

# VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



## Media Release

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### Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Adds Four Inductees With 2022 Induction Class

*Induction events to be held, April 30, 2022, in Virginia Beach*

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – A pioneering basketball coach, an international sporting legend, and two gridiron greats. What do they have in common? They are all members of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame’s Class of 2022. The 4-member class featuring Sonny Allen, Jon Lugbill, Anthony Poindexter, and Chris Warren was voted on by the Hall of Fame’s Honors Court Committee, as part of its first vote since 2019 when it selected the Class of 2020.

After not holding a vote for a 2021 class due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Hall of Fame’s Board of Directors made the decision to have the Honors Court Committee vote on a partial class for 2022. The 4-member Class of 2022 will join the 7-member Class of 2020 in being honored as part of Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Induction Weekend 2022.

“Having not formally inducted the Class of 2020, we reviewed numerous scenarios in how to approach a vote for 2022”, says Will Driscoll, Executive Director of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. “We wanted to provide that class of inductees with the moment that they deserve while also continuing our mission of honoring athletic excellence in the Commonwealth. Each of the four new inductees have made an impact in sports across Virginia and add to the rich sporting tradition of our state.”

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2022:

- **William ‘Sonny’ Allen**, came to Old Dominion University as the head Men’s Basketball Coach in 1965, and over the course of 10-seasons built the Monarchs into one of the most entertaining teams in the country. Culminating with a 1975 NCAA D-II National Championship, Allen’s teams won 181 games during his

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time at ODU. His fast-break offense was pioneering, in that it was the first on record to label each position on the floor by a number, a practice still used today. His impact was felt off the court as well, as Allen became the first coach at a predominantly white school in Virginia to offer a scholarship to an African American athlete.

- **Jon Lugbill**, out of Oakton High School in Fairfax County, and the University of Virginia, is an international pioneer in the sport of whitewater canoeing. Considered the best paddler to ever compete in the sport, Lugbill is a 5-time World Champion in C1 Slalom, and 7-time Team World Champion. A 3-time World Cup Overall Gold Medalist, Lugbill has been recognized as USA Canoe Kayak's Male Athlete of the Year (1989) and is the only paddler ever to appear on the Wheaties Box. Lugbill is a 2005 inductee into the International Whitewater Hall of Fame. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Sports Backers in Richmond, VA.
- **Anthony Poindexter**, a native of Lynchburg, VA was a 2-sport star at Jefferson Forest High School in Forest, VA garnering 1993 Group AA State Football Player of the Year honors. Playing collegiately for VSHF inductee George Welsh at the University of Virginia, Poindexter would become one of the most decorated defensive players in Cavaliers history. The 1998 Consensus 1<sup>st</sup>-Team All-American and Atlantic Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year is one of just 3 players in UVA history to receive All-ACC recognition 3-times. Poindexter set the school record for career tackles by a defensive back (since broken) and has had his #3 jersey retired by the University. Poindexter is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2020.
- **Chris Warren**, from Northern Virginia and Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, set numerous records on the gridiron as a running back for the NCAA D-III Ferrum Panthers. A versatile back, Warren helped lead Ferrum to back-to-back D-III South Region Championships in 1988-1989. He was named ECAC D-III South Player of the Year in 1989 and VASID State College Division Player of the Year in 1988 and 1989. A 4<sup>th</sup> NFL draft pick in 1990 by the Seattle Seahawks, Warren would play 11 seasons in the NFL putting his versatility on display for all to see. The 3x Pro-Bowl and 2x 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Pro selection, would finish his career with 7,696 rushing yards, 1,935 receiving yards, and 58 total touchdowns.

2022 Induction Weekend will see the Class of 2022 join the Class of 2020, and the 2020 Distinguished Virginian, in being honored by the Hall of Fame. The Class of 2020 was 6-weeks shy of induction when the pandemic hit in March 2020, and subsequent attempts to reschedule were unsuccessful due to the pandemic.

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020:

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- **Dennis Carter**, Danville, VA. Award winning broadcaster. 37 years as WSET Sports Director.
- **Mike Cubbage**, Charlottesville, VA. 50 years in professional baseball.
- **Lawrence Johnson**, Chesapeake, VA. 4x NCAA pole-vault champion. 2000 Olympic Silver Medalist.
- **Bruce Rader**, Award winning broadcaster. 42 years as WAVY-TV Sports Director.
- **Tracy Saunders**, Suffolk, VA. 2x All-American, the 1991 NCAA Division-II Player of the Year, and the 1991 Honda Award recipient for Norfolk State Women's Basketball.
- **Al Toon**, Newport News, VA. 8 NFL seasons. 3x Pro-Bowl Selection. 517 receptions and 31 touchdowns.
- **David Wright**, Chesapeake, VA. 7x National League All-Star. Finished his career with .296 batting average, 1,777 hits, 242 homeruns, 970 rbi, and 949 runs scored.
- **Dennis Ellmer**, Steve Guback Distinguished Virginian Award recipient. Ellmer and Priority Automotive Group have raised over \$3-million for Hampton Roads children's charities through the annual Charity Bowl football game.

2022 Induction events will include *Breakfast with Champions* the morning of Saturday, April 30, and the *VIP Reception & Induction Ceremony* later that evening. 2022 Induction Weekend is presented by Priority Automotive Group and Priority Toyota Chesapeake, and additional partners include The City of Virginia Beach, Optima Health, DAVCON Inc., White Claw Hard Seltzer, ESPN Radio 94.1 WVSP-FM, WAVY-TV, and Davis Business Appraisers.

Event and ticket information can be found at the Hall of Fame's website, [www.vasportshof.com](http://www.vasportshof.com). Any questions regarding the Induction Weekend events can be directed to Will Driscoll, [driscollw@VaSportsHOF.com](mailto:driscollw@VaSportsHOF.com)

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## **About the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame:**

Since 1972, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame has been proud to honor Virginia's contributions to the world of sports. As the Commonwealth's official hall of fame, our mission is to honor athletic excellence, serve as a nonprofit resource highlighting philanthropy through sports, while inspiring sports fans through programming and engaging entertainment.