

HALL TALK

THE GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame newsletter, 'Hall Talk'. We'll be keeping you up to date on Hall of Famer news, new exhibits, upcoming events, and the nomination process. Have some Georgia sports info you'd like to share? Email it to lisah@gshf.org. Thanks for joining us!

HALL OF FAMER NEWS

Congratulations to Arthur Blank (Class of 2018) for being named ESPN's 2021 Philanthropist of the Year. "As an early signer of The Giving Pledge, Blank lives his "give back to others" core value by investing his resources, time and energy to help people live healthier, more productive lives. He meets this pledge primarily through The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and his diverse set of businesses. After 25 years and more than \$800 million in giving, the Foundation has committed to significantly accelerating the impact of its philanthropy over the next 10+ years and looking for opportunities to address the growing crisis of disconnection in our nation." (AtlantaFalcons.com July 23, 2021)

INTERN EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY

GSHF Summer interns, Enrique Fuentes (Middle Georgia State University) and Ivy Nelson (Mercer University), were tasked with creating their own individual museum exhibits based on the Georgia sports topic of their choice. Enrique, a soccer coach at Houston County High School and with CGSA, put together a soccer display with memorabilia from his own players, along with boards detailing coaching and the history of professional soccer in Georgia. Ivy, an avid tennis fan, put together an exhibit honoring UGA Tennis, more specifically Hall of Fame Coaches Manuel Diaz and Dan Magill. Ivy's exhibit items are on loan from the ITA Men's Tennis Hall of Fame, courtesy of Curator John Frierson. The exhibits are located near the Nike statue on the second floor. Great job, guys!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jim McLendon

The 65th Annual Induction Ceremony in May was a spectacular event! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the GSHF staff, the weekend went very smoothly! The weather was perfect, we had an attendance much larger than our goal, and we were able to recognize and honor eight tremendous athletes and sports personalities by inducting them into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. The GSHF Class of 2021 is: Tony Barnhart, Tom Glavine, Joe Hamilton, Janet Harris, Brian Jordan, Ray Lamb, Maya Moore (not pictured), and Matt Stinchcomb (not pictured).

We were also honored to present our annual humanitarian awards to the following individuals in recognition of their contributions to athletics, leadership, and community. Those awards include: The J.B. Hawkins Humanitarian Award – Coach Bert Williams, The Taz Anderson Service Award – Emily Parker Myers, The Erk Russell Spirit Award – Amanda Dinkel, The Emily Parker Myers Leadership Award – Kathy McMinn, MD. We also recognized Emily Parker Myers for leading the Hall through some of its darkest days as she retired from serving on the GSHF Authority for 10 years and serving as Chair for 8 years. We are indebted to Ms. Myers!

The 66th Annual Induction Ceremony for the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame will be back at the normal time of year, February 18 and 19, 2022, and the staff is already hard at work to make this ceremony the best yet. The Selections Committee and Honor's Court will meet in August and September to begin the daunting task of considering the more than 200 nominations and paring that list down to the eight selected for Induction. These two volunteer committees are comprised of Hall of Famers, coaches, athletes, and sports media and have the challenge of selecting another great class of inductees.

Save the date for the 66th Annual Induction Ceremony on February 18 and 19. We want to see you at the celebration!!



RENT THE HALL

Remember us when you're looking for the perfect event space for your next birthday party, corporate event, holiday gathering, or office party! With two spacious party/meeting rooms, a private theater that seats 205, an interactive play area, a fully outfitted warming kitchen, and more than 40,000 square feet, we are the ideal spot for your event! Call us at 478.752.1585 for details!



GEORGIA AT THE OLYMPICS



The state of Georgia was well-represented at the Tokyo Olympics for Team USA. Class of 2020 inductee Kelley O'Hara (Fayetteville) brought home a Bronze in soccer along with Jane Campbell (Kennesaw) and Emily Sonnett (Marietta). In swimming, Gunnar Bentz (Atlanta) and Brooks Curry (Atlanta) both won Gold with Jay Litherland (Alpharetta) winning Silver. Track and field saw Elija Godwin (Covington) win Bronze in the 4x400 meter relay and Javianne Oliver (Monroe) took the Silver in 4x100 meter relay. Teammates Tyler Austin (Conyers) and Anthony Carter (Decatur) both won Silver in baseball. Allisha Gray (Sandsville) won Gold in 3x3 basketball in the first year the event was held at an Olympic Games. Vincent Hancock (Eatonton) took Gold in skeet shooting for the third year in a row. These athletes did themselves and the state proud at this year's Olympics. Well done!

HALL OF FAME BIRTHDAYS

May

Laura Mays Coble
Bobby Cox
Jim Dent
Ray Canute Donaldson
Matt Harpring
Wade T. Mitchell
John 'Blue Moon' Odom
Ron Simmons
Tim Simposon
Elmore Smith
Loran Smith
John Smoltz
Frank Thomas
Reggie Wilkes
Mike 'Moon Pie' Wilson
Danny Yates III

July

Lonnie Bartley
Emerson Boozer
Kevin Butler
Norman Carter
Bobby Cremins
Allen M. Doyle
Teresa Edwards
Ed Everett
Ray Goff
Leonard Hauss
Eddie Lee Ivery, Sr.
Adrian N. Peterson
Lisa Spain Short
Hope Spivey

June

Champ Bailey
Jim Breland
Edith McGuire Duvall
Charles Harrison
Claude Humphrey
Suzanne Y. Leebern
Jeff Malone
Patricia Roberts
Wayne 'Tree' Rollins
Jeff Saturday
Phil Schaefer
Shannon Sharpe
Gwen Torrance

August

Lucinda Williams Adams
Maxie Baughan
Dale Ellis
Ernie Johnson, Jr.
Roger Kingdom
Dr. Thomas L. Lyons
Edwin Moses
Kelley O'Hara
George Patton
Wyomia Tyus
Kenny 'Sky' Walker
Margaret Matthews Wilburn
Rayfield Wright

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter and check out our ALL NEW website at www.gshf.org!



IN MEMORIAM

Please take a moment to honor longtime Georgia Military College Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Emeritus Bert Williams, who passed away on August 2. The legacy Coach Williams leaves behind is a tremendous one and we at the GSHF are grateful we had the privilege to honor him with the J.B. Hawkins Humanitarian Award in May.

Our sincerest condolences to family, friends, and loved ones.

FREE FIRST FRIDAYS

Thanks to our generous sponsor, The Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital at Atrium Health Navicent, admission is FREE at the GSHF museum every first Friday of the month. We hope to see you soon!



OPERATING HOURS

We are back to our regular operating hours here at the museum. Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Should your group or family wish to visit outside of those hours, please give us a call at 478.752.1585 with your special request and we will do our very best to accommodate!

The GSHF staff is Jim McLendon, Gwen Arrington, Lisa Holmes, Janet Brown, Linda Maddox, and Nathan Jones.