



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 20, 2012**

**GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM**  
**GSHF Authority Elects New Chairman and Executive Committee**

MACON, GA – The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority met Friday morning and received their first report from NewTown Macon regarding the ongoing transition of the museum’s management from the Authority to NewTown. Mike Ford, President & CEO of NewTown Macon, announced that Bobby Pope will serve as the Executive Director of the GSHF and that Ben Sapp will be the Hall’s Managing Director.

“NewTown is very excited about the possibility of managing the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and we hope to be able to make a formal announcement regarding our new role very soon”, Ford said. “We intend to make the Hall of Fame the destination in Downtown Macon to hold events”, he continued, “and I am confident that with Bobby Pope and Ben Sapp in their respective positions, the Hall of Fame can become a viable and thriving institution serving Middle Georgia and the entire state.”

As the GSHF Executive Director, Bobby Pope will develop a state wide financial campaign and work to raise awareness of the Hall of Fame throughout the state. Pope served for 21 years as Director of Athletics at Mercer University where he was highly respected by his peers. He served for eight years on the Executive Committee of the Atlantic Sun Conference including two as President. Prior to his time at Mercer, Pope worked as sports anchor at WMAZ-TV in Macon and as a sports broadcaster.

Pope has been involved with the GSHF for many years. He was a member of the initial group of leaders that played an integral role in bringing the Hall of Fame museum to Macon. He has served in leadership positions for the GSHF Foundation and is currently on their board of directors. He has also served as the Chairman of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority.

Ben Sapp began working at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in May of 2004 and has worked in a variety of roles at the museum including as Director of Education & Public Information and most recently as the museum’s Interim Executive Director. As Managing Director, Sapp will continue serving in much the same capacity he has served since May of 2010 overseeing the operations and programming of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. Sapp currently serves on the boards of directors of the International Sports Heritage Association, the Macon-Bibb County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, and Main Street Macon.

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority also chose new officers at their meeting. J. Paul Holmes of Monticello was elected as the Authority’s Chairman. Holmes is a successful businessman who serves in many leadership capacities throughout the state of Georgia. Emily P. Myers of Macon was elected Vice Chairman, and Drew Williams IV of Atlanta was elected Secretary/Treasurer. As Past Chairman, Kirby R. Moore will serve with the current officers on the Authority’s Executive Committee.

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*The GSHF will be making major announcements regarding sponsors, master of ceremonies, and special award winners for the 2012 Induction Ceremony in the coming weeks.*