

NEWS RELEASE

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Seguin pitcher earns spot in Texas Sports Hall of Fame

SEGUIN, Texas – Hometown baseball legend “Smokey” or “Cyclone” Joe Williams is widely recognized as one of the best pitchers of all time. Today, his legacy continues to grow. He will be inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016 in February.

Williams was born in Seguin in 1886, and according to TSHOF, he is “widely recognized as one of the game’s greatest pitchers, despite never throwing a pitch in the major leagues”. He spent his entire baseball career (1905-1932) in the “Negro Leagues”. During his 27 years on the field, he played for a number of teams including the San Antonio Black Broncos, Chicago Giants and the Homestead Grays. He is credited with 27 wins and 3 losses during the 1914 season. Williams died in 1951 at the age of 64.

TSHOF has inducted more than 300 athletes with ties to the Lone Star State since its inception in 1986. Williams will be honored as part of the 2016 class which also includes former University of Texas football coach Fred Akers and former New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte.

Williams’ other honors include induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999, and in 2001, the City of Seguin named the baseball field at Fairgrounds Park after the famed pitcher.

There is also a \$500 scholarship open to all Seguin High School seniors. Recipients must meet the academic standards necessary to graduate, complete the requirements to be a Varsity Letterman on at least one athletic team and who intend to enroll full time at a four-year college degree program. Smokey Joe Williams was a mentor to younger ball players, both during his career and after he retired. Based on this, the senior must prepare a written essay on "how one or more mentors helped you achieve success in high school and positioned you for success in college, and how you plan to continue this practice of mentoring in your own life."

In 2015 the Board of Directors selected the Seguin Athletic Booster Club to manage the funds and make the selection of the recipient.

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