



## Washington DC Sports Hall of Fame

# DC SPORTS HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT ZIMMERMAN, BULLETT, HOLDSCLAW, OTHER GREATS ON SUNDAY, JULY 21

Washington, D.C. – Nine individuals and one Team of Distinction make up the Washington DC Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2024, announced today, including Mr. National, Ryan Zimmerman; two of the most prominent women in Washington basketball history; and one of the most legendary men’s college hoops teams of all-time.

The formal induction ceremony will be held at Nationals Park on Sunday, July 21, prior to the Washington Nationals-Cincinnati Reds game. The ceremony is scheduled for approximately 12:30 p.m., followed by the game’s first at 1:35 p.m. Gates will open at 12:15 p.m.

**Ryan Zimmerman**, who spent his entire 17-year career with the Washington Nationals and became a World Series champion in 2019, is among the 2024 DC Sports Hall of Fame class that includes University of Maryland basketball great **Vicky Bullett** and former Washington Mystics star **Chamique Holdsclaw**. Other honorees include former H.D. Woodson High School swimming coach **Bruce Bradford**; former Washington football general manager **Charley Casserly**; the late Washington area basketball pioneer **E.B. Henderson**; popular sports broadcaster **Dave Johnson**; the second winningest pitcher in Washington baseball history, **Emil “Dutch” Leonard**; and legendary D.C. United defender **Eddie Pope**. The historic **1983-84 NCAA men’s basketball national champion Georgetown University Hoyas** will be recognized as this year’s Team of Distinction.

The members of the DC Sports Hall of Fame selection committee are chair Bobby Goldwater, a Georgetown University Sports Industry Management master’s program acting faculty director and sports industry consultant; chairman emeritus and veteran D.C. public relations executive Charlie Brotman; former radio and TV reporter/producer Brenda J. Curtis-Heiken; journalist David Elfin; George Washington University visiting assistant professor of sports management Meredith Geisler; sports television anchor Chick Hernandez; attorney Phil Hochberg; Washington Nationals Managing Principal Owner Mark D. Lerner; basketball executive and former coach Ed Tapscott; attorney Mark Tuohey; radio and television personality and former Washington pro football tight end Rick “Doc” Walker; basketball broadcaster, coach and former high school and college star Christy Winters Scott; baseball commentator and historian Phil Wood; and media content director and University of Maryland journalism adjunct professor Joe Yasharoff.

“The combination of athletes, coaches and contributors in this year’s class collectively showcase a diversity of achievement and representation that we are proud to honor,” said DC Sports Hall of Fame chair Bobby Goldwater.

“Our committee is grateful for the ongoing support of the Washington Nationals and the Lerner family for their annual collaboration in conducting the induction ceremony at Nationals Park,” Goldwater added.

Individuals nominated for inclusion must have gained prominence in the Washington area through their achievements in sports as an athlete, coach, owner, executive, member of the media or contributor. A professional, collegiate or high school team that has made a significant and positive impact in the Greater Washington community through outstanding achievement is eligible to be recognized as a Team of Distinction.

## The 2024 inductees:

**BRUCE BRADFORD:** Widely respected and deeply revered for his coaching prowess and unlimited positivity as a health and physical education teacher, Bruce Bradford's H.D. Woodson teams won DCPS swimming championships even when his pool had no water due to financial restraints. He also built a strong tennis program at Woodson and later oversaw all high school tennis programs in the District.

**VICKY BULLETT:** More than 30 years after she left College Park, Vicky Bullett is second only to fellow Terp Alyssa Thomas in career scoring average with 16.9 points per game and is tied for sixth in career rebounding with 8.5 per game. She powered Maryland to the NCAA tournament's Elite Eight as a junior in 1988 and to the Final Four as a senior in 1989 when she was named the ACC Player of the Year. Bullett's 21.4 points-per-game average during her senior season remains the Maryland single-season record.

**CHARLEY CASSERLY:** Starting as an unpaid intern to coach/general manager George Allen in 1977, Charley Casserly was a Washington football fixture for 22 years. He served as assistant general manager for seven years, including two Super Bowl champion seasons, and another decade as general manager, winning the Lombardi Trophy in 1991 with the team that finished with a 17-2 overall record. Casserly also had extensive sports broadcasting experience in Washington, appearing on local television shows for WUSA, WJLA, WTTG and Home Team Sports, as well as on WTOP and WJFK radio.

**E.B. HENDERSON:** A 2013 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and known as the father of Black basketball, E.B. Henderson learned to play the new sport of basketball early in the 20th century while a graduate student at Harvard and later introduced the game to African American students when he returned to his native Washington. Henderson founded the Eastern Board of Officials and organized the Interscholastic Athletic Association in 1905. A year later, he established the first scholastic conference, the Colored Public School Athletic League. Leading his teams as coach and center, his 1909-10 team, the YMCA 12th Streeters, won a tournament in New York to become the unofficial "Colored Basketball World Champions." Henderson convinced Howard University to adopt the rest of the 12th Streeters to become its first varsity team, and he coached them to consecutive championships. Henderson also helped establish the Colored Citizens Protective League, which would later become the NAACP, in 1915. He wrote two volumes of "The Negro in Sports" (1939 and 1949) before retiring in 1954 after 28 years as director of health and physical education for Washington's Black schools.

**CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW:** The No. 1 overall pick in the 1999 WNBA Draft, Chamique Holdsclaw spent the first six of her 11 pro seasons with the Washington Mystics, earning Rookie of the Year honors and becoming a five-time All-Star. During her time with the Mystics, Holdsclaw led the league in scoring in 2002 and rebounding in 2002 and 2003, was a three-time All-WNBA second-team selection and averaged 18.3 points and nine rebounds per game. A three-time NCAA national champion with the University of Tennessee (1996-98) and an Olympic gold medalist with Team USA in the Olympic Games Sydney 2000, she was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018.

**DAVE JOHNSON:** Arguably the area's most popular and versatile sports voice, Dave Johnson has been associated with D.C. United since the team's first season in 1996, including 27 seasons as its play-by-play television announcer, and served as the play-by-play radio broadcaster for the Washington Wizards since 1997. The National Sports Media Association's D.C. Sportscaster of the Year in 2019, Johnson received an Edward R. Murrow Award in 2008 for best writing in recognition of his sports commentaries on WTOP, where he served as Sports Director and morning sports anchor from 1995-2022, his second stint with Washington's top-rated news station that first began from 1990-1992. Johnson has won Emmys for his coverage of the Nationals and Capitals; has worked as a local sports television anchor; and has called high-profile events including a variety of college sports and soccer, including the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

**EMIL “DUTCH” LEONARD:** A right-handed pitcher whose 20-year career included nine seasons with the Washington Nationals (1938-46), Dutch Leonard is the second-winningest pitcher in Washington baseball history, behind only Walter Johnson. A four-time All-Star with Washington, he led a starting rotation of four knuckleballers in 1945 when the Nationals finished a game-and-a-half behind the American League champion Detroit Tigers. Baseball-Reference.com, using the most up-to-date baseball metrics, ranks Leonard as one of the top 100 starting pitchers in baseball history in terms of WAR, ranking higher than several National Baseball Hall of Famers. He started 251 games with Washington, recording 130 complete games and 23 shutouts.

**EDDIE POPE:** Considered by many soccer observers to be the greatest USMNT defender ever, Eddie Pope is recognized as one of D.C. United’s legendary stars. A stylish and intelligent force, Pope scored the golden goal in United’s first MLS Cup championship in the inaugural 1996 season, played 143 games for the team and won three MLS Cups while playing in Washington for the organization’s first seven seasons. Pope was a four-time MLS Best XI and won the league’s 1997 Defender of the Year Award. He was courted with offers from premier international football destinations but chose to stay and promote MLS in the United States. He was elected to the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2011.

**RYAN ZIMMERMAN:** After spending his entire 17-year career with the Washington Nationals, Ryan Zimmerman retired following the 2021 season and had his No. 11 retired in Washington the following year. A World Series champion in 2019, he was selected in the first round as the fourth overall pick by the Nationals in the 2005 MLB June Amateur Draft out of the University of Virginia and made his Major League debut later that year in the team’s inaugural season. Zimmerman was a stellar third baseman for the first 10 years of his career before excelling at first base. He was a two-time All-Star and was the recipient of one Gold Glove and two Silver Slugger awards.

**TEAM OF DISTINCTION – 1983-84 GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY MEN’S BASKETBALL:** Led by two DC Sports Hall of Fame inductees, legendary coach John Thompson and All-American center Patrick Ewing, Georgetown’s men’s basketball team won the 1984 NCAA national championship by defeating Hakeem Olajuwon and the University of Houston, 84-75, in a historic final game. Thompson became the first African American coach to win a Division I men’s basketball national title, and Ewing was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament. After a one-point loss in the championship game two years earlier, the Hoyas were successful in their return to the Final Four with a stellar lineup that included guards David Wingate, Michael Jackson and Fred Brown along with forwards Reggie Williams and Bill Martin.

The names of all DC Sports Hall of Fame inductees are prominently displayed at Nationals Park, the site of the induction ceremony.

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