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2021 Hall of Fame Executive Committee Report

Mission

The USA Triathlon Hall of Fame Executive Committee serves to recognize, honor, and commemorate those individuals, groups and entities that have demonstrated excellence in every aspect of multisport and inspire others to elevate their performance, participation, and involvement in multisport in their communities. The committee also supports the USAT Foundation, who are responsible for the Hall of Fame banquet.

2021 Accomplishments

- New nominations were sought out, resulting in the addition of two more nominees to the pool of candidates.
- The HOF eligibility subcommittee reviewed these new nominations and confirmed that they met the criteria for selection to the Hall of Fame.
- In preparation for the nomination/election process for 2021, all prior nominees were given the opportunity to update their biographies. Where a nominee was deceased, we reached out to their family to see if there were any updates to their biographies. The updated biography file was then made available to all of the voters.
- The election was held in a two-part process, with the voting committee members participating in an initial down-select round of voting. The nominees receiving the most votes (the top ten) then formed the basis for a second round of voting; this included one female age group nominee but no male age group nominee. Because the final nominee list must include at least both one male and one female age group nominee, the list was augmented with the top two male age group nominees (they both received the same number of votes in the initial round) for a total of twelve nominees for the final round of voting.
- The final vote was held, with the result of the following inductees being selected: Laura Bennett (elite), Lesley Cens-McDowell (age group female), Robert Plant (age group male), and the original 12 Ironmen (contributors). The current plan is to honor Laura, Lesley, Robert as well as past inductee Gwen Jorgensen (elected in 2019 under a separate ballot but delayed at her request because of Track and Field Trials for the Olympic Team) in 2022 and postpone the honor for the original 12 Ironmen until 2023.

2022 Objectives

- Identification of new nominees and potential selection of nominees for induction in 2023.
- Update/refresh of existing nominations carried over from previous years





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- Update/refresh the processes used for identification, qualification, and recommendation of potential Hall of Fame inductees.
- Identify a process for removing nominees who have consistently received no or very few votes and place them aside for possible future action
- Support the effort to create a public voting option as part of the Hall of Fame process.
- We will continue to examine new ways to push for more nominations in the future.
- We will continue to support the mission of the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame.
- We will continue to support the USAT Foundation efforts to host the Hall of Fame banquet, including any feedback from the USAT Foundation on ways to improve our processes and execution.

Conclusion

Hall of Fame Executive Committee members Bob Babbitt, Paul Craig, Sally Edwards, Brad Leonard, Missy Le Strange, Monica Paul (USAT Board of Directors liaison), Jennifer Santoyo (Elite Athlete representative), Karen Smyers, Steve Sutherland (Chair), Susan Williams, Tim Yount (USAT staff liaison), and Tom Ziebart successfully worked as a team to promote the mission of the Hall of Fame by honoring those who have excelled and offered noteworthy contributions to our sport.

Submitted by: Stephen Sutherland, Committee Chair



MEMBER

