

# Smashing start



Duluth's Caroline Price poses for a portrait at Atlanta Athletic Club tennis courts in Johns Creek. Price and her partner won the U. S. Open National Playoffs Southern Qualifier and hope to advance to the U.S. Open main draw. (Staff Photo: David Welker)

## Duluth's Price looking to advance to the U.S. Open

By **KAITLIN LONG**  
Staff Correspondent

Pairing up with an old friend, Caroline Price earned a nice victory in the early stages of her professional tennis career.

The Duluth resident and former University of North Carolina standout won the mixed doubles at the recent U.S. Open National Playoffs Southern Qualifier and sealed an opportunity to advance to the U.S. Open

National Playoffs Championships.

She competed with her childhood friend Richard Doverspike, who she's known since their mothers played for the same Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA) team and were even partners at one point. Doverspike was three years older than Price, so she looked to him as a tennis role model because they both trained at the Tennis Academy of the South un-

der Gery Groslimond. Although they were not really close growing up, the two started running into each other a lot more because of college tennis.

"He went and played in Alabama, so he was a senior there when I was a freshman at North Carolina, and I ran into him again," Price said. "He actually got the assistant coaching job of Alabama's women's tennis team for the past two years, and so I started see-

ing him a lot more because we played Alabama. I'd see him at all of the big tournaments."

The friendship Price and Doverspike established made it clear why Doverspike reached out to Price about the U.S. Open National Playoffs Southern Qualifier through text message. She was unaware of the tournament because of her focus on finishing up her degree in communications by the end of this

summer. However, Price decided to sign up with Doverspike within a couple of days of the deadline to compete for the regional title.

"We only got to practice together the first day before the tournament, so we didn't even get to practice or really train together," said Price, the daughter of former Georgia Tech and NBA basketball player

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## HOF career didn't come easy for Smoltz

By **JERRY BEACH**  
The Sports Xchange

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Less than one-half of one percent of all Major League Baseball players are elected to the Hall of Fame, which means that every inductee has already overcome long odds.

But even by that measure, the four newest members of the Hall of Fame — second baseman Craig Biggio, left-handed pitcher Randy Johnson, right-handed pitcher Pedro Martinez and right-handed pitcher John Smoltz — authored unlikely paths to immortality.

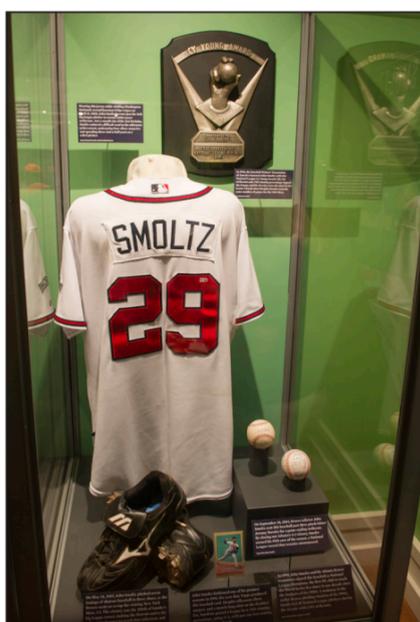
The quartet — the largest class of inductees elected by the Baseball Writers Asso-

ciation of America since Joe DiMaggio headed a class of four in 1955 — will be officially enshrined today on the grounds of the Clark Sports Center. Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz all earned induction during their first year on the ballot while Biggio made it in on his third try.

For Biggio, Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz, the bulk of their careers were spent making the adjustments that would allow them to survive, not thinking about eventually joining the most exclusive club in sports. But the last few months have provided them plenty of time for reflection.

During a conference call

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Former Atlanta Brave John Smoltz will be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame today. (Photo: Gregory J. Fisher-USA TODAY Sports)

## Freeman bypasses Gwinnett to rejoin Braves in St. Louis

By **GUY CURTRIGHT**  
Staff Correspondent

LAWRENCEVILLE — Williams Perez will make his third rehab start for Gwinnett today against Charlotte, with one more likely before the rookie returns to the Atlanta rotation.

A half-dozen players have spent time with the G-Braves on rehab assignment this season and Freddie Freeman was expected to be added to the list.

Instead, one productive Gulf Coast League rookie game proved enough for the first baseman to return to the Atlanta lineup Saturday night in St. Louis after a five-week absence because of a bruised right wrist.

Gwinnett manager Brian Snitker wasn't surprised that he wouldn't be getting Freeman for a couple of games. He had almost predicted it.

"I'll bet he's trying to

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