Toronto Blue Jays in 1977. He'd stay at that position for three seasons before going on to manage in Double-A and Triple-A ball. Roy passed away in January 2011 at the age of 85.

Pete Van Wieren - After serving as a play-by-play announcer for minor league baseball in the 1960s and '70s, New York-native Pete Van Wieren travelled south after being hired by Turner Sports to become the play-by-play announcer for the Atlanta Braves in 1975. He'd hold that position until 2008 calling games alongside Don Sutton and GSHF inductees Ernie Johnson, Sr., and Skip Caray. Pete was given the nickname "The Professor" for his extensive knowledge of the game. He also called for college football, Atlanta Hawks basketball, Atlanta Falcons pre-season football, and NBA on Turner Sports. Pete stepped down from broadcasting duties for the Braves in 2008. Pete passed away in 2014 at the age of 69.