

TEXAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2023

INDUCTION BANQUET

MEDIA KIT

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ABOUT THE TEXAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Home of more than 400 Texas legends, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame was the idea of the sports editor at The Beaumont Enterprise. Thad Johnson spoke to the Texas Sportswriters Association during the 1949 Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star Games in Beaumont about starting the Hall of Fame. The sportswriters unanimously agreed with Johnson and in 1951 baseball great Tris Speaker was the inaugural inductee and Texas became the first state to honor its athletes with a hall of fame. The Texas Sports Hall of Fame under the guidance of Texas sports entrepreneur Lamar Hunt was opened in Grand Prairie on Saturday, May 23, 1981, but was closed in 1986. The Hall of Fame remained dormant until several prominent members of the Waco community created a plan in 1990 to have the Hall of Fame moved to Waco.

Their plan was realized on April 16, 1993, when Waco had its grand opening for the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. The museum also houses the Texas Tennis Museum and Hall of Fame and Texas High School Football Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame expanded in 2010 to include the Health, Fitness, and Education Center and Texas' preeminent college conference, the Southwest Conference (SWC). The Southwest Conference was a national power conference for most of the century until it broke up in 1996. The Southwest Conference exhibit displays the grand history of college athletics in Texas.

The Texas Sports Hall of Fame is now truly representative of the athletic history in Texas as it sits at 35,00 sq. ft.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT.....	2
SCHEDULE.....	3
SELECTION.....	4
MEET THE INDUCTEES..	5
BRAZILE.....	6
CRUZ.....	7
DREW.....	8
GUIDRY-FALKQUAY.....	9
HOLMES.....	10
PETERSON.....	11
POTTER.....	12
STRAHAN.....	13

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 15, 2023

MEDIA NEWS CONFERENCE

Time: Doors open at 3:30 p.m, News Conference 4 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Southwest Conference Gallery at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame

- Only media with credentials, inductees, and reception ticket holders will be allowed.
- There will be NO interviews after 4:30 p.m.

Kira Haney will serve as moderator for the news conference and will ask each inductee questions. At the end of the conference, we will take questions from the floor.

Please Note: For this event, there will be no live television allowed anywhere in the building at any time. Television crews are welcome to do “live shots” or “b-roll” after 6 p.m. or any time from the BASE at Extraco Event Center. You may interview former inductees who are in attendance or other special guests, but not the 2023 TSHOF Inductees; they will be involved in the private reception with our guests.

The reception will follow shortly after the news conference in the Great Hall at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame

BANQUET

Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Location: The BASE at Extraco Event Center
4601 Bosque Blvd., Waco, TX 76710

SELECTION PROCESS



Criteria for selection of athletes into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame

Any athlete, coach or administrator, male or female, living or deceased, is eligible for induction into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Nominees will be selected who have brought lasting fame and honor to Texas sports.

Number of people on the selection committee

There shall be at least 21 members on the selection committee. The committee shall be comprised of sportswriters and electronic sports media members who live in the state of Texas. One member of the committee shall serve as the chairman.

Number of Athletes Selected Each Year

Up to 10 inductees may be honored each calendar year. Primary Ballot - every year six nominees shall be selected from the Primary Ballot. No more than three nominees from the same sport shall be selected on the Primary Ballot. Veterans Ballot – every year two nominees shall be selected from the Veterans Ballot. To qualify for the Veterans Ballot a nominee must be 20 years removed from the competition. There are also two at large selections each year selected from the ballot by the Texas Sports Hall of Fame Board of Trustees.

Nominations

Nominations are open to the public and can be submitted online at the bottom of this page. If your nominee is fortunate enough to be placed on the official ballot- be sure that you are able to help vote them into the museum by becoming an Official Voting Member. The deadline for nominations is June 1st.

Ballot

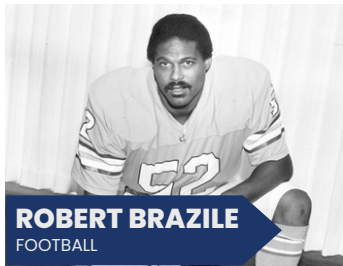
The selection committee shall meet every year to determine who is placed on the official Texas Sports Hall of Fame nomination ballot. The ballot is comprised of a primary and veterans section. The Primary Ballot will have 20 names and the Veterans Ballot will have 12 names. The top five vote-getters on each ballot who are not selected will automatically be placed on the ballot the next year. Texas Sports Hall of Fame staff will prepare the bios once the ballot has been selected, mail ballots, and tabulate the votes.

Acceptance Process

If a nominee declines induction for two consecutive years without a legitimate reason for not being able to attend the enshrinement ceremonies, that individual is then removed from the ballot and is not again eligible for nomination for five years.

Nominees, unless deceased, must attend the banquet to be officially inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

MEET THE INDUCTEES 2023 INDUCTEES



QUICK FACTS

- Tris Speaker is the first inductee - 1951
- Following this year's induction ceremony, there will be a total of **418** athletes in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame
- On April 16, 2023, the TSHOF will celebrate 30 years in Waco.
- **Robert Brazile** never missed a game during his 10-year career with the Oilers. (147 Consecutive Games)
- **Jose Cruz** 2x Silver Slugger (1983,1984), 2x All-Star (1980, 1985)
- **Scott Drew** is the second coach in Texas to bring an NCAA National Championship to a Texas School
- **Carlette Guidry Falkquay**, 12 NCAA Titles, 2x Olympian (Gold; 1992 & 1996)
- **Priest Holmes**, Super Bowl champion (XXXV), 3x Pro Bowler 2x NFL Rushing Touchdown Leader
- **Adrian Peterson**, 7x Prow Bowler, 3x NFL rushing yards leader, 2x NFL rushing touchdowns leader
- **Cynthia Potter**, 4x Olympian, 28 National Diving Titles, Bronze at 3m Springboard 1976 Olympics
- **Michael Strahan**, Single season sack leader for 21 years (currently tied at #1 with TJ Watt)

ROBERT BRAZILE



Nicknamed “Dr. Doom”, Robert Brazile terrified defenses for years. A Consensus All-American from Jackson State University, Brazile was drafted in the first round of the 1975 NFL Draft by the Houston Oilers with a sixth overall pick.

Brazile found immediate successful playing with the Oilers. In his rookie season, he won the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1975, numerous all-rookie teams and earned the recognition of his peers as the game's top linebacker.

Brazile was a leading force on an Oilers defense that helped the team to three consecutive 10-win seasons and two AFC title appearances (1978 & 1979). During the 1978 season, he recorded a career-best of 185 tackles, nine tackles and one fumble recovery at the 1978 AFC Championship game.

Throughout his 10-year career with the Oilers, Brazile started 147 consecutive games; a franchise record by the time of his retirement. He finished his career with a total of 13 interceptions, 14 fumble recoveries, 48 sacks, and 1,128 tackles; the second most in Oilers' history. He was selected to the Pro Bowl for seven consecutive seasons. He was named to six All-Pro teams (first and second teams) from 1976 to 198, a member of the league's 1970s All-Decade Team and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

JOSE CRUZ



A two-time All-Star and two-time Silver Slugger Award winner, Jose "Cheo" Cruz, was one of the most dominant left-hand hitting players for the Houston Astros. A standout from Arroyo, Puerto Rico, Jose Cruz played a total of 19 seasons in the MLB, 13 being with the Houston Astros (1975-1984).

Cruz debuted for the Astros on April 7, 1975, with a home run and three RBIs in a 6-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves. In 1977, he emerged as the best hitter on the team, batting .299 with 17 home runs, 87 RBIs, and 44 stolen bases.

In 1980, Cruz quickly became a fan favorite after leading the Astros to its first-ever division title and postseason. That same year he was selected to play in his first All-Star Game, was voted Astros team MVP, and received his second straight Roberto Clemente Award.

In 1983 he led the National League in hits and also exceeded the 30-stolen base mark five times. During his time with the Astros, Cruz played in 1,870 games, batting .292 with 335 doubles, a franchise-record 80 triples, 138 home runs, 942 RBI and 288 stolen bases.

Cruz, who is currently a Community Outreach Executive for the Astros, has held a strong presence within the organization since his playing days, as he spent 13 seasons as the Astros Major League first base coach and over a decade in the front office. The Astros retired his No. 25 jersey in 1992 and was part of the inaugural class for the Astros Hall of Fame in 2019.

SCOTT DREW



In 2003, Scott Drew took over as head coach of Baylor Men's Basketball and led a program that was in turmoil to the pinnacle of college athletics in what is now one of the greatest turnarounds in sports history.

Over the past 15 seasons, Drew has led the Baylor Bears to 11 NCAA Tournament appearances, five Sweet Sixteen berths, three trips to the Elite Eight, and two Big 12 Regular Season Championships.

However, Drew's biggest accomplishment came in 2021 when the greatest rebuild in college basketball history reached its completion as he led the Baylor Bears to its first National Championship and the first Big 12 title in school history, becoming only the second coach in history to win a title at a Texas school. Drew is the youngest of eight coaches nationally to lead his team to five Sweet Sixteens since 2010. He is credited for 28 of the program's 31 all-time postseason wins.

Drew is tied as the Big 12's longest-tenured head coach and has notched a school record of 421 victories. He has coached 12 players to All-American recognition in the last 15 seasons, including the first consensus first-team All-American in program history. His efforts have led to numerous coaching awards, including being named the 2017 Basketball Times National Coach of the Year and 2020 NBC Sports National Coach of the Year, as well as the Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year in each of the 2020-2022 seasons; becoming one of three high-major coaches to win three-straight Conference Coach of the Year honors.

CARLETTE GUIDRY FALKQUAY



Olympic gold medalist and one of the most successful female sprinters, Carlette Guidry seemingly did it all during her career; sprints, long jumps, and relays and has the titles to prove it.

As a freshman at the University of Texas in 1988, Guidry won the NCAA Indoor long jump and 55-meter title and finished second in the 200-meter. As one of the premier sprinters at the time, she claimed a total of 12 NCAA championships, 17 Southwest Conference titles, and 23 All-American honors. Her seven individual sprint international titles are tied for the most ever by a man or woman in NCAA Division 1 history.

In 1991, she received Honda Award as National Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the Babe Zaharias Award as the nation's top female athlete and the SWC Female Track Athlete of the 1980s.

After having one of the most successful collegiate careers with the Longhorns, she continued excelling at the international level. In 1986, Guidry won gold in the 4x100-meter relay at the World Junior Championship in Athens. She then went on to earn two Olympic gold medals in the 4x100 relays at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. In 1995, she also took gold in the 4x100 at the World Championships in Gothenburg and bronze at the World Indoor Championship in Barcelona for the 60-meter dash.

Guidry was inducted into the Texas Track & Field Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014 and was honored as an Indoor Track & Field Most Outstanding Student-Athlete in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the NCAA Women's Championships.

PRIEST HOLMES



Priest Holmes, a San Antonio, Texas native was one of the most dominant high school running backs of the decade earning all-state honors and leading San Antonio John Marshall to its first-ever state championship appearance in 1991.

After high school, Holmes attended the University of Texas (1992-1996), where he is best remembered for his three touchdowns and 120 rushing yard in the Longhorns' upset over two-time defending champion, Nebraska in the 1996 Big 12 Championship.

In 1997, Holmes' NFL career took him to the Baltimore Ravens where he earned a ring in Super Bowl XXXV. Holmes experienced his breakout success after signing with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2001. In his first season with the Chiefs, he became the NFL's leading rusher with 1,555 yards for the 2001 season. Holmes carved out a successful 10-year NFL career where he became a three-time All-Pro, three-time Pro Bowler and 2002 NFL Defensive Player of the Year.

At the time of his retirement in 2007, he held the Chiefs franchise records for all-time total touchdowns, rushing touchdowns, and total rushing yards. Holmes' accomplishments have been commemorated with inductions into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, UT Longhorn Hall of Honors and Texas High School Hall of Fame and the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame.

ADRIAN PETERSON



Adrian Peterson grew up in Palestine and attended Palestine High School where he was a five-star recruit, despite only playing football in his final two years of high school. He rushed for 4,348 yards and 53 touchdowns – both school records – while with the Wildcats. He was fourth in rushing in 2002 and second in rushing in Class 4A in 2003.

Peterson took his talents to the University of Oklahoma where in the first nine games of the season, he rushed for more than 100 yards, setting a freshman record. That same year, he finished second in the Heisman voting, which was the highest ever by a freshman. At OU, he earned first-team All-American, Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year, Big 12 Freshman of the Year and three All-Big 12 honors (2004-2006).

He concluded his college football career with 4,245 rushing yards in only three seasons. Peterson forwent his senior season and was taken 7th overall by the Minnesota Vikings in 2007. As a rookie, he rushed for 1,351 yards and 12 touchdowns in just 14 games to win AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. He also won the 2008 NFL Pro Bowl MVP award that year, which made him the first rookie since Marshall Faulk in 1994 to win the Pro Bowl MVP award.

During the 2013 season, he became the third-fastest player to reach 10,000 rushing yards in NFL history. Over his career, Peterson has rushed for 14,918 yards, 120 touchdowns, an average of 4.6 yards per carry and received the AP NFL MVP Trophy in 2012. He is a seven-time Pro Bowler, seven-time All-Pro, and three-time NFL rushing champion and a member of the 2010s All-Decade Team. He is currently ranked fifth in rushing yards all-time.

CYNTHIA POTTER



Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Cynthia Potter competed in the sport of diving for a record 20 years, both on the springboard and the platform. Her love of diving started at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, where there were swimming, diving and synchronized swimming teams.

At Lamar High School, she joined the swim team. At the time of her high school graduation, collegiate athletic programs were not available for women. Coach Hobie Billingsley at Indiana University contacted Potter and invited her to train at the national level with the male divers at IU. Never having set foot in the state of Indiana prior to that, Cynthia showed up in June & won her first national title that summer, and was named alternate to the 1968 Olympic Diving Team.

Potter was a member of the four U.S. Olympic Diving teams (1968, '72, 76 & '80) and winning Gold in 1976. She has a record of 28 individual national titles to become the winningest woman diver in U.S. history. She also won 20 gold medals in world competitions, silver in the 1978 World Championships, Bronze in the 1975 Pan American Games and was voted "World Diver of the Year" three times.

As her competitive career ended, she went on to coach at several universities & became an analyst for NBC Sports' Olympic coverage. She is recognized as television's most trusted diving analyst for 30-plus years covering the Olympic Games, the USA Diving national championships and the men's & women's NCAA Diving Championships.

MICHAEL STRAHAN



One of the most feared defensive players in NFL history, Michael Strahan made a name for himself as a hard-hitting defensive end in the league. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Strahan spent most of his youth in Germany where his father was stationed with the U.S. Army, then later returned to Houston to attend Westbury High School. His one season with the Westbury Huskies was enough to earn him a scholarship to Texas Southern University.

Strahan made the most of his time at TSU, becoming undoubtedly the best player to ever wear the Tiger uniform. Strahan was a two-time First Team All-SWAC selection, two-time SWAC Defensive Player of the Year, and was named the Black College Defensive Player of the Year in 1992. He still holds the record at TSU for career sacks with 41.5. At the 1993 NFL Draft, Strahan was drafted in the second round to the New York Giants.

During his breakout season in 1997, he recorded 14 sacks, was selected to the Pro Bowl, and was named a First-Team All-Pro. In 2001, he was unstoppable totaling 22.25 sacks, an NFL single-season record, which was more than enough to be NFL Defensive Player of the Year. For the next six seasons, Strahan recorded double-digit sack numbers. In 2006, he tied the franchise record for career sacks. He would go on to break the record the next season. In 2007, Strahan led the Giants to a Super Bowl XLII win upsetting the New England Patriots 17-14.

Throughout his illustrious 15-year NFL career, Strahan was selected to a total of seven Pro Bowls, five All-Pros and is one of only four players to ever led the NFL in sacks for two seasons. At the time of his retirement, he finished his career being ranked fifth all-time in career sacks with a total of 141.5 sacks and 854 tackles. Strahan is a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s, the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Today, Strahan is a co-anchor for ABC's "Good Morning America", a two-time Daytime Emmy award winner, "Fox NFL Sunday" Sports Analyst and a best-selling author.