



JIMMY SMITH

2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Jimmy Smith began writing about sports as a 16-year-old in 1972, with stories published in the weekly St. Bernard News about the St. Bernard Ladies Softball League, Chalmette High School athletic events, and the St. Bernard semi-pro baseball league whose representative, sponsored by Gruns Drugs, won the state championship and participated that year in the National Baseball Congress tournament in Wichita, Kan.

In September 1973, while a senior at Chalmette, Smith began what would become a 42-year career in the business at the city's once-daily paper.

His journalism work has taken him across the country and around the globe, covering some of the world's premier sporting events.

His work has appeared in a number of national publications and magazines, as well as on the syndicated

Newhouse News Service.

He was an incredibly average athlete at Patricia Park in Arabi three blocks from his boyhood home in St. Claude Heights, playing football, basketball and baseball, eventually learning that it was vastly more personally rewarding to write about others' athletic endeavors.

CHALMETTE HIGH SCHOOL:

- » Editor-in-chief of The Owl student newspaper as a senior, three-time student council representative, member of the Beta Club, Key Club (Secretary), debate team, spirit boosters, baseball statistician (three years), basketball announcer, participant in the state leadership conference at LSU. Graduated in 1974.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY:

- » Graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism in 1978. Three-time member of The Maroon, student newspaper.

PROFESSIONAL:

- » Covered the New Orleans Saints professional football for 13 years on a daily basis, generating news coverage, feature and game stories, occasional columns, as well as on-line blogs, podcasts and videos.
- » Covered 12 Super Bowls, including the Saints' win in Super Bowl XLIV, and six conference championship games, four AFC, two NFC.
- » Covered the 2010 Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Canton, OH for Saints linebacker Rickey Jackson.
- » Covered inaugural USFL Championship Game in Denver, CO in 1983.
- » Covered the New Orleans Hornets/Pelicans professional basketball team for 10 years, generating daily news coverage, feature and game stories, columns, pre- and post-game videos and on-line blogs and analysis. Spent two years serving primarily as a columnist covering the Pelicans and the NBA.
- » Covered five NBA Finals, seven NBA All-Star Games, and five NBA Playoff series.
- » Covered the New Orleans Jazz professional basketball team in 1978-79, its last season in New Orleans.
- » Four times (2012-15) covered USA Basketball training camps in Las Vegas, NV
- » General sports columnist for three years, providing weekly opinion on varied topics.
- » For 11 years, was an enterprise/feature writer producing long-range special projects including a definitive history of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), the post-career lives of local professional boxers and professional football players both local and national, and numerous other human interest stories.
- » Covered three Olympic Games:
 - » The 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, GA.
 - » The 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT.
 - » The 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.
- » For 11 years, covered various collegiate sports, primarily focusing on the University of New Orleans in men's and women's basketball and baseball, with forays into LSU and Tulane football, basketball and baseball.
- » Covered the 1991 NCAA Women's Final Four at UNO Lakefront Arena.
- » Covered the 1993 NCAA Men's Final Four in the Superdome.
- » Covered the 1981 NCAA Men's Basketball first and second round games in Wichita, KN and the Midwest Regional in the Superdome.
- » Covered the 1993 Men's Basketball East Regional tournament in East Rutherford, NJ
- » Covered the 1995 NCAA Men's Basketball first and second round games in Austin, TX and the Midwest Regional in Kansas City, MO.
- » Covered the 1997 NCAA Men's Basketball Midwest Regional in San Antonio, TX.
- » Covered the 1998 NCAA Men's Basketball East Regional in Greensboro, NC.

- » Covered the 1999 NCAA Men's Basketball East Regional in East Rutherford, NJ.
- » Covered the 2001 NCAA Men's Basketball South Regional first and second round games in the Superdome.
- » Covered the 1977 NCAA Baseball Regional in Arlington, TX.
- » Covered the 1980 NCAA Baseball Regional in Tallahassee, FL.
- » Covered the 1981 NCAA Baseball Regional in Ann Arbor, MI.
- » Covered the 1982 NCAA Baseball Regional in New Orleans.
- » Covered 11 Sugar Bowls (1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1995, 2000), four of which determined the college football national championship.
- » Covered the 1998 Orange Bowl which determined the college football national champion.
- » Covered the 1998 Liberty Bowl (Tulane vs. Brigham Young).
- » Covered the 2000 Peach Bowl (LSU vs. Georgia Tech).
- » Covered the 1986 Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA, won by Jack Nicklaus for a record sixth time.
- » Covered the 1992 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in New Orleans.
- » Covered the 1996 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Atlanta, GA.
- » Covered the 1998 U.S. Outdoor Track and Field Championships in New Orleans.
- » Worked on the coverage team at the 1978 Battle of New Orleans fight card in the Superdome, which included the heavyweight title fight between Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks and three other world title fights.
- » Covered the 1979 light-heavyweight championship fight in the Superdome between Mike Rossman and Victor Galindez.
- » In his career has interviewed and profiled some of sports' most noteworthy athletes, coaches and executives including John Wooden, Jack Nicklaus, Pete Maravich, Bob Pettit, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Ted Williams, Yogi Berra, Bob Feller, Satchel Paige, Muhammad Ali, Archie Moore, Pele', Pete Rozelle, David Stern, Eddie Robinson, Tom Landry, Dale Brown, as well as several members of the St. Bernard Sports Hall of Fame: Art Cedotal, Bobby Nuss, Norris Weese, Jerry Pellegrini, and Bobby April.

AWARDS

Writing has been honored with numerous awards for deadline stories, professional, college, and prep features, events and columns, and for series/enterprise from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, the Associated Press Managing Editors and the Associated Press Sports Editors. Was named Louisiana Sportswriter of the Year in 1994 by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters of America. Was a member of the newspaper staff that in 2006 won two Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Former general, and board member of the Pro Football Writers of America, former member of the Professional Basketball Writers of America, and the United States Basketball Writers Association.

CURRENT

Jimmy and his wife, Karen, an adjunct professor of Music at Loyola University and Director of the Loyola Preparatory Arts Program, have been married for nearly 38 years and have two children: Stephanie, who is the Administrative Coordinator for Education Programs at Audubon Nature Institute, and William, a physical therapy doctoral candidate at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. Jimmy is currently the public relations coordinator at The Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.