

# John Smoltz

## John Smoltz

A graduate of the Lansing, Michigan Babe Ruth League, John Smoltz was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. Smoltz is an eight-time All-Star and the winner of the 1997 Silver Slugger and Cy Young Awards. He finished his 21-year big league career with a 213-155 record, 154 saves, 3,084 strikeouts and a 3.33 ERA. The winner of 14 or more games 10 times he twice led the NL in wins (1996 and 2006), innings pitched (1996 and 1997) and strikeouts (1992 and 1996). The right-hander played 20 seasons for a Braves team that went to the playoffs in 14 consecutive seasons from 1991-2005, captured five NL pennants and won the 1995 World Series. Smoltz was a huge part of all that winning, posting a 15-4 mark in the postseason.

Also recognized for his humanitarian efforts, Smoltz has been honored with the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, the Roberto Clemente Award, the Branch Rickey Award, and was presented with the American Baseball Coaches Association's Honor Award.

Smoltz has been an advocate for raising arm care awareness across amateur baseball. Smoltz became the first pitcher to enter the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame following Tommy John surgery. Smoltz addressed the growing concern over Tommy John surgery during the conclusion of his 2015 Hall of Fame induction speech: **"It's an epidemic ...I want to encourage the families and parents that are out there that this is not normal to have a surgery at 14 and 15 years old. That you have time, that baseball is not a year-round sport, that you have an opportunity to be athletic and play other sports ... Every throw a kid makes today is a competitive pitch. They don't go outside, they don't have fun, they don't throw enough – but they're competing and maxing out too hard, too early, and that's why we're having these problems. Please, take care of those great future arms."**

