



Contact:
Sonja Robinson USATF Georgia
404.484.3439
sonjafrobinson@gmail.com

USA Track & Field Georgia Inaugural Hall of Fame Class Lead by Former USOC President Dr. Leroy Walker

Atlanta, Georgia -July 24, 2011- Former USOC President Dr. LeRoy Walker leads the inaugural class selected for the Georgia Track & Field Hall of Fame, USA Track & Field Georgia announced on Sunday. The Class of 2011 will be inducted Sunday, August 14, 2011 at the Georgia Association Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, at Killian Hall in Lilburn GA.

"Induction into the Georgia Track & Field Hall of Fame is the greatest tribute we can bestow on these individuals; each member of this historic Class richly deserves this honor," said USATF Georgia Association President Ian Dube. "Each of these remarkable individuals has made unique contributions to our state through sport, and we all look forward to honoring them as they take their rightful place in the USATF Georgia Hall of Fame."

Inaugural Hall of Fame Class



Alice Marie Coachman born in Albany, Georgia ...she dominated the high jump event for over a decade....was the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal 1948....Coachman was the only American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in athletics in 1948 Games.



Roger Kingdom born in Vienna, Georgia, as a junior and senior at Vienna High, Kingdom won state titles in —the 120-yard hurdles, the high jump and the discus,. his junior and senior years he won the award as the outstanding track and field athlete in Georgia;.... winner of two Olympic gold medals in the 110 meter hurdles, one in 1984 and another in 1988.



Al Mead - At the 1988 Seoul Paralympic Games, Mead won the gold medal and set world record in the long jump..... competed in the Paralympic Games in 1992, winning the silver medal in the long jump..... 1995 President Bill Clinton appointed Mead to The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.



Edwin Moses - As the dominant intermediate hurdler for more than a decade, the Morehouse graduate ...won 107 consecutive finals. at the 1976 Montreal Games, where he won the gold medal in world record time of 47.64. and won another Olympic gold medal in 1984. In the final race of his career, Moses won the bronze medal at the 1988 Seoul Games.



Gwen Torrence- A three-time state champion while at DeKalb's Columbia High School, Torrence....University of Georgia a 12-time All-American and four-time NCAA champion. 1991 World Outdoor Championships, she was silver medalist in the 100m and 200m....Barcelona Olympics, won gold medals in the 200 meters and 4x100m relay and a silver medal in the 4x400m relay.4x400m relay at the 1993 World Outdoor Championships and in the 100m at the 1995 World Outdoors....1996 Atlanta Olympics, she won a gold medal in the 4x100m relay and a bronze in the 100 meters.



Forrest Grady "Spec" Towns (February 6, 1914 - April 4, 1991) UGA's first Olympic Gold Medalist, grew up in Augusta, Georgia..... revolutionized the high hurdles, winning NCAA and AAU titles as a UGA freshman1926 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Towns became the world record holder with 14.1.... won the Olympic gold ...became the first Georgian to earn Olympic Gold. Shortly after the Games, he became the first hurdler under 14 seconds..... improved the world record to 13.7 - a time that would stand until 1950.



Wyomia Tyus a Griffin Georgia native- was the first person to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in the 100-meter dash 1964 and 1968....Tyus competed at the 1962 Girls' Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championships, where she set a new American record in the 100-yard dash.... At the 1964 games in Tokyo....member of the American 4 x 100 relay team, which won a silver medal.... 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, anchored the gold medal-winning 4 x 100 meter relay team.



Dr. LeRoy Walker- Born and raised on Parson's Street in Atlanta, **Dr. LeRoy Walker**... in 1976 named the U.S. men's head coach, the first African-American man to serve in that position.....1973-1976, Dr. Walker was chairman of the AAU men's track & field committeebecame TAC president from 1984-88....instrumental in Atlanta hosting the 1996 Olympic Games... he later served as senior vice president for sport of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.....served as President of the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1992-96.

About the USATF Georgia Hall of Fame

The USATF Georgia Association Hall of Fame was established in 2011 to recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals involved in the sport of Athletics, while living within the geographic boundaries of the Georgia Association.

Over the past several months, the USATF Georgia Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee received over 30 candidates in the categories of open and masters' athletes, coaches, officials and individual contributors, who, based on outstanding achievement or contribution, were certified eligible to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Headed by Hawthorne Wesley, the Selection Committee reviewed and selected 16 finalists that were put to a public

and association vote in June 2011. The Board of Selectors, comprised of Mr. Wesley; Sean Robison, Hall of Fame Committee chair; Ian Dube, Association President and Olympians Evander Holyfield, Dr. Liston Bochette, Mel Pender, and Kevin Young, reviewed public and association voting and selected the 8 members to be inducted into the USATF Georgia Hall of Fame.

About the USATFGA Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

The USATF Georgia Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held Sunday, August 14, 2011 at Killian Hall 908 Killian Hill Road SW Lilburn, GA 30047. The banquet will begin at 6:30 pm with a buffet dinner. Adult Tickets - \$35, Child Ticket (12 and younger) \$30. Tickets are available to purchase online at USATFGA.org.

###