



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON

THE FORMAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, January 27, 2001

Noon

**MAGNOLIA ROOM
UNIVERSITY CENTER**



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Welcome Herb Reinhard, Athletic Director

Invocation Steve Roberts, Sports Information Director

LUNCH

President's Remarks Dr. Hugh C. Bailey

Presentation of the Fifth Class Herb Reinhard

Formal Induction Dr. Hugh C. Bailey

Inductees' Remarks 2001 Class

Closing Remarks Herb Reinhard

HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Herb Reinhard, Shelly Lis, Dick Rockey,
Lynne Capece, Bill England, John Hansen, Tommy Thomas, Steve Roberts

THE 2001 HALL OF FAME CLASS

BRINY BAIRD, GOLF

In his two seasons at Valdosta State, Briny Baird without question made the biggest impact on Blazer golf in the 40-plus years the sport has been a part of VSU athletics. Baird led Valdosta State to back-to-back national tournament appearances in 1994 and 1995 and was medalist in that 72-hole event both years. He says his biggest thrill in golf was "repeating as Division II champion and ending my amateur career with a win". In his brilliant career, he won nine tournaments, playing sub-par golf in 25 of his 45 competitive rounds. He was a two-time first team all-America and is currently a professional golfer, earning his card for this year's PGA tour by finishing fourth on the money list of last year's Buy.Com Tour.

JOJO BLAHA, BASEBALL

JoJo Blaha became a fixture at third base on Valdosta State baseball teams in the mid-80s, starting three seasons and earning four letters from 1984 to 1987. Finding his way South from Wheeling, West Virginia, Blaha terrorized opposing pitching throughout his career, earning all-conference and all-America honors in both his sophomore and junior seasons. His consistency at the plate resulted in his setting eight school records, five of which still stand. Those five marks are extra base hits (39) and RBI (76) in a season and doubles (52), total bases (445) and RBI (209) in a career. A career .339 hitter, Blaha was also a threat on the bases, stealing 27 of 29 bases and scoring 178 runs. He hit 43 home runs and was a part of VSU teams which won 157 games in his career.

CAROL CHASON, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Joining the Valdosta State women's basketball program in its infancy, Carol Chason was one of the primary players in the phenomenal Lady Blazer success in those early years. A four-year starter from nearby Bainbridge, Chason played on VSU teams from 1975-79 when the Lady Blazers competed at the Division I level in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. Those four teams compiled an overall record of 100-22 and advanced to post-season play in her sophomore, junior and senior seasons. She is No. 2 all-time in scoring with 2265 points in 121 games (an 18.7 per game average). She was a first team Kodak all-America her senior season, after which she played professionally for the Nebraska Wranglers.

CHRIS HATCHER, FOOTBALL

Working his way up the ladder his freshman year, Chris Hatcher earned the starting quarterback job midway through his rookie season, and the rest is history. He started 39 consecutive games, winning 29 and setting school, conference and national records in virtually every passing category on the way to all-conference and all-America honors. He was conference and national player of the year both athletically and academically following a tremendous senior season in which he led VSU to its first ever playoff appearance and which was culminated by his winning the coveted Harlon Hill Trophy, awarded to the best Division II player in the country. In that historic season, Hatcher had 367 completions, 55 for touchdowns, pushing his career total to a record 121.



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY®



HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS WELCOME

All Valdosta State supporters are urged to spread the word about this annual event to alumni, family and friends. Receiving the university's highest athletic award is an honor these former athletes and coaches will remember and cherish forever. Many other athletes and coaches deserve consideration for possible induction into the Hall. Nominations are always being sought for future induction ceremonies and may come from any source. All former athletes, coaches, administrators or support personnel who made significant contributions to the university's athletic programs, either through their participation in athletics as undergraduates or their subsequent association with athletics, are eligible for nomination. Athletes and staff members are eligible for nomination five years after their separation from the university. Nominees shall have demonstrated extremely high achievement, including school, conference or national records, multiple all-conference honors, all-region and all-America mention and leadership roles on their teams. Coaches under consideration should have high honors such as multiple conference championships and bids to post-season play. All nominees must have displayed positive morals and high character. All nominations will remain active for three selection cycles. Nominations should be made to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee in care of the university's athletic department. Congratulations to this year's inductees.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

1997 Class

Eric Anderson	Tennis
Sam Bowen	Baseball
Eddie Brown	Basketball
Chan Dixon	Tennis
Joe Germano	Cross Country
Billy Grant	Coach, Administrator
Susan Taylor	Basketball
Jessie Tuggle	Football

1999 Class

Candace Fincher	Basketball
Jackie Harris	Basketball
Louise Howell	American Ball
Mike Perry	Basketball, Baseball
Nancy Irby	Tennis
Cecil Whitehead	Baseball

1998 Class

Gary Colson	Coach
Gene Felts	Baseball
Bobby Ritch	Basketball
Shannon Williams	Basketball

2000 Class

Antonio Edwards	Football
Willie Oxford	Basketball
Kelly Scott	Baseball
Lyndal Worth	Coach