



GSHF ANNOUNCES MASTER OF CEREMONIES JOHN SMOLTZ FOR 68TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Chairman Earl Wright is honored to announce our Master of Ceremonies for the 68th Annual Induction Ceremony will be legendary Braves pitcher and GSHF Class of 2012 inductee **John Smoltz**.

Smoltz spent 22 seasons pitching in the MLB, 20 of those with the Atlanta Braves. He was an eight-time All-Star, and was a valuable part of a renowned trio of starting pitchers, along with Tom Glavine (GSHF Class of 2021), and Greg Maddux. The trio rocketed Atlanta through multiple pennant races in the 1990s, ultimately taking home the trophy in the 1995 World Series. Smoltz won the National League Cy Young Award in 1996, posting a record of 24–8. Primarily a starter, Smoltz spent a few years as a closing relief pitcher before returning to a starting role. In 2002, he set a NL record with 55 saves becoming the second pitcher in MLB history to record both a 20-win season and a 50-save season. He is the only pitcher in Major League history to record both 200 wins and 150 saves. Smoltz and incoming Class of 2024 inductee, catcher **Brian McCann** started 85 games together as a battery, two of them being shutouts.

Smoltz' jersey was retired by the Braves in 2012 and he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015, his first year of eligibility. He was the recipient of the 2005 Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, the 2005 Roberto Clemente Award, the 2007 Branch Rickey Award and was chosen by his peers as the MLBPA's Marvin Miller Man of the Year in 2002 and 2003 for his outstanding community service.

Since retirement, Smoltz has served as an analyst and announcer. He joined FOX Sports in 2014, and became part of network's lead broadcast team after just two seasons. He called his first World Series in 2016 alongside Emmy Award-winning play-by-play announcer Joe Buck.

An avid golfer, Smoltz participates in multiple tournaments every year. He qualified for the U.S. Senior Open in 2018 and won the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions in 2019.

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame 68th Annual Induction Ceremony will take place on February 24, 2024 at Historic Macon City Auditorium. The Class of 2024 is **Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Eric Berry, Cris Carpenter, Thomas Davis, Sr., Claude Felton, Paul Johnson, Brian McCann, and Wendy White**. Induction activities will begin Friday, February 23rd with the GSHF Golf Classic hosted at River North Country Club. Friday evening, the annual Jacket Ceremony (a private non-ticketed event) will be held at the Hall. On Saturday at midday the annual FanFest Autograph session will once again be held at the Hall. FanFest is open to the public and free of charge.

For ceremony ticket information, or to sign up for the Golf Tournament, please call 478.752.1585.