

VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Media Release

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Norfolk Tides Selected as Recipient for Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Sportsperson of the Year Award

Award will be presented during 2024 Induction Ceremony

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – Coming off an historic season in which the team set a franchise record for wins, and won the AAA National Championship, the Norfolk Tides have been selected as the inaugural recipient for the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame's **Steve Guback Sportsperson of the Year Award**. The award recognizes an athlete, coach, team, administrator and/or individual who supports athletics, and has distinguished themselves through outstanding athletic achievement during the 2023 calendar year. The award will be presented as part of the 2024 Induction Ceremony, Saturday, April 20 at the Henrico Sports & Events Center in Henrico County.

The Tides were selected following an open nomination period, and through a vote combining the Hall's Board of Directors, and the general public.

In 2023 it seemed the Tides could do no wrong. Armed with talent from one of the deepest farm systems in baseball, the Tides clinched the International League's first half championship with a 48-26 record, ensuring the club's first playoff appearance since 2015. The second half was much of the same, as the Tides finished the season with a franchise record of 90 wins. In the playoffs the Tides dispatched the Durham Bulls in three games to clinch their first International League championship since 1985. That set up a showdown for the AAA National Championship with the Pacific Coast League champions, Oklahoma City Dodgers. In the Championship game, the Tides were aided by a seventh inning grand slam by Colton Cowser in a 7-6 victory that delivered the first AAA National Championship in franchise history.

In addition to the on-field accomplishments, Manager, Buck Britton, was named the 2023 International League Manager of the Year, and the franchise was honored by *Baseball America* as its Minor League Team of the Year.

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“The Tides gave their fans a season to remember in 2023,” says Hall of Fame Executive Director, Will Driscoll. “The Hall is thrilled to honor them with this inaugural award as part of our 2024 Induction celebration.”

The **Sportsperson of the Year Award** is named in honor of 2005 Virginia Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Steve Guback, who spent over 70 years in sports journalism.

More information about the award, and the 2024 Induction ceremony, can be found on the Hall’s website: www.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.