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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **North Carolina Athletic Trainers Association Selects Kevin King for the 2023 Hall of Fame**

North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association (NCATA) inducted Kevin King, Carolina Panthers and Dr. William Prentice, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and into its prestigious Hall of Fame during the annual Clinical Symposium and Business Meeting in Winston-Salem on March 4th, 2023.

The NCATA Hall of Fame is the highest honor an athletic trainer can receive. Honorees exemplify the mission of NCATA through significant contributions that enhance the quality of health care provided by athletic trainers and advance the profession. Since inducting its first class in 2000, only 29 other athletic trainers have been inducted into the NCATA Hall of Fame. Kevin King, Head Athletic Trainer of the Carolina Panthers, is only the second African American ever inducted as well as one of the youngest members. Bill Prentice, legendary faculty member authoring over 64 textbooks, received this honor after getting inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Mid- Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association in 2011. He served at UNC women's soccer athletic trainer for 26 year contributing to 18 National Championships. His contributions to the profession are unparalleled ([Prentice release](#))

Kevin King's interest in athletic training started at an early age – even before high school. King served as the bat boy for the Carolina Mudcats growing up and watching the athletic trainer for the Mudcats piqued King's interest in the profession. After high school, King attended East Carolina University and received his Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (2000). He left North Carolina and moved north and became a graduate assistant athletic trainer at the University of Connecticut, where he received his Master of Arts degree in athletic training (2003). From there, King got his first opportunity to work in the NFL as an intern for the Cleveland Browns. After a year with the Browns, King moved back to North Carolina to become an assistant athletic trainer at NC State University where his primary responsibility was football. King left NC State University after three years for their neighboring school and rival, UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a staff athletic trainer with the primary responsibility of football for the next six years. All of these opportunities provided King the skills necessary to take his career to the next level, where he was named assistant athletic trainer for his home state team, the Carolina Panthers in 2013. After a staffing change, King was named head athletic trainer for the Panthers in 2020.

When King's professional career brought him back to North Carolina, he began to get more involved in the NCATA. His biggest contributions have been with the Public Relations committee (co-chair) and serving on the Board of Directors as the Professional Sports liaison. Through his efforts, alongside of co-chair Nina Walker, the NCATA was awarded the NATA's Public Relations Contest "Best State Association Effort" four consecutive years during National Athletic Training Month (March) from 2016-2019. Other efforts spearheaded by King include a Memorial Tree Dedication, Art Gallery Exhibition/Reception, and the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte. King has been honored by the NCATA as the College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2011 and the Bill Griffin Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award in 2019. King continues to promote and educate our profession by regularly presenting on a variety

of topics at our state and national education meetings. King served on the Omar Carter Foundation Board, which is committed to helping young athletes and adults alike become better prepared in the case of a cardiac emergency, and the Korey Stringer Institute Board, a leader in heat and hydration research and policy and experience with preventing heat illness in high school, college and professional athletes.

King stated, “I have attempted to use the platform of Division I Athletics and the National Football League as an opportunity to bring awareness to athletic training, player health and safety. Relationships have been forged over the years with a variety of groups in the community in this effort, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, Pulse Point, Miss North Carolina USA, Clearwater Artist Studio, North Carolina Area Health Education Centers, the Office of the Governor of North Carolina, local and statewide lawmakers and university officials.”

His drive to promote the athletic training profession in the state of NC and beyond is unmatched. He uses his influence in a quiet and self-effacing manner and leads by example, encouraging everyone around him. King resides in Charlotte with his wife Nicole.

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**About NCATA: North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association**

Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 1,500 members of the athletic training profession. For more information, visit [www.ncathletictrainer.org](http://www.ncathletictrainer.org)