



# The **Legendary**

*Where Legends Are Remembered!*

**Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !**

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## **REMEMBERING ED "EASY ED" STAHL**

Written by MICHAEL ARACE / Excerpt from *The Columbus Dispatch* - November 9, 2017



Here in Columbus, in the shadow of college football, other enclaves in the sporting world thrive with lesser notice. Among the hardest, most historically significant of these communities is the basketball brotherhood, and sisterhood. It is in a state of mourning this.

In August, they gathered at an area hotel for the annual banquet hosted by the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association. A new class of honorees was enshrined, among them Fred Saunders who was followed by Ed Stahl, who did a short, piercing riff on how he learned humility from his high school coach, Jack Moore at Walnut Ridge, and his college coach, Dean Smith at North Carolina. "I used to call Coach Moore and say, 'This is Ed.' And he would say, 'Ed Who?'"

Stahl died in a car accident on November 4, 2017. He was on his way to meet a Walnut Ridge High teammate, Greg Olson, and Olson's wife, Mary, for a bible-study class at a church in Lewis Center. Stahl was 64. "I got the phone call, and it was like all the wind had been sucked out of me," Olson said. "I'm physically ill, to the point where it's hard for me to eat. He moved back to the area two years ago, and we reconnected, and what I found in that man was the type of person I wanted to be. Spiritually." They shared a championship year, 1971, did Stahl and Olson and Brad Hoffman, Chuck Goodyear, Dave Hanners, Tim Capehart and the rest of those Scots. If you've never experienced anything like they experienced — a ride with your best friends on a glowing meteor during your youth — well, you just cannot know how that stays with you.

For Olson, there was even another step beyond this realm. He and Stahl became best friends all over again, as if it were destined. "We first played basketball together in seventh grade," Olson said. "How many people can say they grew up with someone and, all these years later, you love that person now more than you ever did?" Walnut Ridge went undefeated on the way to the Class AAA (large-school) state championship in '71. Stahl was the big man in the middle. He was first-team all-everything, and Ohio's Player of the Year.

The Far East Side was, for all practical purposes, a suburban enclave back then. Walnut Ridge's starting five all went on to play Division I, but before any coach taught them humility, they learned their lessons at Livingston Park amid the charged atmosphere of the 1960s. Livingston Park was where the city game was concentrated at an epochal moment in Columbus basketball history. It was where Ed Ratleff, Skip Young, Nicky Connor, Jim Clemons, Bo Lamar, Freddy Saunders, et al., ran full court. The Walnut Ridge kids idolized these black basketball players — all of them college stars, many of them future pros. The young Scots wanted to be like them, so they got on a Livingston Avenue bus and crossed socioeconomic and racial boundaries to compete against them. They don't make travel teams like they used to.

"You're cool until you show you're not cool," Saunders said. "Ed (Stahl) and all of them, they was cool. They didn't bring no (stuff) and we didn't give them no (stuff) neither. If you're cool, you're just another human being. Color of the skin doesn't matter." Olson said, "We spent most of our time getting our butts kicked or waiting for 'next.'"

The respect that is shared among members of the Columbus basketball community deepens as the decades pass. They buried Stahl, a good man with a warm soul, a good father and provider, someone to emulate, spiritually. He was one of our centers. Rest Easy, Easy Ed.



## Interested in becoming a GCBLA Member?

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association has initiated a Membership Drive. For additional information, contact us via our website: [www.greatercbla.org](http://www.greatercbla.org) or email us: [legends@greatercbla.com](mailto:legends@greatercbla.com).

## 2017 GCBLA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony a Huge Success

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association held its 2017 edition of Hall of Fame Inductions and honoring student athletes with the MVP of Character Award and others. The August 26, 2017 gala event was well attended and featured acceptance speeches that dazzled and tugged at heart-strings. Log on to the GCBLA website for information on upcoming events and watch for announcement of the 2019 Hall of Fame Awards Gala. Details TBA.



### 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees were:

#### **CHARLES BARTON / Coach**

*Charles played professional in Switzerland in 1974 where he played for 1 year then he played for 7 more seasons in Sweden. Barton was the First African American to coach the Swedish Mens National Team. The first African American Head Coach in all the club teams.*

#### **ELAINE BOLTZ / Coach**

*Elaine engineered a sterling 30 year coaching career with the Northland HS Lady Vikings of the Columbus City League, she racked up a record of 381 wins against 173 losses, capturing the OSHAA AAA State Championship in 1982.*

#### **TOM BROWN / Coach**

*Tom was a all-round athlete who competed in many different sports, he excelled as education administrator at several schools in Columbus, Ohio and was phenomenal as a Junior High School Basketball Coach.*

#### **ALONZO "Nicky" CONNOR / Player**

*Conner was a part of what many consider to be one of the greatest Ohio high school basketball teams of all-time. Conner's Columbus East team lost just once in three years on their way to capturing two straight Class AAA state championships in 1968 and 1969.*

#### **MARSHAE DOTSON / Player**

*After a stellar high school career at Columbus Mifflin, Marshae was considered one of the best undersized collegiate post players in the country for the University of Florida Gators. She was 2009 1st Team All-Southeastern Conference (coaches).*

#### **JERRY FRANCIS SR. / Player**

*As a schoolboy legend at Columbus West HS 1964-66 Jerry lettered in baseball, basketball and cross-country all 3 years and was All-State 1st Team basketball and baseball as well as 1st Team All-American in basketball. Jerry played in the 1966 Dapper Dan Classic held in Pittsburgh, PA.*

#### **AVERY GODFREY / Player**

*Godfrey played high school basketball at Columbus East where he was a vital cog in the accomplishments of the Tigers. He played from 1962 to 1963. In his first year, Avery garnered All-League, All-City, and All-State honors and in 1963 won a State Championship.*

#### **RENE HAYNES / Player - Coach**

*Rene played high school basketball as a guard for The Wellington School from 1999-2003. played guard for the Michigan State Spartans, earning a spot on the BigTen All-Freshman Team*

*in 2004. Played professionally overseas in the Netherlands and Finland. She was assistant coach at Florida State University and is now on the staff at Duke University as assistant basketball coach.*

#### **FRED SAUNDERS / Player**

*For the Mohawk HS Indians of the Columbus City League Fred was every coaches' match-up nightmare as he earned All-City honors. Collegiate play was at University of Louisiana at Lafayette then Syracuse University. Saunders was drafted in the 2nd round of the 1974 NBA Draft (31st Overall) by the Phoenix Suns and then the Boston Celtics.*

#### **ED STAHL / Player**

*As a 6'10" center for Walnut Ridge of the Columbus City League, Ed was key in the Scots (25-0) 1971 run for the Ohio AAA State Title. After playing in the Dapper Dan Classic, Stahl received a scholarship to play basketball at the University of North Carolina. He played professionally overseas in Venice, Italy.*

#### **ESTABAN WEAVER / Player**

*Dubbed a "phenomenon" while still a 8th grader, Estaban was invited to the illustrious Nike Camp in Chicago, where only three 8th graders before him had been invited in the history of the camp. He entered high school as the #1 freshman in the country and had success with the Bishop Hartley Hawks and the Independence 76ers and then at Central State University.*

### 2017 State Proclamation Awarded to:

#### **ALEXIS PETERSON / Player**

*Alexis was All-State First Team as captain of the Northland HS Lady Vikings and earned 1st team All-City honors as a senior. As a senior guard at Syracuse University she earned Associated Press All-America second-team accolades. Alexis, a 5'7" guard, was the 15th overall pick in the WNBA Draft by the Seattle Storm.*

### 2017 MVP of Character Awardees were:

#### **JORDAN HORSTON / Africentric Early College HS**

#### **BRADEN NORRIS / Hilliard Bradley HS**

#### **SOLOMON PIERRE-LOUIS / The Wellington School**

#### **SOMMER PITZER / Westerville South HS**





## Columbus City League Coach of the Year

JOHN DAVIS, 1st Year Head Coach of the Linden McKinley Lady Panthers was tabbed as the Columbus City League's Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year. Two of John's players received Div.II All-District honors - 2nd Team and Honorable Mention.

### GCBLA: Keeping Up With 2015 Student Athlete Awardee SETH TOWNS



PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Seth Towns scored a career-high 30 points and Harvard remained undefeated in Ivy League play in defeating Brown 86-77.

Towns made 11 of 19 shots and was 4-for-4 on shooting from

behind the 3-point arc. Harvard made 25 baskets in all and was 11 of 18 from 3 (61 percent). Brown came as close as 64-59 but could get no closer.

Towns is the second Harvard player to reach 30 points this season. Towns has established career-high scores in the last two games, scoring 26 against Dartmouth

The Crimson (9-10) are 4-0 in the Ivy League, while Penn is 3-0. The first of two meetings between the teams is Feb. 10.

**Sophomore (2017-18):** College Sports Madness Ivy League Preseason Second Team ... Ivy League Honor Roll (Nov. 20, Dec. 4) ... Completed nine free throws against MIT (Nov. 10) ... Earned his second career double-double at Holy Cross, netting 24 points and securing 10 rebounds (Nov. 16) ... Earned three steals and five rebounds against Manhattan (Nov. 18) ... Played 33 minutes against Saint Mary's totaling 12 points, four rebounds and three assists (Nov. 23) ... Notched six 3-pointers, totaled 25 points and earned six rebounds for the Crimson against Kentucky (Dec. 2).



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### Lonnie Poindexter Honored Posthumously

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association bestowed its 2017 "MY BROTHERS' KEEPER" Award posthumously to Lonnie Poindexter in memory of his tireless efforts to mentor young people through little league football and AAU basketball. He was a staunch supporter of the basketball program at Linden McKinley High School, his alma mater and lent much support to GCBLA. Numerous family members were present to accept the award on his behalf.

### GCBLA 2015 Student Athlete Awardee

## AMANI BURKE

### SHINES FOR THE LADY BOBCATS OF OHIO UNIVERSITY



In a sense, Amani Burke took a relatively easy entry-level class called Bobcats Basketball 101 last season as a freshman. She got high marks as part of an Ohio University team that won 22 games and finished second in the Mid-American Conference East.

Burke, a sophomore from Eastmoor Academy, jumped to the head of the class this season out of necessity after last year's star-laden senior class led by Quiera Lampkins of Gahanna, Jasmine Weatherspoon of Northland and Yamonie Jenkins of Reynoldsburg left. "I found out this summer that I had to develop into being a leader during the summer, and I'm only 19 years old," she said. "I've never been a shouter unless it's to give tips and pointers. I try to lead by example." Burke is leading the team in scoring (13.0) and averaging 3.3 rebounds and 1.6 steals.

The schedule has included games against Power Five conference teams Michigan, Purdue and Virginia. The Bobcats thought they let a big one get away in a 74-61 loss at Michigan after trailing by three points entering the fourth quarter. But they landed a big one with a 77-71 victory over Purdue for the program's first victory at a Big Ten arena since 1994. Burke totaled 17 points, four rebounds and three three-pointers in that victory. "The No. 1 thing about that game was that it was a confidence booster — now we believe we can win," she said. "We worked hard all four quarters. It made us realize that if we stick to our principles that we can win against any opponent. We played together." Burke, a shooting guard, consistently puts up strong numbers. She had 16 points and two steals in a 70-68 loss to Furman and 14 points in a 77-59 loss to Virginia in the West Palm Invitational. "I'm a shooting guard, but I can help bring the ball up when needed and even play down low," she said. "We are coached to play in different spots."

Brother Trey Burke of the New York Knicks gives her advice, but most is not basketball. "We're both pretty busy, but we'll talk and I'll ask him for advice," she said. "We do Bible study over the phone."