



GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INCOMING CLASS OF 2023

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Chairman Earl Wright is pleased to announce the following individuals have been selected for induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. The 67th Annual Induction Ceremony will be held the weekend of February 24th and 25th, 2023. Activities will begin Friday, February 24th, with GSHF Golf Classic hosted at Barrington Hall. Friday evening, the annual Jacket Ceremony 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. Saturday evening, we close out the weekend with the 67th Annual Induction Ceremony held at the historic Macon City Auditorium. Please meet the Class of 2023:

Jackie Bradford - Basketball is life for Valdosta-native Jackie Bradford. He was an honorable mention NAIA basketball All-American for Lipscomb University where he played from 1964-1966. He coached at Lipscomb for one season before moving back to Georgia to coach for Greater Atlanta Christian School. He served as the Spartans head coach from 1968 to 1982 compiling a 253-82 record with three state championships. Jackie has been actively involved with the Atlanta Tipoff Club, joining the Board of Directors in 1971 and serving as the organization's president and executive director from 1975 to 2004. He was also involved in hospitality committees for both the NCAA Final Four and the NBA All-Star game when they were held in Atlanta. Jackie was inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Buck Godfrey - The name Buck Godfrey is revered in Dekalb County, Georgia, when it comes to high school football. Buck is a South Carolina native who captained in football and baseball at Delaware State University. He went on to study at Columbia University and NYU before obtaining an MA in English at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta). He began his coaching career in Dekalb County in 1974 as a baseball coach. He was also a swim coach before being hired to the head coaching position at Southwest Dekalb High School in 1983. In his 30 years there, Buck amassed 273 wins including 13 region titles and a GHSA Class AAAA State Championship in 1995. He was inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Georgia Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

Andruw Jones - Born in Willemstad on the island of Curaçao, Andruw Jones was a standout baseball player by the age of 16, when he signed with the Atlanta Braves organization as a free agent in 1993. After a few years in the Braves farm leagues, Andruw was called up to majors in 1996 at 19-years-old. His 12 seasons in Atlanta saw him garner five All-Star selections and 10 Golden Gloves. His most proficient year was 2005, when Andruw led the National League in RBIs and home runs, and was awarded the NL Hank Aaron Award as the league's best offensive player. In 2007, Andruw was honored with a Fielding Bible Award as the best fielding center in the MLB. He went on to play with four other MLB teams before ending his career in Japan. Andruw was inducted into the Braves Hall of Fame in 2016.

Shawn Jones - An exceptional quarterback at Thomasville High School, Shawn Jones led the Bulldogs to a 29-8-1 record as a starter, including an 11-1 record as a senior where he threw for 1,369 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also rushed for 677 yards and three touchdowns. Shawn would then play for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. He set multiple Georgia Tech and Atlantic Coast Conference records. During his career in Atlanta, Shawn amassed 9,296 total yards of offense, 70 touchdowns, and 35 wins. He'd also lead Tech to a National Championship in 1990 with a dominating 45-21 win over Nebraska in the Citrus Bowl where he was also named bowl game MVP. Shawn's professional career was brief but his time at Tech cemented him in their Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003.

Stan Kasten - Farmingdale, New Jersey native Stan Kasten played an integral part in the success of the Atlanta Braves in the 1990s and early 2000s. His tenure in Atlanta sports began in 1979, when he became general manager of the Atlanta Hawks. His success there carried over onto the baseball diamond where he became president of the Atlanta Braves in 1986. Along with GM John Schuerholz and skipper Bobby Cox, the Atlanta Braves flourished under Stan's leadership. From 1991 to 2005, they won 14 straight division titles, five National League pennants, and a World Series championship in 1995. Stan went on to become president of the Washington Nationals in 2006, before joining the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2012, where he currently serves as president and CEO.

Al Parker - One of the most accomplished junior tennis players in history, Al Parker won a record 25 national junior titles. He also won the Grand Slam of junior tennis, the only player to win all national championships in singles and doubles in a single year. Al went on to play collegiately at the University of Georgia and was named All-SEC and All-American during his four years in Athens. He won two national collegiate singles championships, as well as 10 other singles and doubles titles. Al won every time he reached a final. He also managed a 4.0 GPA and was named an Academic All-American Team Member of the Year in 1990-1991. Al was inducted into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame in 2007.

Ron Reed - Ron Reed started his professional playing career on the basketball court. He was drafted in the third round of the 1965 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons where he played for two seasons, before pursuing a career in professional baseball. After a spell pitching in the minor leagues, Ron joined the Atlanta Braves organization in 1965. He debuted for Atlanta in 1966. As a starter, Ron reached double figures in wins in five separate seasons with the Braves. He was named an All-Star in 1968. After nine seasons with the Braves, Ron played briefly with the St. Louis Cardinals before settling in Philadelphia with the Phillies. There, Ron became an important relief pitcher serving crucial saves in the run-up to the Phillies World Series championship in 1980. Ron is one of 13 players to play both in the NBA and the MLB.

Mark Richt - Once a backup to future great quarterbacks at the University of Miami, Mark Richt began his accomplished coaching career under the legendary Bobby Bowden at Florida State as a graduate assistant in 1993, moving on to become the Seminoles quarterback coach and then offensive coordinator. In 2001, Mark took over the head coaching job for the Georgia Bulldogs. His coaching helped propel Bulldog football into a dominant force during the 2000s. During his tenure, Mark took UGA to six SEC East Division titles and two SEC Championships in 2002 and 2005. He amassed a 126-45 record in Athens including bowl games. He then became head coach at his alma mater of Miami from 2016-2018. Mark is very active in community service and is currently an analyst for the ACC Network.