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Georgia Southern University

National Football Foundation to Honor AP Saturday
Eagle great going into College Football Hall of Fame in December
Football
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STATESBORO - AP is coming home.

The greatest running back to ever set foot in Paulson Stadium will return to his old nest for the Eagles' home game Saturday as Adrian Peterson Georgia Southern University and The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame will jointly honor him with an NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salute, presented by Fidelity Investments. The Salute will take place on Saturday, Oct. 14, during the Eagles' game against New Mexico State. Coverage of the game will start at 6 p.m. on ESPN3.

"What an amazing honor to be recognized for such a prestigious award," Peterson said. "I am grateful for the chance to represent my hometown of Alachua, Florida, and my parents, Porter and Reatha Peterson, who set me up for success from the very start. Thank you, Georgia Southern University, for the opportunity to further my education and receive a college degree while playing the game of football. Lastly, sincere thanks to the committee for considering me worthy and allowing me to join such an elite class of men."

Peterson will be recognized on the field at the end of the first quarter as a representative of the Hall will present Peterson with his plaque in front of his home fans. Georgia Southern will be wearing special alternate uniforms, but will honor Peterson by having every player don the No. "3" on both sides of their helmet as opposed to their jersey number like usual.

TICKETS

Peterson's No. 3 jersey is retired at Georgia Southern and he still stands as the NCAA's Division I all-time leading rusher with 6,559 yards in regular-season contests. He is already a member of GS's Athletics Hall of Fame and was a four-time All-American for the Eagles.

The Alachua, Florida, native was the first sophomore to win the Walter Payton Award, given to the top player in the FCS. He rushed for 100 or more yards in 48 consecutive games and at the time of graduation, held 30 school and playoff records. He was a sixth-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears in 2002 and was a Super Bowl XLI participant.

The NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salute program, which began with the inaugural class in 1951, has become a hallowed tradition, and to this day the singular events remain the first of numerous activities in each inductee's Hall of Fame experience. During the NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, each inductee returns to his alma mater to accept a Hall of Fame plaque that will remain on permanent display at the institution. The events take place on the field during a home game, and many inductees cite the experience as the ultimate capstone to their careers, providing them one more chance to take the field and hear the crowd roar their name.
"Adrian Peterson is one of the most decorated players in college football history," said NFF President and CEO Steve Hatchell. "He did it all at Georgia Southern, winning national championships and the Walter Payton Award while setting the Division I rushing record. We are thrilled to honor him at Paulson Stadium."

Peterson was inducted as a member of the inaugural SoCon Hall of Fame class in 2009 and was a unanimous choice for induction into Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2012 in his first year of eligibility.

He is well known for his charity work and advocacy of the importance of education. He has dedicated his life to motivational speaking and working with multiple charities.

Peterson will join fellow Georgia Southern star Tracy Ham as the only two Eagles enshrined in Atlanta. They are also the only two Georgia Southern football players to have their jersey numbers retired.

The 2017 class, which includes such big names as Peyton Manning and Steve Spurrier, will be inducted at the 60th NFF Annual Awards Dinner Dec. 5 at the landmark Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The inductees will be permanently enshrined at the new College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta later that December and honored on the field during the 13th Annual National Hall of Fame Salute during the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Including the 2017 class, only 987 players and 214 coaches have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame from the nearly 5.26 million people who have played or coached the game over the past 148 years. In other words, only two ten-thousandths of one percent (.0002) of those who have set foot on the gridiron have earned the distinction.

Tickets are available to the game and may be purchased by visiting GSEagles.com/Tickets or by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS during normal business hours.