

— 68TH ANNUAL —

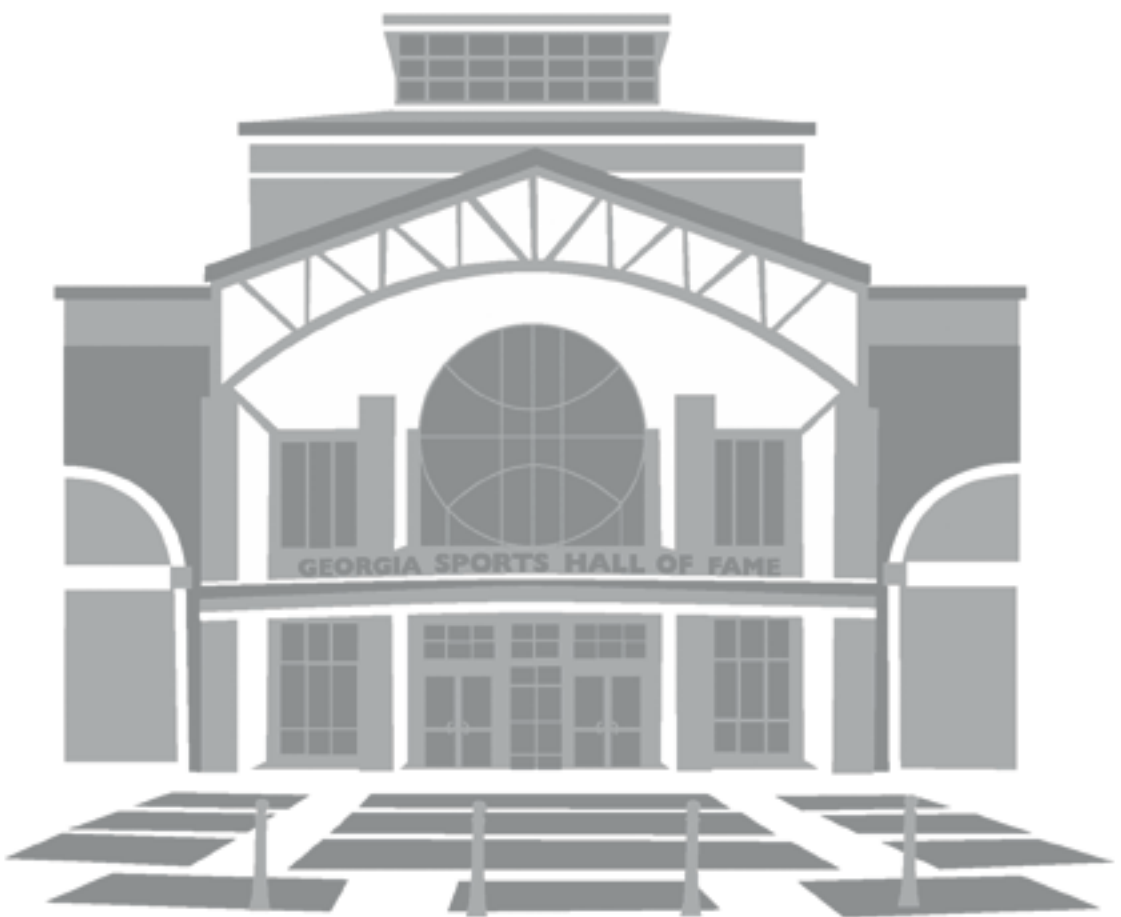


*Induction
Ceremony*

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

WELCOME

Welcome



We are pleased that you have joined us for the 68th Annual Induction Ceremony of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. Our state has produced some of the greatest athletic talent in the nation. The members of the Class of 2024 exemplify this wealth of talent. Tonight, we recognize **Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Eric Berry, Cris Carpenter, Thomas Davis, Sr., Claude E. Felton, Paul Johnson, Brian McCann, and Wendy White**, along with Legends **Tasha Butts, William “Billy” Johnson, Bill Lucas, and Dr. Nathaniel “Nat” Thornton**. They have made a substantial impact on Georgia, our nation, and the world. Thank you for joining us in celebrating their achievements.



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2024

To: The 2024 Inductees of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

GREETINGS:

On behalf of the State of Georgia, I extend my warmest welcome to the distinguished guests, honorees, board members, Hall of Famers, and other attendees of the 68th Annual Induction Ceremony. It is truly an honor to recognize these twelve individuals selected for induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame for 2024.

The Induction Ceremony is one of Georgia's most unrivaled sporting traditions. The men and women who receive this distinguished honor have significantly contributed to our state's sports history. Their accomplishments and stories will be remembered and shared for many years to come.

I congratulate the Class of 2024: Mr. Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Mr. Eric Berry, Mr. Cris Carpenter, Mr. Thomas Davis, Sr., Mr. Claude Felton, Mr. Paul Johnson, Mr. Brian McCann, and Ms. Wendy White, along with Legends: Ms. Tasha Butts, Mr. William "Billy" Johnson, Mr. Bill Lucas, and Dr. Nathaniel "Nat" Thornton. Through their hard work, determination, and discipline, they have achieved distinction in their endeavors and have contributed to the celebrated history of sports in our great state.

Marty, the girls, and I send our best wishes for a successful and inspirational Induction Celebration.

Sincerely,

Brian Kemp

AUTHORITY



On behalf of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority, welcome to the Class of 2024 Induction Ceremony. Tonight marks the 68th anniversary of this outstanding event. Since 1956, we have honored men and women who represent the finest in their sport or sports profession in Georgia, the Best of the Best! We appreciate the generous support of our sponsors and contributors who make this event possible each year. We are fortunate to have tremendous volunteers who give their time and leadership as members of the Authority and of the Foundation Board of Directors. The Class of 2024 is exceptional. We are pleased to recognize their many accomplishments and their enduring legacies of excellence. They have personified the success that comes from perseverance, discipline, hard work, and passion. The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame museum will preserve the history of the members of this class, as it has for all previous inductees.

I am pleased to announce that in late 2023 the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame established an endowment fund to insure that the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame would continue to make a positive and meaningful impact on the youth of our state in addition to recognizing and celebrating achievements of elite athletes that are part of our state of Georgia. There is an insert in tonight's program that will show you how you can join the team of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. I hope you will be one of our teammates.

We extend many thanks to the staff of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame for their dedication to serving the community by illuminating our incomparable Georgia sports heroes.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2024!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Wright".

Earl Wright
Chairman
Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority



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2024 INDUCTION
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Executive Director

Gwen Arrington

Director of Operations

Inductees and Special Guests,

We are fortunate in Georgia to have such a rich sports history that enables us to have the best sports hall of fame in the country.

The Georgia Sports hall of Fame not only honors this history but also helps our next generation understand all the valuable lessons that playing sports teaches – teamwork, hard work, overcoming adversity, and the joy of victory.

Sports has played a pivotal role in the lives of all our inductees. They have reached the pinnacle of their sport. It did not happen overnight. It happened over years of hard work.

Very few reach the level our inductees achieved, but it is not the end result where we find the true value of sports. No matter what level one achieves, it is the lessons learned over their journey that make the difference and those lessons change lives.

At the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame we honor our inductees and their journey to achieve their goals, thereby showing the next generation the value that sports can bring into their lives.

We thank you for your support and encourage you to continue to support the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame so that it can continue to support the next generation of Georgia athletes.

One of the children who the Hall of Fame touches may very well be a future inductee.



Steve Collins, *Foundation Chair*
Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Foundation,
Board of Directors
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SELECTION PROCESS

Criteria:

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority is committed to honoring the broad diversity of Georgia's sports heritage. Factors of race, gender, religion, creed, politics, sport, school affiliation, and/or geographic location shall never constitute grounds for including or excluding any nominee.

Nominations:

Any person may nominate any individual, living or deceased, for induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. Individuals may be nominated in one of five categories: Athlete, Coach/Manager, Advocate, Multi-Sports/Combination or Posthumous. Nominations must be submitted on nomination forms as provided by the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and returned to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame on or before July 1st of each year.

Eligibility:

Individuals nominated for selection to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame must have a long or significant association with and/or reside in the state of Georgia or otherwise made an outstanding contribution to his or her sport so as to reflect great credit and recognition upon the State of Georgia.

Selection:

All nominations go through a two-step screening process. Selections and decisions are made by representatives from across the state in all areas of sports. Nominees selected for induction are honored at the annual induction ceremony.

2024 CONSULTING COMMITTEE

Tenitra Batiste

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Marianna Whitehurst

Earl Wright



2024 HONORS COURT

Brad Bibb

Bill Shanks

Steve Collins

David Durham

Terry Harvin

Anita Howard

Darryl Jones

Jaime Kaplan

Lucius Sanford

Phil Schaefer

Loran Smith

Jim Terry

Jeff Treadway

Earl Wright

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

1975*	Henry L. "Hank" Aaron	1986*	Morris M. Bryan, Jr.	1985*	John Donaldson
1980	Tommy Aaron	1986	Bobby Lee Bryant	1978*	Vince Dooley
1994	Lucinda Williams Adams	1956*	Selby H. Buck	1957*	R.L. "Shorty" Doyal
1964*	William A. Alexander	1959*	Sam Burke	1995	Allen M. Doyle
1998*	Alfred Walton Anderson	1959*	H.D. Butler	1993*	Paul A. Duke
1966*	Frank B. Anderson, Sr.	2003	Kevin Gregory Butler	2022	Warrick Dunn
1974*	Paul Anderson	1966*	Wallace "Wally" Butts	1992*	David Dupree
2006*	Taz L. Anderson, Jr.	2009*	Milton Alexander Byard, Sr.	1977*	Sterling A. Dupree
2020	Willie Lloyd Anderson, Jr.	2008	Earnest Byner	2009	Hugh Durham
1996	William Andrews	2007	Larry Campbell	1980	Edith McGuire Duvall
1964*	Lucius "Luke" Appling	1981*	Marion Campbell	1987*	Patrick F. Dye
2000	George Atkinson	2013*	Harry Christopher Caray, Jr.	1972*	Joel H. Eaves
1990*	Howard "Doc" Ayers	1984*	Jimmy Carnes	2001	Teresa Edwards
1992*	Harry Babcock	1998*	Walker "Big Six" Carpenter	2007*	Russell Ellington
1992*	James C. Bagby, Jr.	1962*	D.B. Carroll	1998	Bill Elliott
1982*	James C. Bagby, Sr.	1957*	John R. Carson	1977*	Sam J. "Sambo" Elliott
2018	Champ Bailey	2008	Norman Carter	2011	Dale Ellis
2008*	Leslie C. Baker	1991*	Hugh Casey	1985*	S. Leonidas Epps
2022*	James Bankston	1956*	Clint Castleberry	2010	Ed Everett
1981*	Thomas William Barnes	1962*	Vassa "Gus" Cate	1999*	Norman Faircloth
2021	Tony Barnhart	1969*	Jim Cavan	1975*	William F. "Bill" Fincher
1977*	David "Red" Barron	2022	Alan Chadwick	1978*	J. Timothy "Tim" Flock
2003	Gayle Barron	1988*	Edgar Chandler	1995*	Vera "Punkin" Flock
2022*	Bill Bartholomay	1969*	Spurgeon Chandler	1976*	Theo "Tiger" Flowers
2007	Steve Bartkowski	2000	Bill Chappell	1969*	Allen Ralph "Buck" Flowers
2020	Lonnie Bartley	1958*	W.O. Cheney	1983*	Mary Louise Fowler
1973*	Weems O. Baskin	1976*	James P. "Buck" Cheves	1988*	Douglas L. "Buddy" Fowlkes
1996*	Graham Batchelor	2003	Wallace C. Childs	1978*	Alexa Stirling Fraser
2012	Jack Bauerle	2022	Stewart Cink	1986	Walter Frazier, Jr.
1980*	Maxie Baughan	2010*	Al Ciraldo	2015*	Bill Fulcher
1960*	Wright Bazemore	1993*	Ellis Clary	1993	James R. Gabrielsen
1958*	Joseph W. Bean	2020*	D.L. Claborn	1961*	George Gardner
1959*	Ray Beck	2021*	Dr. Hervey M. Cleckley	1993*	Frances Poole King
1997*	Charles Belcher	2005*	Donn Clendenon		Garlington
1999*	Dewitt Talmadge Bell, Jr.	1964*	Tyrus Raymond Cobb	2006	Robert Gaston
2012	Sally Smalley Bell	2017	Laura Mays Coble	2017	Willie Gault
2013	Buck Belue	2020*	Gary Colson	1989*	Joseph Geri
1984*	Joseph J. Bennett	1982*	Lew Cordell	1986*	Joe H. Gerson
1989	Daniel A. Birchmore	2005*	Bill Corry	2003*	Joshua "Josh" Gibson
1990*	Furman Bisher	2018	Tom Cousins	1962*	Sam Glassman, Sr.
2018	Arthur Blank	2006	Bobby Cox	2021	Tom Glavine
1990	Mel Blount	1990	Pete Cox	2016	Michael Glenn
1979*	Arnold Blum	1973*	Wayman O. Creel	2005*	Dr. Frank Glover, Sr.
1994*	John Pennington Bond	2014	Bobby Cremins	2023	William "Buck" Godfrey
1991	Emerson Boozer	1992	Bill Curry	2011	Ray Goff
1987*	Harley Bowers	1979*	Alice Coachman Davis	1985*	William L. "Dynamite"
2012*	Bob Boylston	1990*	Lamar "Race Horse" Davis		Goodloe, Jr.
2023	Jackie Bradford	2011*	Robert C. Davis	1965*	Bryan M. "Bitsy" Grant
1997	Ronald M. Bradley	1983*	Robert T. "Bobby" Davis	2022	Deon Grant
1980*	Edmund R. "Zeke" Bratkowski	1994*	Van Andrew Davis	1987*	Joseph A. "Cy" Grant
1998	Jim Breland	2011*	Joe H. Delany, Jr.	1961*	Thomas E. Greene
1994*	George H. Brodnax	2008	Jim Dent	1984*	George C. Griffin
2002	Cindy J. Brogdon	2008	Richard L. Dent	1997*	Johnny Griffith
2017	Keith Brooking	1992*	Claude Derrick	1979*	Charles Grisham
2014	James Brooks	2022*	Bobby Dews	1985*	Watts Gunn
2007	Kevin Brown	2017	Manuel Diaz, Jr.	1995*	Rufus Guthrie
1990*	Pete Brown	1992*	Gardner Dickinson	1997*	Ray Guy
1994*	Ralph "Country" Brown	1965*	Robert L. "Bobby" Dodd	1972*	Joe Guyon
1971*	Frank Broyles	2006	Canute Ray Donaldson	2018	Chris Haack

2012	Tracy Ham	2016	Chipper Jones	2010	Sam Mitchell
2021	Joe Hamilton	1964*	Robert T. Jones, Jr.	2004	Wade Treutlen Mitchell
1982*	Edward B. Hamm	2023	Shawn Jones	1993	A. Thomas "Tommy" Mixon
2018	Terri Moody Hancock	2021	Brian O. Jordan	1973*	John Robert Mize
2003*	Anne Paradise Hansford	1984	Roger Kaiser	2005	Larry Mize
1988*	Leon Hardeman	2005	Jaime Kaplan	2021*	Robert Montag
1999*	Catherine Hardy-Lavender	2023	Stan Kasten	1987*	Johnny Moon
1974*	James (Doc) Harper	1984*	Oscar Bane Keeler	2021	Maya Moore
2004*	Jimmy Harper	1960*	Dwight Keith, Sr.	1976*	Virlyn Moore, Jr.
2017	Matt Harpring	2002	Curtis Cliff "Chip" Kell	1967*	Charles Morgan
2021	Janet Harris	2015*	Alec Christopher Kessler	2006*	Marian C. Morgan
1991	Charles W. Harrison	2012*	Cliff C. Kimsey, Jr.	1986*	Anthony "Zippy" Morocco
1993	Tommy Hart	1996*	Kim King	1981*	George A. Morris, Jr.
1981*	William C. Hartman, Jr.	2002	Roger Kingdom	1975*	Larry Morris
2022*	Roy Hartsfield	1974*	Dorothy Kirby	1977*	Elmer B. Morrow
1999*	B.T. Harvey	1995	Charles "Ray" Knight	1998	Edwin Moses
2008*	Ernie Harwell	2021	Ray Lamb	1989*	Wallace Moses
1981*	Leonard Moore Hauss	2009	Andy Landers	2019*	Billy Munday
2013*	J.B. Hawkins	2009*	Mills Bee Lane, III	2005*	Larry Munson
1991*	William R. Healey	1960*	Henry L. Langston	2017*	Liz Murphey
1983*	James T. "Jim" Hearn	1982*	Milton "Red" Leathers, Jr.	1997	Dale Murphy
1992*	William Waller "Tiny" Hearn	2010	Suzanne Yoculan Leebern	2015	Reg Murphy
2017	Gerard Garrison Hearst	1972*	Carlton Lewis	2001	Angel Myers-Martino
1967*	John Heisman	1996*	L.J. "Stan" Lomax	1972*	Tom Nash
1962*	Billy Henderson	2002	Nancy Lopez	1994	Larry G. Nelson
2015	Bobby Hendley	1986*	Billy Lothridge	1985*	Phil Niekro
2006	Lea Henry	1998*	Lyn Lott	2000	Norman E. Nixon
1989*	Jimmy L. Hightower	2021*	James Albert "Al" Lucas	1993*	Willard L. Nixon
2001	Kent Angelo Hill	1988*	Jim Luck	1983*	Tommy Nobis
1985*	J.C. "Jake" Hines	1958*	Quinton Lumpkin	1962*	Jim Nolan
1988*	Graham Hixon	1990	Steve Lundquist	2004	John "Blue Moon" Odom
2009	Terry Hoage	1987	Thomas L. Lyons	2020	Kelley O'Hara
1995*	Morton Strahan Hodgson	1981*	Herbert Maffett	1962*	George H. O'Kelley
1973*	Howell T. Hollis	1976*	Dan Magill	1978*	James A. "Jimmy" Orr
2022	Steve Holman	1995*	Earnest Lynwood "Baggy" Mallard	1991*	Jesse Outlar
1987*	Isabelle Daniels Holston	2009	Jeff Malone	1979*	Frank "Hop" Owens
2001	Evander Holyfield	1971*	Earl Mann	1961*	Thomas H. Paris
1964*	Robert G. Hooks	1974*	Martin W. "Marty" Marion	2023	Al Parker
1985*	Fred W. Hooper	1997*	Billy Martin	1974*	Jim Parker
2022	Bob Horner	1959*	George Mathews	1979*	William A. "Billy" Paschal
2002*	Lou Hudson	1995*	William H. Mathis	1983*	Reid Patterson
2014	Jim Hughes	1992*	Alex McCaskill	1991	George E. Patton
2006*	Dr. Jack C. Hughston	2006*	Dr. Bettye J. McClendon	1996	William Porter Payne
2004*	Claude Humphrey	2015	Willie Edward McClendon	1984	Melvin Pender, Jr.
1961*	Oliver Hunnicutt	2013	Heather Stepp McCormick	1986	Martha Hudson Pennyman
1980*	John "Whack" Hyder	2019	Thomas S. "T" McFerrin	2020	Adrian N. Peterson
1997*	Nick Hyder	1998*	Clifford Holmes McGaughey	1958*	George M. Phillips
2020	Eddie Lee Ivery, Sr.	2007	Guy Maurice McIntyre	1980*	Garland Pinholster
2019*	Keith Jackson	1999	Antonio R. McKay	1960*	Julian H. "Joe" Pittard
2007*	Betty F. Jaynes	1957*	Harold E. McNabb	1995*	Dan Pitts
2005	Alfred Jenkins	1980*	H. Boyd McWhorter	2011	Bill Ploeger
1956*	Joe H. Jenkins	1964*	Robert McWhorter	2020*	Bobby Pope
1996*	Andy Johnson	2006	Al Mead	1982*	George M. Poschner
2019	Calvin Johnson, Jr.	1971*	Harry Mehre	2005	Mark Price
2010*	Ernie Johnson	1980*	Ralph Metcalfe	1977*	Henry R. "Peter" Pund
2019	Ernie Johnson, Jr.	1992*	Hal Miller	2010*	Larry Rakestraw
2005	Katrina McClain Johnson	1975*	Fred Missildine	1998*	Calvin Ramsey
1990*	William "Bo" Johnston	2020*	Mike Mitchell	1979*	Johnny Rauch
2023	Andrew R.B. Jones			2019*	Dick "Cannonball" Redding

1997* Dr. James A. Redfearn
 2023 Ron Reed
 1991 Daniel E. Reeves
 1989 Randall P. Rhino
 2014 Homer Rice
 1989* Ken Rice
 1996* Paul Rapier Richards
 2007* Donald H. Richardson
 1978* Nolen Richardson
 2023 Mark Richt
 1994* Elmer R. Riddle
 1989* L.W. "Chip" Robert
 1957* Charles N. Roberts
 1958* Jack Roberts
 2016 Patricia Roberts
 1998* Jackie Robinson
 2016 Jimmy Robinson
 2006* "Sugar" Ray Robinson
 2018 Tracy Rocker
 2021* Escue Rodgers
 2004* Pepper Rodgers
 2004 George Rogers
 2008 Wayne "Tree" Rollins
 2009* George Lee Rose
 1987* Hugh Royer, Jr.
 1967* Nap Rucker
 1987* Erskine Russell
 1975* Doug Sanders
 2000 Lucius M. Sanford, Jr.
 1978* Harold Sargent
 2017 Jeff Saturday
 1958* Sidney Scarborough
 1983* James B. "J.B." Searce
 2016 Phil Schaefer
 1992* Stephen J. Schmidt, Sr.
 2015 John B. Schuerholz
 1961* Alfred W. Scott
 1999 Clarence Scott
 1986* Jacob E. "Jake" Scott, III
 2009 Shannon Sharpe
 1985 William L. Shaw
 1966* Ivy M. "Chick" Shiver
 2011 Lisa Spain Short
 1996* Cecil J. "Pete" Silas
 2010 Ron Simmons
 1993* Henry L. "Suitcase" Simpson
 2004 Tim Simpson
 1983* Mildred McDaniel Singleton
 1967* Frank Sinkwich
 1960* James Skipworth, Jr.
 1960* Thomas J. Slate
 1979* B.L. "Crook" Smith
 2008 Elmore Smith
 1969* Joseph T. "Phoney" Smith
 1997 Loran Smith
 1959* Mark Smith
 1995* Rankin Smith
 1995* Royce Smith
 1980* Sherrod Smith
 1956* Vernon "Catfish" Smith
 2012 John Andrew Smoltz

2019 Takeo Spikes
 2015 Hope Spivey
 1972* Alline Banks Sprouse
 2008* Herb St. John
 2014 Hollis Stacy
 1979* George "Tweedy" Stallings
 2023* Jack Stallings
 1984* William Thomas Stanfill
 1957* Eric P. Staples
 1964* Albert H. Staton
 1971* Herman James Stegeman
 1994* Pat Stephens
 1996* Donald "Duck" Priestly Stephenson
 1961* Kimsey R. Stewart
 2021 Matt Stinchcomb
 2019 Gary Stokan
 1965* William L. "Young" Stribling
 1974* Everett Strupper
 1966* Louise Suggs
 2004 Pat Swilling
 1977 Francis A. Tarkenton
 2018 Angelo Taylor
 2019 Mark Teixeira
 2019* Bill Terry
 2019 Brenda Cliette Thomas
 2023* Demaryius Thomas
 2014 Frank E. Thomas
 2011 James "J.T." Thomas
 1957* Johnny G. "Stumpy" Thomason
 1956* Claude T. "Gabe" Tolbert
 2000 Gwen Torrence
 1967* Forrest "Spec" Towns
 1975* Cecil H. Travis
 1988* Amater Z. Traylor
 2020 Jeff Treadway
 1965* Charley Trippi
 2007 Jessie F. Tuggle
 2009* Roman "Doc" Turmon
 1996 R.E. "Ted" Turner
 2007* John McClinton Tutt
 1976 Wyomia Tyus
 1999 Jeff Van Note
 1956* John Varnedoe
 1990* Henry Wagnon
 1993* Bobby Walden
 2000 Herschel Walker
 2018 Kenny "Sky" Walker
 1988* LeRoy T. Walker
 1976* Perrin Walker
 1979* Sidney "Beau Jack" Walker
 1964* Bobby Walthour, Sr.
 1996* W.H. "Tubby" Walton, Sr.
 2015 Charlie Ward, Jr.
 2016 Hines Ward
 1959* A. Drane Watson
 2003* DeWitt Thompson Weaver
 2014* Chester Webb
 2023* Steve Webber
 2016* Luther Welsh

1994* E. Cleve Wester, Jr.
 1997* Joyner Clifford "Jo-Jo" White
 2022* Pete Van Wieren
 1997 Margaret Matthews Wilburn
 2016* Glenn Wilkes
 2013 Reggie W. Wilkes
 2004 Dominique Wilkins
 2002* A.L. Williams
 2023* Bert Williams
 2001* James "Big Jim" Wilson
 2001 Mike "Moon Pie" Wilson
 1993* Ivey Wingo
 1998* Capt. William A. "Bill" Winn, Jr.
 2014 Scott Allison Woerner
 1988* Rayfield Wright
 1976* Whitlow Wyatt
 1978* Doug Wycoff
 1976* Charles Yates
 1999 Danny Yates
 1977* Rudolph P. "Rudy" York
 1998 Rich Yunkus
 2019 Ben Zambiasi
 2022 Eric Zeier

* deceased

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JOHN SMOLTZ

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2012 inductee, John Smoltz will be Master of Ceremonies for this evening. John 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. John won the National League Cy Young Award in 1996, posting a record of 24–8. Primarily a starter, John 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. John and incoming Class of 2024 inductee, catcher Brian McCann started 85 games together as a battery, two of them being shutouts.

John's 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, John has served as an analyst and announcer. He joined FOX Sports in 2014, and became part of the 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, John 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.



**UGA ATHLETICS CONGRATULATES
OUR 2024 GEORGIA SPORTS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**



**CRIS
CARPENTER**

GAINESVILLE, GA

**THOMAS
DAVIS JR**

CUTHBERT, GA



**CLAUDE
FELTON**

SAVANNAH, GA

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION





CONGRATULATIONS COACH JOHNSON

- 2023 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
- TWO I-AA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 62-10 RECORD IN STATESBORO
- FIVE SOCON CHAMPIONSHIPS
- EDDIE ROBINSON AWARD (1998)
- COACHED GEORGIA SOUTHERN'S TRACY HAM & ADRIAN PETERSON WHO ARE BOTH IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

COACH JOHNSON JOINS GEORGIA SOUTHERN'S LEGACY AT THE GSHOF

- TONY BARNHART (2021)
- CLAUDE FELTON (2024)
- TRACY HAM (2012)
- PAUL JOHNSON (2024)
- ADRIAN PETERSON (2020)
- ERK RUSSELL (1987)
- J.B. SCEARCE (1983)
- B.L. "CROOK" SMITH (1979)
- JACK STALLINGS (2023)
- CHESTER WEBB (2014)



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
INDUCTION INTO THE GEORGIA SPORTS

HALL OF FAME

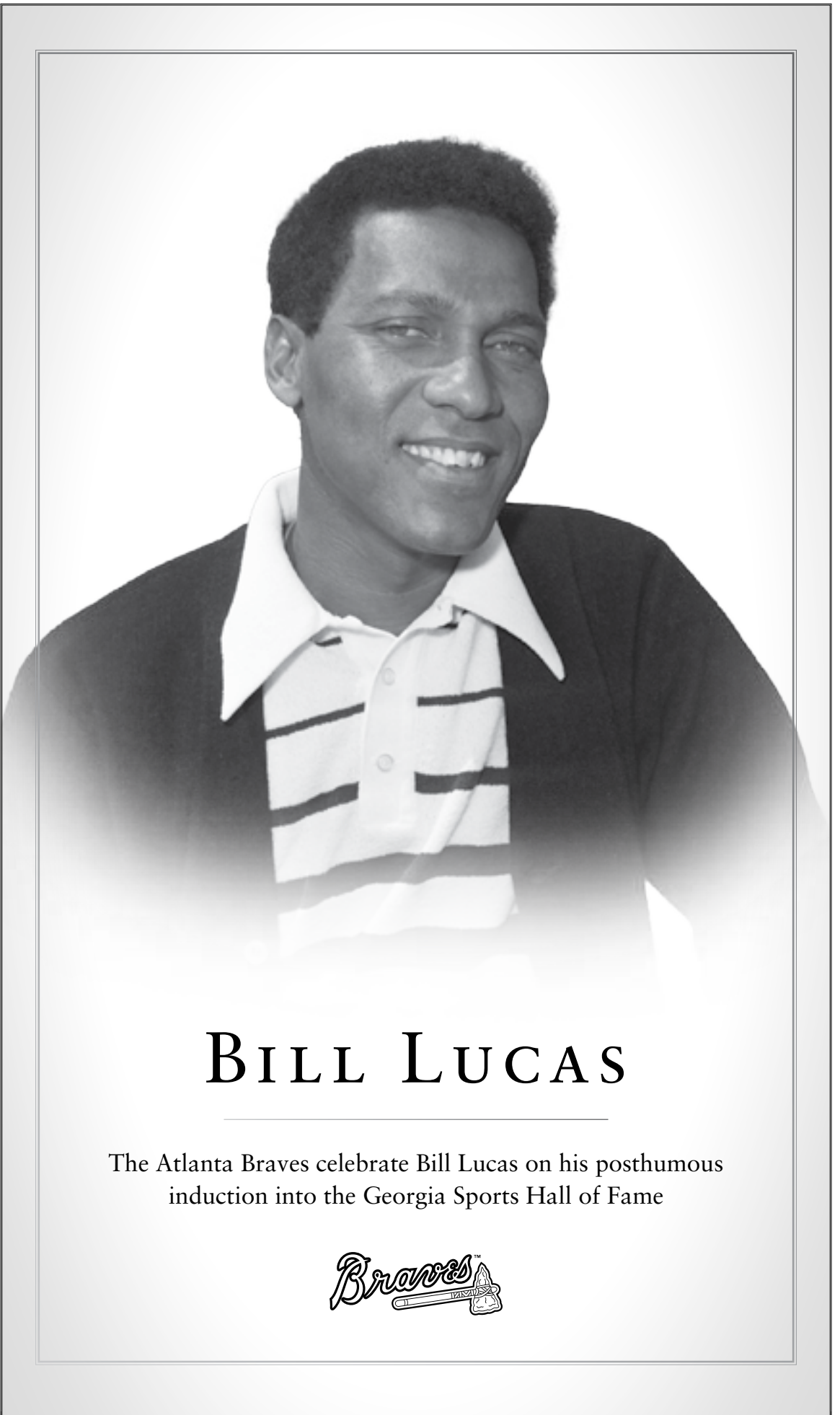


CRIS CARPENTER



ST. LOUIS CARDINALS





BILL LUCAS

The Atlanta Braves celebrate Bill Lucas on his posthumous induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

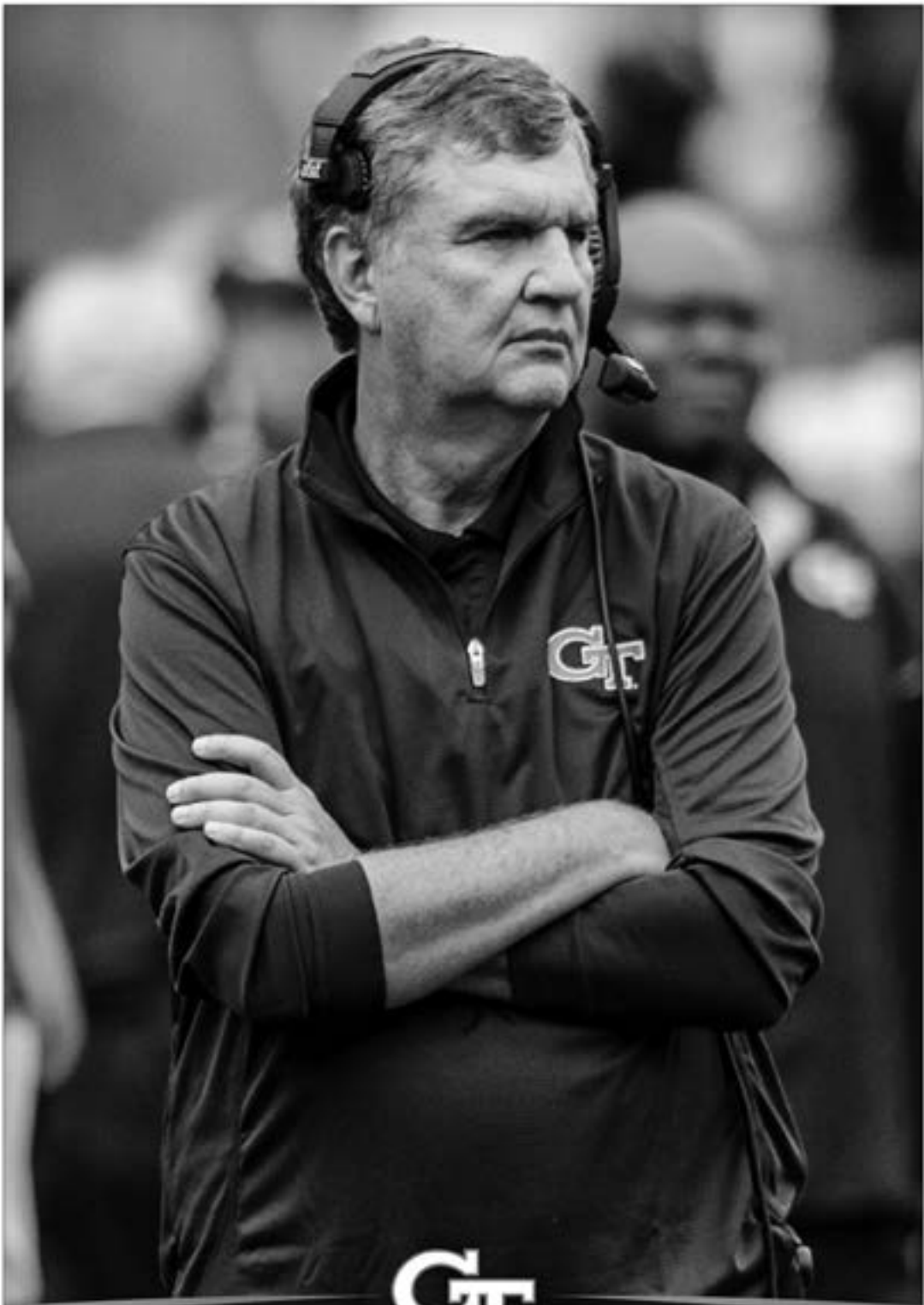




CONGRATULATIONS
BRIAN McCANN

The Atlanta Braves congratulate Brian McCann on his
induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame





GEORGIA TECH ATHLETICS CONGRATULATES

PAUL JOHNSON

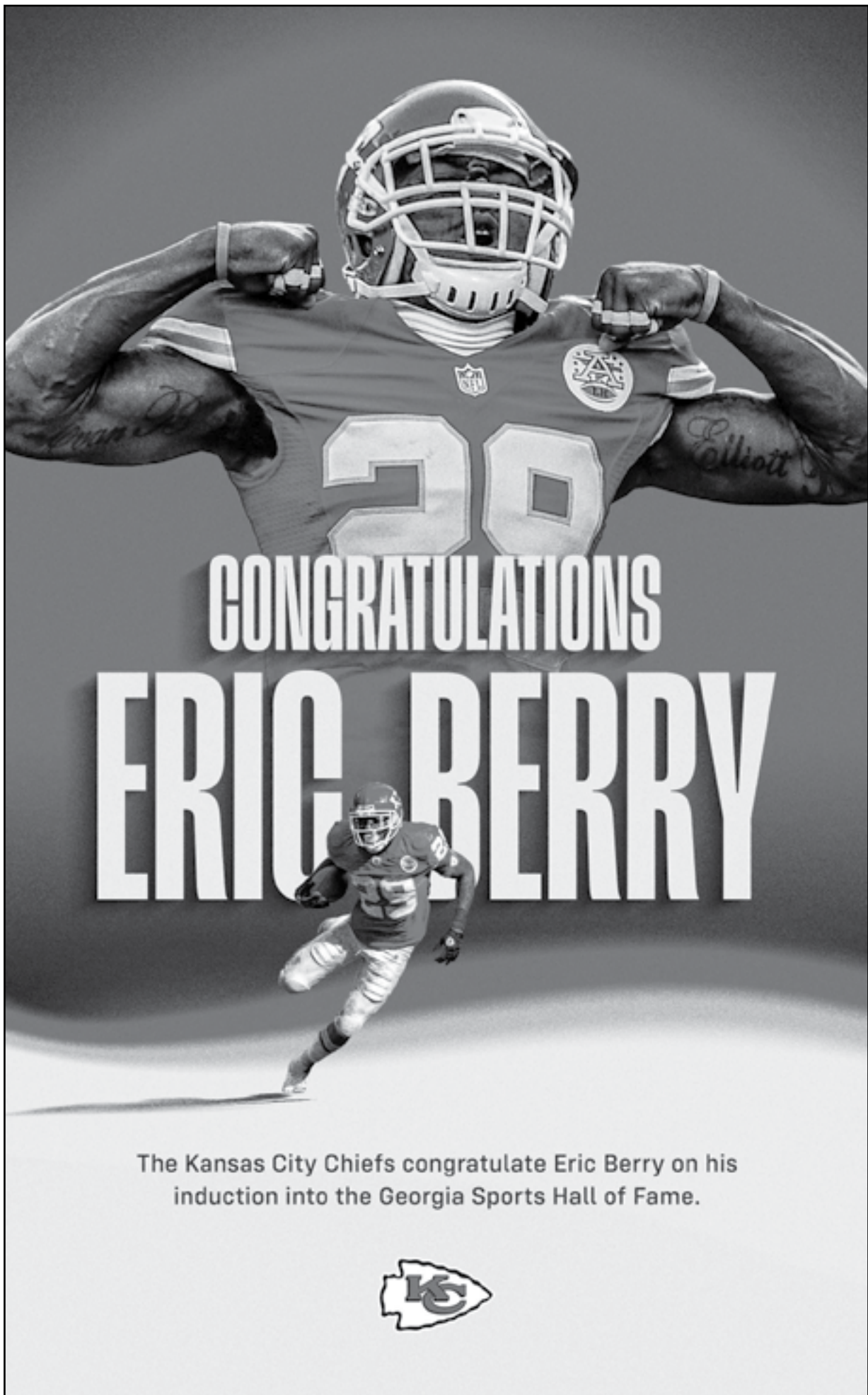
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024



GT

TASHA BUTTS

1982 - 2023

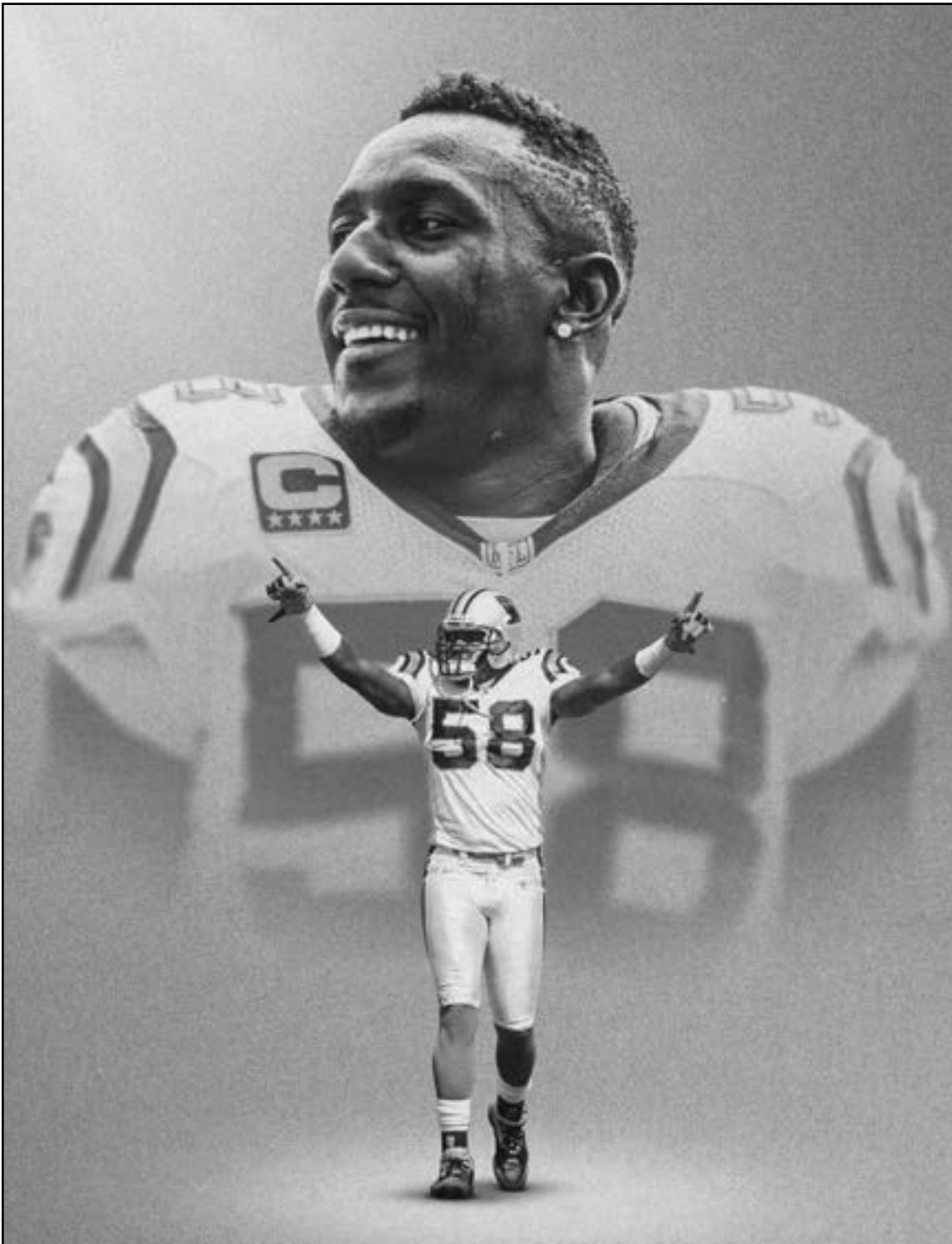


CONGRATULATIONS
ERIC BERRY



The Kansas City Chiefs congratulate Eric Berry on his induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.





CONGRATULATIONS

THOMAS DAVIS

2024 GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Atlanta Athletic Club
is proud to celebrate
the induction of



DR. NATHANIEL THORNTON

into the Georgia Sports
Hall of Fame

**We are also proud of our past
inductees including:**

Thomas William Barnes (1981)*
Joseph W. Bean (1958)*
Furman Bisher (1990)*
Bob Boylston (2012)*
George H. Brodnax (1994)*
Alexa Stirling Fraser (1978)*
Bryan M. "Bitsy" Grant (1965)*
Watts Gunn (1985)*
Charles W. Harrison (1991)
John Heisman (1967)*
Robert T. Jones, Jr. (1964)*
Dorothy Kirby (1974)*
Larry G. Nelson (1994)
Mark Price (2005)
Daniel E. Reeves (1991)*
Harold Sargent (1978)*
Charles Yates (1976)*
Danny Yates (1999)

**deceased*



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
SELECTION TO THE


GEORGIA SPORTS

HALL

OF

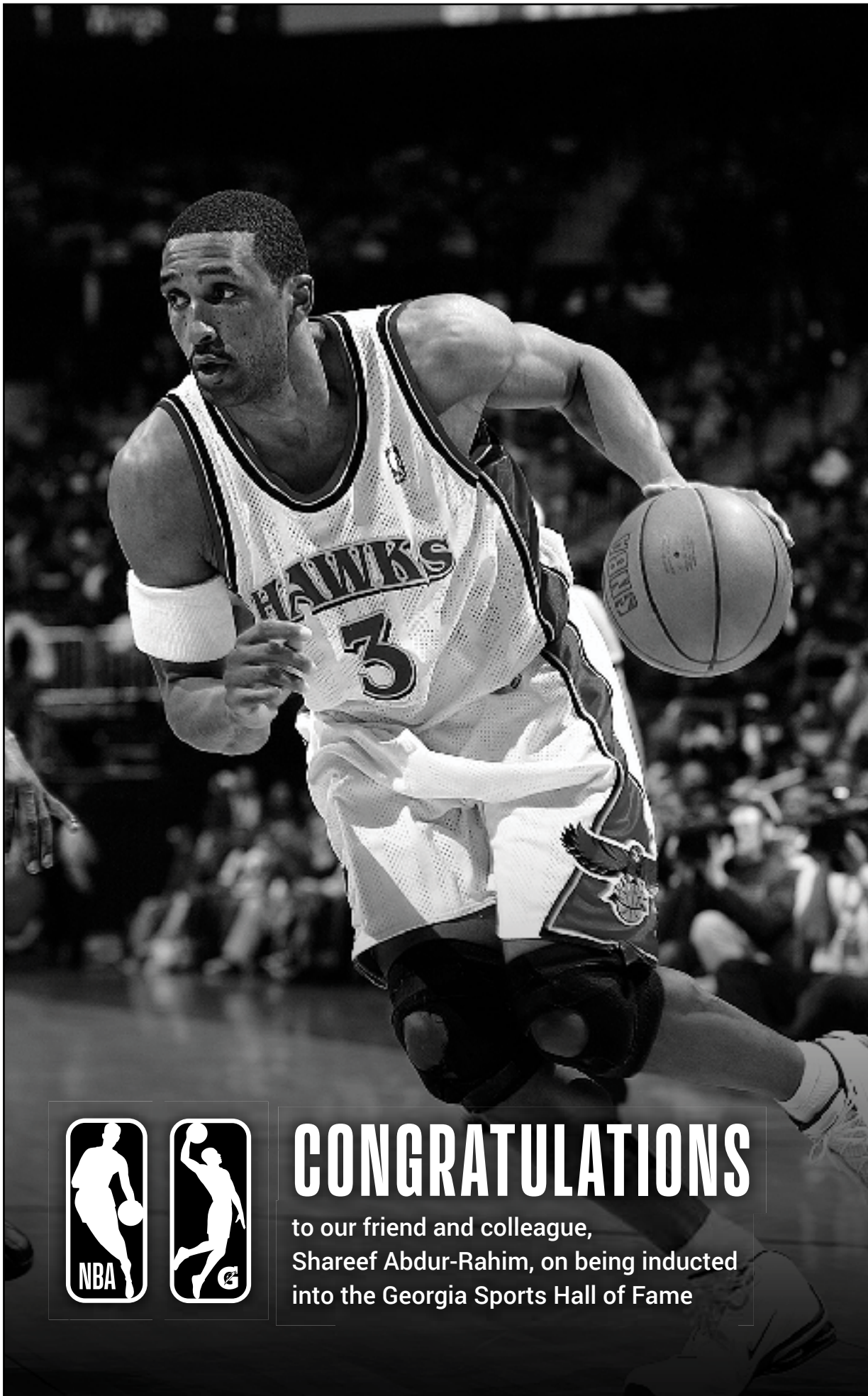
FAME

SHAREEF ABDUR-RAHIM



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CONGRATULATES

VFL **ERIC BERRY** on his induction into
the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame



CONGRATULATIONS

to our friend and colleague,
Shareef Abdur-Rahim, on being inducted
into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

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*CONGRATULATIONS
WENDY!*



Rollins College '82
Rollins Hall of Fame '92
Broderick Award
Tennis Collegiate POTY
AIAW National Champion
AIAW All-American

**UGA ATHLETICS CONGRATULATES
OUR 2024 GEORGIA SPORTS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**



**CRIS
CARPENTER**

GAINESVILLE, GA

**THOMAS
DAVIS JR**

CUTHBERT, GA



**CLAUDE
FELTON**

SAVANNAH, GA

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION





2024 INDUCTEE

SHAREEF ABDUR-RAHIM

Playing basketball at Marietta’s Wheeler High School, Shareef Abdur-Rahim led his team to a state title as a junior and was named “Mr. Basketball” back-to-back years in 1994 and 1995, averaging 31 points per game his senior year. Playing collegiately at UC, Berkeley, Shareef was named Third Team All-America and Pac-10 Freshman of the Year after setting multiple single-season freshman records. He was the first freshman in Pac-10 history to be named Conference Player of the Year before being selected third overall by the Vancouver Grizzlies in the 1996 NBA draft. Shareef fast became the Grizzlies’ leading scorer, setting a franchise record of 18.7 points per game, averaging 2.2 assists and 6.9 rebounds in his first year. He was chosen All-Rookie First Team and closed the season leading the team in scoring 33 times and rebounds 23 times.

Shareef played on the gold medal-winning 2000 Sydney Olympic basketball team and went on to play for the Atlanta Hawks, where he scored 50 points in one game and was named an All-Star for the 2001/2002 season. Shareef averaged 17 points per game during his time with the Portland Trailblazers, then signed with the Sacramento Kings, with whom he made his first playoff appearance in 2006, before retiring in 2008.

Shareef took time to earn a Master’s Degree and worked as assistant coach and then assistant general manager with the Kings and the Reno Bighorns. He joined the NBA and was subsequently named Associate Vice President of Basketball Operations before being hired as the President of the NBA G League in 2018.

The Pete Newell Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Shareef in 2020 for his distinguished career accomplishments. In 2001, Shareef, along with his wife, Delicia, and sister Qaadirah, started the Future Foundation to help level the playing field for students in Atlanta’s underserved communities.

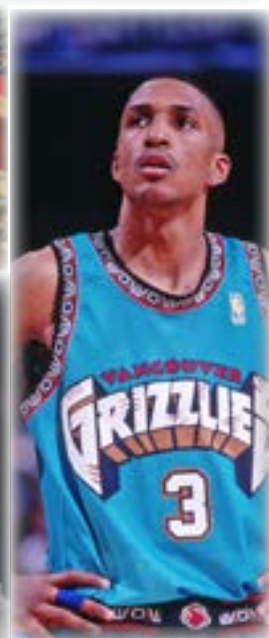


“Reef would work and work and work. He would just put that time in....The presence that he had on the court and the focus stood out to me...(H)e was the consummate student-athlete and pro.”

– Todd Bozeman, former head basketball coach at University of California, Berkeley, 1993- 1996

“He’ll make a move on the baseline to beat a defender and we’ll just look at each other and shake our heads, my gosh.”

– Lionel Hollins, former NBA player and coach



“I’ve always viewed him as a builder. He’s someone who’s not afraid to take on tough challenges. I’ll never forget: When Vancouver drafted him, man, he was excited not only to be drafted. He was excited to go build.”

– Amir Abdur-Rahim, younger brother and current head basketball coach at University of South Florida



2024 INDUCTEE

ERIC BERRY

Fairburn native Eric Berry set multiple records in both track and football at Creekside High School. He was heavily recruited and after graduating as one of the top players in the nation, ultimately decided to follow in his father's football footsteps and play for the University of Tennessee.

At UT, Eric continued to dominate on the field, and was named SEC Defensive Freshman of the year by *Sporting News*, breaking a 37-year-old Tennessee record with 222 return yards on five interceptions. Eric was named SEC Freshman of the Week two times, and was named 1st team Freshman All-American. The next year, Eric tied for national lead in interceptions with seven, and broke his own earlier record, setting the all-time career SEC record for interception return yards (487). His third and final year with Tennessee, Eric was a first-team All-SEC selection and a first team All-American for the second season in a row, and was honored with the Jim Thorpe Award before electing to enter the NFL Draft in 2010.

Selected by the Kansas City Chiefs fifth overall in the first round of the draft, Eric was put in a starting position. He was selected for the Pro Bowl his first season, the first Chief's rookie to do so, and was First Team All-Pro his second year. After several tremendous seasons, Eric was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2014. Ending his season early for treatment, Eric was cleared to return to the field just nine months later, and was named NFL Comeback Player of the Year in 2015.

Eric retired in 2019. He was a three-time All-Pro and was selected to five Pro Bowls and the NFL All-Decade team, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2023. In 2011, Eric established the Eric Berry Foundation, which provides safe environments for children to participate in sports, and he hosts annual youth football clinics in Atlanta, Kansas City and throughout Tennessee.

"Eric is the only player in my 16 years as a head coach that started his first game as a freshman. You think of all the greats we ever had (at Tennessee), that's pretty special. And he played great the entire time he was there."

– Philip Fulmer, Tennessee Volunteers head football coach, 1992-2008



"He's the best football player I've ever seen. He's got size. He's got speed. He's got power, agility, smarts, knows the game. He's the total package."

– Kevin Whitley, former head football coach at Creekside High School



"His outstanding play on the field was rivaled only by his inspirational leadership....He truly is an amazing leader. All of his teammates and coaches benefit from having him part of the Kansas City Chiefs."

– Clark Hunt, Chairman/Co-Owner of the Kansas City Chiefs 2005-Present



2024 INDUCTEE

CRIS CARPENTER

A standout multi-sport athlete at Gainesville High School, Cris Carpenter led the Red Elephants to three straight semifinals and one state title appearance. He was named first team All-State at quarterback and punter. Cris won back-to-back state basketball championships and was named first team All-State guard. He also pitched the Red Elephants baseball team to a region title. In 1984, Cris was awarded Male Athlete of the Year by the Georgia Sports Writers Association and the Hertz Corporation.

Cris attended the University of Georgia and played both football and baseball. On the gridiron, he punted an average of 44.1 yards his sophomore season, which is fourth all-time at UGA. He is currently fourth in career punting average. Cris was an excellent pitcher on the baseball diamond whose career stats were a 22-13 record with 33 saves, 260 strikeouts, and a 2.93 ERA in three years. He was named both All-American and All-SEC in 1986 and 1987. Cris played internationally for the USA Baseball Team in 1987. He was drafted that same year in the first round by the St. Louis Cardinals in the MLB Draft.

Soon after joining the major leagues, Cris settled in as an ace relief pitcher. He spent five seasons with the Cardinals before brief stints with the Florida Marlins, Texas Rangers, and Milwaukee Brewers. After eight years, Cris finished his career with a 3.91 ERA, 27 wins, and 252 total strikeouts. Cris was named an SEC Baseball Legend in 2016. He was also honored as an inaugural member of the Gainesville Athletics Hall of Fame. Cris currently lives in Gainesville and teaches world history at Gainesville High School, where he was named head baseball coach in May of 2023.



“(Cris) may be the ultimate specialist to wear the Red and Black. In the mind’s eye of many of us, we can see his punts soaring up, up and away at Sanford Stadium and then in the spring, his relief pitching was wrist snapping musical.”

– Loran Smith, sportswriter and Immediate Past Chair of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority

“As good as I’d seen... He was really one of the most natural punters that I’d come across. His was raw talent. If you look at him, and how he looked when he was punting, he had that same lift and trajectory that a Ray Guy had back then.”

– Kevin Butler, former punter and GSHF Inductee, 2003



“I wish I could look into a crystal ball and tell you, but I think he’s going to be a hell of a pitcher... he’s going to be a ‘can’t-miss’ guy.”

– Whitey Herzog, former manager of the St. Louis Cardinals; National Baseball Hall of Fame, 2010



2024 INDUCTEE

THOMAS DAVIS, SR.

Born in Shellman, Georgia, Thomas Davis, Sr. was a four-sport athlete at Randolph-Clay High School in Cuthbert. In football, Thomas excelled at several positions; running back, quarterback, wide receiver, defensive end, defensive back, punter, kicker, and kick returner. As a senior, he rushed for 1,032 yards and lead the region in regular season scoring with 108 points, being named Class AA All-State honorable mention by the Atlanta-Journal Constitution. Thomas accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Georgia.

From 2002 to 2004, Thomas played defense for Bulldogs, as both linebacker and free safety. In 2003, he was named second-team All-SEC and in 2004, he was first-team All-SEC and a consensus All-American. His career stats at UGA were 272 tackles, 10.5 sacks, six forced fumbles, three interceptions, and nine fumble recoveries. Thomas was drafted 14th overall in the 2005 NFL Draft to the Carolina Panthers. An essential part of the Panthers defense, Thomas was having his best year in 2009 when he tore his ACL mid-season, and then two more times in the next 23 months. He bounced back from his injuries and went to his first of three straight Pro Bowls in 2015. That same year he was named a first-team All-Pro.

In 2014, Thomas was awarded the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for his community work. In 2015, he received the Bart Starr Award for outstanding character and leadership. Thomas helped the Panthers to Super Bowl 50. Despite playing the game with a broken arm, he recorded seven tackles. He signed with the LA Chargers in 2019 for one season and played for The Washington Football Team (now Commanders) before retiring with Carolina in 2021. His career stats included 1,216 total tackles, 29 sacks, 18 forced fumbles, 13 interceptions, and one touchdown.

Thomas was named to UGA's Circle of Honor in 2017 and in 2018 his high school named their stadium after him. He founded the Thomas Davis Defending Dreams Foundation to help kids realize their full potential and achieve their dreams.

"To be able to come through all of the injuries he's had to, and all of the things in his lifetime, you just love playing beside a guy like that."

– Roman Harper, former Carolina Panther teammate



"Thomas is always good for about three or four explosive plays in a game, minimum. They bring energy to us and I think that's one of the beneficial things about having a guy like that,"

– Ron Rivera, Carolina Panthers head coach, 2011-2019



"Coming into the league, you think you're tough until you start seeing guys who are really tough. You see what guys play through and what they've been through. Watching Thomas, you learn what it means to be tough."

– Luke Kuechly, former Carolina Panthers teammate



2024 INDUCTEE

CLAUDE E. FELTON

A Savannah native, Claude Felton attended the University of Georgia and earned an Associate Bachelor's degree in 1970 and a Master of Arts degree in 1971, from the Henry Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communications. While in school he served as an intern sports reporter and briefly a news reporter for his home town newspaper, the Savannah Morning News. Following graduation Claude worked at Georgia Southern College in various positions including Sports Information Director and Director of Public Relations. He also served as an assistant tennis coach for the Eagles.

Claude was hired by athletic director Vince Dooley at his alma mater, UGA, and in 1979 became Sports Information Director, beginning a tenure that spanned more than 40 years. During that time, he held positions as the Loran Smith Senior Associate Athletic Director, Associate Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, and Sports Communications Director. Claude led a Sports Communications staff that was responsible for covering nine men's and 12 women's athletic teams. He also served as a media coordinator for 18 NCAA national championship events, including the Final Four. He was on the press liaison staff for the U.S. Olympic Committee at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles and was the press venue chief for the soccer venue at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

Claude served as chairman of the Ethics Committee of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) from 1985 to 1991 and was chairman of the CoSIDA Olympic Committee from 1992-1995. He received the Arch Ward Memorial Award from CoSIDA in 2004, naming him the nation's No. 1 sports information director. Because of his consummate professionalism in sports, Claude was also inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame in 2001 and Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. He was awarded the Bert McGrane Award by the Football Writers Association of America in 2008. Claude was inducted into the UGA Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications Fellowship in 2009 and in 2013 was the recipient of the college's John Holliman Lifetime Achievement Award.



"Claude Felton is one of the most influential figures in the history of Georgia athletics. His honesty, humility, attention to detail and congenial spirit have elevated all of our athletic programs throughout his 45-year association with the Bulldogs."

– Josh Brooks, University of Georgia Athletic Director



"Claude is a wonderful man who epitomizes everything that is right and great about the University of Georgia. There will never be another (Sports Communications Director) like Claude. He is a treasure to all Georgia people."

– Jeff Dantzler, longtime UGA Sports radio announcer and editor of Bulldog Illustrated



"Claude not only has brought dignity and prestige to his profession...he also is one of the most efficient, diligent, hard-working, and respected staff members I have known in a lifetime spent on the campus at the University of Georgia."

– Dan Magill, head coach of UGA Men's tennis 1954-1988; former UGA sports information director; GSHF Inductee, 1976



2024 INDUCTEE

PAUL JOHNSON

A progenitor of the spread option offense, Paul Johnson was hired at Georgia Southern as offensive coordinator under legendary head coach Erk Russell (GSHF 1987)). As part of the coaching staff, he enjoyed two consecutive FCS National Championships with quarterback Tracy Ham (GSHF 2012) in 1985 and 1986. Paul became offensive coordinator at Hawaii in 1987 and spent eight seasons with an option offense averaging 372 points per season. He then took his playbook to Navy for a brief stint as offensive coordinator from 1995 to 1996.

Paul was hired as head coach at Georgia Southern in 1997. His teams dominated on the gridiron and in the five years he helmed the Eagles they boasted a 62-10 record with five FCS playoff appearances, winning championships in 1999 and 2000. The Eagles won the Southern Conference (SoCon) every year they were under Paul's leadership. He was named SoCon Coach of the Year in 1997 and 1998, and was honored with the Eddie Robinson Award in 1998 as the top coach in FCS, as well as AFCA Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2000. Leaving Statesboro for the FBS, Paul commanded the Navy Midshipmen from 2002 to 2007, where he turned a dismal program that had gone 1-20 their previous two seasons into a team that executed his offensive schemes seamlessly and went to six straight bowl games. He was awarded the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award in 2004.

Paul finished his career coaching at Georgia Tech from 2008 to 2018, leading the Yellow Jackets to nine bowl games, including two Orange Bowls (2009 and 2014). They also won the ACC Coastal Division four times and appeared in three ACC Championship games. Tech led the ACC in rushing offense every year under Paul and he was named ACC Coach of the Year three times (2008, 2009, 2014). Paul remains the fourth winningest Georgia Tech coach of all time and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2023.

"Anything that I have learned has been from him or his tree. When I say his tree, I mean the Niumatalolos, the Monkens — all the people who have come from him. But it's all been from Coach (Johnson)."

– Brian Bohannon, Kennesaw State head coach, 2013-Present



"Coach is Coach. He is who he is, and to me, that has been his legacy. He's touched people's lives. They love him from the islands of Hawaii all the way to the east coast. He's definitely changed college football and changed lives. I am one of the many whose lives he's changed now."

– Ken Niumatalolo, former Navy head coach 2007-2022; San Jose State head coach, 2024- Present



"He is one of the most competitive people that I have ever met in anything. He's got a burning passion to win at whatever he does, and gosh, I really admire that. That fueled a drive in me as a coach to win."

– Jeff Monken, former Georgia Southern head coach, 2010-2013; Army head coach, 2014- Present





2024 INDUCTEE

BRIAN MCCANN

Playing catcher at Duluth High School, Athens native Brian McCann was ranked the 26th best high school prospect by *Baseball America*. He was drafted in the second round of the 2002 MLB Draft by the Atlanta Braves, and played in the minors with the Rome Braves before making his debut with Atlanta in 2005. Immediately matched with famed Braves' pitcher John Smoltz (GSHF C/O 2012), Brian hit his first home run in his second regular-season game and was the first Brave to hit a home run in his first playoff at-bat.

Brian finished the 2006 season with a .333 average, 24 homers, and 94 RBI, leading all MLB catchers in home runs. He was chosen for the MLB National League All-Star team his first three seasons in a row, making him the first Brave ever to do so. He was again named an All-Star in 2009 and 2010, winning MVP honors in 2010. In July of 2012, Brian became the first player since Jim Thome to hit a home run in six straight games.

Moving to the New York Yankees in 2014, Brian led the team in home runs and hit his career-high (25) on September 6, 2015. He ended his season with 26 home runs and a career-high 96 RBI, earning his sixth Silver Slugger Award at catcher. He became the primary designated hitter for the team and in 130 games batted .242, with 20 home runs and 58 RBI.

Brian's stint with the Houston Astros led him to a World Series win in 2017. He played every inning of the Series and hit pivotal doubles in games 6 and 7, along with a key home run in game 5.

Brian briefly returned to Atlanta and the Braves in 2019 and recorded his 1,000th career RBI in June of 2019.



"Everybody respects what he has to say because he brings it every day," Jones said. "You know that when he's saying something, he's not blowing smoke. I think the guys really respond to him."

– Chipper Jones, former Atlanta Brave, GSHF Class of 2016

"What I admire is he comes to the field every day with a very similar attitude. After a good day, after a bad day – same B-Mac. He's a colorful guy, likes to have a good time and laugh, but when it's time to go, he wants to win. Absolute gamer."

– Jason Heyward, former Atlanta Brave



"One of the best offensive catchers I've ever seen. Not many catchers can say they had a thousand RBIs in their career. All the accolades — he has them all. Literally has them all. Special, special player."

– Freddie Freeman, former Atlanta Brave





2024 INDUCTEE

WENDY WHITE

One of Georgia's best women's tennis players, Wendy White started playing when she was eight years old and quickly became adept at tournament play. Dominating all levels of junior play, Wendy was ranked No. 8 nationally and No. 1 in Southern rankings. Attending Westminster School in Atlanta, she won the GHSA Class AA high school singles title all four years. Wendy won or was the finalist in over 30 junior and amateur tournaments in 1977-1978. Georgia Player of the Year in 1978, Wendy was selected for the USTA National Junior Wightman Cup, the USTA Junior Federation Cup, the U.S. Continental Cup, and the U.S. Connolly Cup teams. Noted for her sportsmanship and character, at 18-years-old she won the USTA's national sportsmanship award.

Playing collegiately at Rollins College in Florida, Wendy was national runner-up as a freshman (1979), and won the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women singles national title. In 1980, she was named national player of the year by *Tennis* magazine and won the Honda Sports (Broderick) Award as the nation's top female collegiate tennis player. Wendy was ranked 26th in the world - the highest of any amateur player - when she turned pro at age 20, but continued her college studies and graduated on time.

On the WTA Tour, Wendy played all grand slams, finishing with a year-end top-100 ranking 12 straight years, and a top-50 ranking seven times. Earning her highest ranking in 1982 at No. 19, she was consistently ranked in the top 20 in doubles competition. Wendy won at least one round of singles play at all four majors - Australian, French, Wimbledon, U.S. Open - the first Georgia woman to do so. She won one WTA Tour singles title in 1986 and two WTA Tour doubles finals. Wendy defeated the legendary Billie Jean King twice in singles competition. She was inducted into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame in 1996, the Southern Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001, and the ITA Women's Tennis Hall of Fame in 2015.



"Wendy White was a consistent top-50 player... [accomplishing] that with great modesty, sportsmanship, and class; qualities that she continues to display while teaching local junior players and teams at her club today in Cumming, Ga."

- Todd Holcomb, *AJC* contributor and co-founder/editor of *Georgia High School Football Daily*



"I know of no other female Georgian who was such a staple on the tour for almost a decade. Competing in all four Grand Slams, Wendy was a 'tough out.' She was one of the most consistent players... through the 1980s."

- Julie Wrege, *Georgia Tech Women's Tennis Coach 1979-86, 1992-93; Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame, 2018*



"Wendy's tennis career places her in rarefied air at the top of all Georgia tennis players. I have had the pleasure of knowing Wendy since the 1970's and have enjoyed watching her career blossom on the WTA Tour after her outstanding junior and collegiate accomplishments."

- John Callen, *USTA Southern Executive Director 1989-2022*

GSHF LEGENDS

There are numerous late, great athletes, coaches, and advocates for Georgia sports who should be in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, but for various reasons, were not inducted during their respective lifetimes. In an effort to be sure all deserving Georgians are included, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority has decided to posthumously induct individuals they believe deserve Hall of Fame recognition.

Tasha Butts

A standout basketball player at Baldwin High School in Milledgeville, Georgia, Tasha Butts was a consensus All-American and was named Georgia Gatorade Player of the Year in 2000. She still holds the all-time scoring record for the Bravettes and her No. 23 jersey was retired in December 2000. In 2004, the city of Milledgeville honored Tasha with a key to the city and a proclamation of achievement on “Tasha Butts Day.”

At the University of Tennessee under legendary head coach Pat Summitt, Tasha helped the Lady Vols to four SEC regular season titles and three Final Four appearances. The Lady Vols placed third in 2002 but were runners-up in 2003 and 2004. Tasha averaged 6.4 points per game with 3.8 rebounds for her career, shooting 37.2 percent from the field, 35.5 on threes and 79.3 on free throws. She earned Coaches All-SEC Second Team honors in 2003-04 and was chosen for the SEC Good Works Team, which recognizes outstanding community service.

Tasha was selected in the second round of the 2004 WNBA Draft by the Minnesota Lynx. After a brief stint, she returned to Tennessee as a graduate assistant under Coach Summitt in 2004-05. After serving in assistant positions at Duquesne and UCLA, Tasha spent eight seasons as assistant coach at LSU, bringing the program back to national prominence. Tasha joined Georgia Tech in 2019 as assistant coach for three seasons before becoming assistant head coach from 2021-2023. She helped guide the Yellow Jackets to a historic run in 2020-2021 when the team advanced to the Sweet 16 for just the second time in program history.

In April 2023, she was named the head coach of the Georgetown Hoyas women’s basketball team, but sadly on October 22, Tasha died after a two-year battle with breast cancer. “Tasha Tough” became a rallying cry and continues as an initiative to bring awareness to early cancer screenings and detection.



William “Billy” Johnson

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, William “Billy” Johnson was signed by the New York Yankees in 1936. He was sent to Butler, Pennsylvania for a year before heading to Augusta in 1938. He batted a .306 average with the Augusta Tigers of the South Atlanta League and was sent to Norfolk later in the season. Billy requested to go back to Augusta as his girlfriend and future wife, Louise, lived there. He continued to perform exceptionally on the diamond and eventually made his way through the upper tiers of the Yankees farm system.

Billy made his debut for the Yankees in 1943. He had a phenomenal rookie season hitting an average of .280 with 94 RBIs and 70 runs scored. He was named Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America and came in fourth for American League MVP. Billy would miss the next two seasons to serve in the United States Army during World War II. He returned to the Yankees and spent the next five seasons in pinstripes. His best season was in 1947, when he was named an All-Star, batting .285 with 95 runs and 10 HRs. Billy won four World Series, all with the Yankees, in 1943, 1947, 1949, and 1950. He was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1951.

Retiring after three seasons with the Cardinals, Billy hit a career .271 average, with 487 RBIs, and 419 runs scored during nine seasons in the majors. He returned to Augusta where he was a pillar of the community in The Garden City, working for the Graniteville Company as a shipping supervisor, retiring after nearly 30 years of service. He was inducted into the South Atlantic League Hall of Fame in 1997. Billy passed away in 2006 at the age of 87.



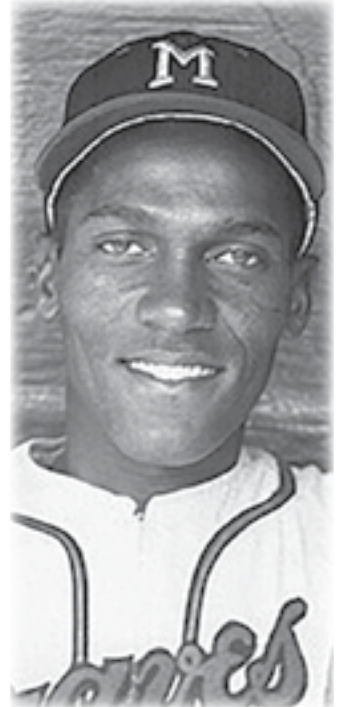
Bill Lucas

Bill Lucas was a graduate of Florida A&M and began his professional baseball career playing in the Milwaukee Braves' farm system for six years. He reached the Triple-A tier in 1963 with the Denver Bears of the Pacific Coast League. Bill finished his playing career with the Double-A Austin Senators, averaging a .273 career batting average.

Bill took a job with the Braves' front office in 1965, a year before the Braves moved to Atlanta, doing sales and promotions. He began implementing integration plans by making a conscious effort towards equally diverse hires of those chosen to work within the front office and as part of the staff at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. In 1967, Bill began working in player development and was named the director of the Braves' farm system in 1972. He was instrumental in the selection and development of future two-time NL MVP Dale Murphy (GSHF C/O 1997).

On September 17, 1976, team owner Ted Turner (GSHF C/O 1996) made Bill the de facto general manager, though Ted kept the official title for himself. Nonetheless, Bill assumed all the responsibilities of the job overseeing the Braves' roster, thus making him Major League Baseball's first Black general manager. Well over a year into his tenure, Bill lured Bobby Cox (GSHF C/O 2006) away from the New York Yankees and he began his first stint with the Braves as manager. Bill worked with scouting director Paul Snyder in drafting Bob Horner (GSHF C/O 2022) in 1978.

Sadly, Bill's tenure as the Braves' top executive did not last long. After watching on television the Braves defeat of the Pirates and congratulating pitcher Phil Niekro (Class of 1985) on his 200th major league win, Bill was stricken with a sudden brain hemorrhage and died three days later at the age of 43. He served 23 years with the Braves organization before his untimely death and was inducted into the Braves Hall of Fame in 2006.



Dr. Nathaniel “Nat” Thornton

Tennis in the state of Georgia would not be what it is today were it not for pioneers like Dr. Nathaniel “Nat” Thornton. Born in Columbus, Georgia, Nat’s family moved to College Park where he attended Georgia Military Academy (now Woodward Academy) and was an all-around athlete. Nat graduated from Georgia Tech in 1903 and studied dentistry at Atlanta Dental College (now the Dental College at Emory). His two older brothers, Henry, and Chancellor (Chance), his sister Anna, and a twin sister Stacy were all excellent tennis players. Nat teamed with Stacy and won the 1900 Atlanta Athletic Club tennis championship, beating their older siblings. In 1901, at the age of 17, Nat won his first singles title.

In 1903, Nat brought the first southern tennis championship to Georgia by winning the singles title at the Gulf States Tennis Championship. He teamed up with Bryan Grant, Sr., father of GSHF Class of 1965 inductee Bryan “Bitsy” Grant, Jr., and dominated the doubles circuit, winning the title at the Southern Tennis Championship in 1906. They finished second in the men’s doubles at the 1907 U.S. National Championships (U.S. Open).

Nat accumulated at least 38 titles, including virtually every southern state and regional championship in singles and doubles at least once. He won state championships in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, and Virginia. He won the Southern Championship (at the time the south’s most distinguished tournament) in singles three times and in doubles five times. Nat also won the prestigious Gulf States Championship in singles three times.

His last title was the 1927 Georgia State Doubles, which he won with Hop Owens (GSHF C/O 1979) at the age of 44. The Atlanta Athletic Club houses and displays an extensive collection of his trophies.



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IN MEMORY

Please take a moment to remember the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame inductees we have recently lost.



Maxie Baughan

AUGUST 3, 1938 – AUGUST 19, 2023

While at Georgia Tech, Maxie Baughan started at both linebacker and center. In 1959, he was Georgia Tech's captain, an All-American, the Southeastern Conference Lineman of the Year, and set a single season record with 124 tackles. Maxie was selected in the second round of the 1960 NFL Draft by Philadelphia and became an immediate starter for the Eagles at linebacker. After 6 years with Philadelphia, it was on to Los Angeles where he was the Rams defensive captain. He was selected for the Pro Bowl in each of his first four seasons with the Rams making 1st Team All-Pro three times. In 1970, Maxie retired from the NFL and embarked on a coaching career. Maxie was inducted into the Georgia Tech Hall of Fame in 1965 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1988. He was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.



Gary Colson

APRIL 30, 1934 - NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Gary Colson became one of the youngest college head coaches in the country when he took over at Valdosta State in 1958. Over the next 10 years, Gary led the Rebels to an impressive 176-73 record, winning seven GIAC regular season titles and making 2 trips to the NAIA National Tournament. Gary's success at Valdosta caught the attention of many NCAA Division 1 schools, but he opted for Pepperdine University. He spent 11 years with the Waves, winning 153 games. In 1980, Gary landed at New Mexico to resurrect the floundering Lobo's program and he did just that. In 8 seasons he won 146 games. His '84 team notched 24 wins and earned Colson WAC Coach of The Year honors. Then it was on to Fresno State. In five seasons, Gary won 76 games with the Bulldogs, including a 3rd round NIT appearance in 1984. He eventually retired from coaching with over 550 career wins. Gary was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.



Jimmy Harper

DECEMBER 8, 1934 – NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Jimmy Harper grew up in Thomasville. After earning All-State honors in football for Thomasville High School in 1951, Jimmy was named to the All-SEC freshman team and earned academic All-American honors while at UGA. After several years of high school officiating, he became an SEC official in 1963. During his 33 years working on the field as an SEC official, Jimmy called 43 bowl games, including three national championship games. He served as Chairman of the Board National for the National Association of Sports Officials in 1993-1994. In 2002, he was honored with the Outstanding Football Official Award in 2002 from the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame. Jimmy was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.



George Rose

JANUARY 1, 1942 – JANUARY 19, 2023

Born in Brunswick, George Rose attended Glynn Academy where he lettered in football, basketball and track and field in 1958-59. As an All-State running back for the Red Terrors, George gained 2,800 yards and was named a high school All-American. George signed at Auburn University where he was a two-way player for the Tigers and named the Best Defensive Back in the SEC, as well as serving as Auburn team captain in 1963. George was drafted in the third round of the 1964 NFL draft by the Minnesota Vikings, as well as by the Buffalo Bills of the AFL. He chose the Vikings and in his rookie season, led the team with six interceptions and earned a spot on the All-NFL Rookie Team. After starting for three years for the Vikings, George played one year for the New Orleans Saints and then finished his pro football career with the San Francisco 49ers in 1969.

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Roger and Beverly Kaiser

One of Georgia Tech's most outstanding basketball players, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Class of 1984 inductee Roger Kaiser and his wife Beverly, former Georgia Tech cheerleader, epitomize the spirit of the Emily Parker Myers Award.

In the name of their granddaughter, Alexis, The Kaisers established *The Alexis Kaiser Foundation* for the purpose of helping Alexis, as well as many other children with cerebral palsy and other special needs.

The Alexis Kaiser Foundation has a yearly fundraiser---*Lexi's Game Celebrity Golf Tournament and Auction*. The Foundation has been blessed to have wonderful community participation and has been able to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of many children with special needs. In addition, since 2007, the Kennesaw State University Women's Softball team honors Lexi with a *Lexi's Day* at Kennesaw State. Recipients of these efforts include The Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Jacob's Ladder, FOCUS, SafePath, Sandy Plains Challenger Softball, Cobb County Special Needs Classes, and the Davis Direction Foundation. In addition, many children and groups have received iPads, camp scholarships, specially equipped bicycles, and jogging strollers.

The Alexis Kaiser Foundation continues to raise money and awareness for children living with neuromuscular ailments and other special needs. Please consider contributing today at www.lexisgame.com.



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OTHER INDUCTEE HONORS



Ernie Johnson, Jr.

(GSHF CLASS OF 2019)

Iconic broadcaster, Ernie Johnson, Jr., was inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame Class of 2023 this past December. Ernie is the face and voice of Turner Sports. A six-time Sports Emmy Award winner, Ernie has hosted Inside the NBA on TNT for the last 34 years. He also hosts TNT Sports and CBS's March Madness, and has been an integral part of MLB on TBS coverage, as well. In addition to his hosting accolades, Ernie was recognized as the 2023 National Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association and received the Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence for his efforts in raising awareness about cancer and spreading good into the world, among other honors. Ernie is also a New York Times best-selling author with *Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments that Make Life Extraordinary*.



Andruw Jones

(GSHF CLASS OF 2023)

Last year's inductee and Atlanta Braves legend, Andruw Jones, had his #25 jersey retired in September 2023 by the organization. Andruw started his career in Atlanta at the age of 19. In 1996, he became the youngest player to homer in the World Series; in fact, he hit two home runs in his first two at bats against the Yankees, becoming the second player to do so. Andruw made the first of his five all-star appearances in 2000 when he hit .303 with 36 homers. In 2005, he set the Braves single-season record with 51 Home Runs and finished second in the MVP. Andruw was known as one of the best defensive center fielders in Major League history, claiming ten consecutive Gold Glove Awards. Andruw is one of only four players in history to win ten Gold Glove Awards and hit at least 400 home runs.



Warrick Dunn

(GSHF CLASS OF 2022)

Warrick Dunn will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in December as a member of their Class of 2024. Warrick played college football for the Florida State Seminoles, where he won a National Championship. He was named a first-team All-ACC selection three times while also being an accomplished athlete at track and field for the Seminoles. Drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1997, Warrick was named AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. He spent five seasons in Tampa before playing for the Atlanta Falcons in 2002. He rushed for over 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons. Warrick finished his time in Atlanta with 5,981 rushing yards, 1,635 receiving yards, and 36 touchdowns. His work off the field has been commended as he was awarded the Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2004. His Warrick Dunn Charities continue to help single-parent families with home ownership.

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The Georgia State Golf Association and the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame salute the 2024 inductees into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame! These newly-enshrined individuals join a legendary group, which include the following Georgia golf greats:

Tommy Aaron	Alexa Stirling Fraser	Larry Nelson
Tommy Barnes	James Gabrielsen	Bill Ploeger
Arnold Blum	William L. Goodloe, Jr.	Hugh Royer, Jr.
Stewart Cink	Watts Gunn	Doug Sanders
Laura Coble	Chris Haack	Harold Sargent
Tom Cousins	Charles Harrison	Tim Simpson
Pete Cox	Bobby Jones	Louise Suggs
Jim Dent	Dorothy Kirby	DeWitt Weaver, Jr.
Gardner Dickinson	Nancy Lopez	Charles Yates
Allen Doyle	Lyn Lott	Danny Yates
Ed Everett	Larry Mize	

The Georgia Golf Hall of Fame also honors its Class of 2024:

~John Gerring~
~Bob Royak~
~Cindy Schreyer~
~Carl Seldon~



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*We congratulate the 2024 Inductees
into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame*



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