



The **Legendary**

Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !

OCT./NOV./DEC. 2018

OHIO: CHAMPION OF SPORTS

Ohio is a hotbed of great sports moments from being a place where High School, Collegiate, and NBA/WNBA players and coaches where professional sports have played significant roles in defining Ohio and it's residents. Each of us identify with our sport teams and love the players like family. All of this makes up the larger story of Ohio sports and fill our memories for years as we share these with the next generation and watch their memories being created. Central Ohio is one those places where great sport moments have occurred. One of GCBLA's strategic goals is to create a Basketball Exhibit for Greater Columbus and surrounding counties. With the assistance of The Ohio Historical Connection we are able to accomplish a portion of that goal. GCBLA will have an exhibit case that will detail the development of GCBLA and display various basketball artifacts and memorabilia along with photos. Hopefully a larger exhibit is on the horizon that would feature a more in-depth look at State Title teams, All-American players, coaches and other contributors, and including a feature on Georgeann Wells, the 1st woman to dunk in a college game, from Columbus Northland High School.

We want to thank The Ohio Historical Connection for allowing GCBLA to share in such a memorable project that will continue to bring these memories to life for generations to come. The GCBLA display will be open to the public on Saturday, March 16, 2019. For additional information contact the Ohio Historical Connection.

GCBLA 2017 MVP of Character Awardee



JORDAN HORSTON

Makes Good on the International Stage

MINSK, BELARUS

FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup 2018 - Horston has been named the TISSOT MVP at the FIBA U17 Women's Basketball World Cup 2018 after helping lead USA to the title.

Horston impressed throughout the tournament and finished with averages of 10.1 pts, 7.0 rebs, 5.1 assts and 3.4 stls.

The 17-year-old guard was joined in the All-Star Five by two USA team-mates in Haley Jones and Aliyah Boston.

CENTRAL OHIO CAGERS

WHO HAVE CLIMBED THE RANKS

KATIE SMITH: Logan HS, Ohio State, USA Olympic Team, WNBA player/coach, Neismith HOF inductee.

JIM CLEAMONS: Linden McKinley HS, Ohio State, NBA player/coach. **HELEN DARLING:** Brookhaven HS, Penn State, USA World University Games, WNBA player.



Katie Smith



Jim Clemons



Helen Darling



1st Annual FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

GCBLA just held it's 1st annual fundraiser luncheon on Saturday, June 16, 2018. Approximately 60 persons attended the event, which included 25 or so of the individuals nominated for consideration to be selected for induction into the 2019 HOF Class. Some of the nominees attending the luncheon were **Mike Jackson** (*Sports Media*), **Terry Guice** (*Official*), **Tameka Whitehead** (*Player*), **Scott Weakley** (*Player*), **Lisa Payne** (*Player*), **Dr. John Howard** (*Player*), **Van Gregg** (*Player*), **Tony Lucas** (*Player*), **Robert Causey** (*Official*). Nominees were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and provide a brief Bio of their career. A DJ was present to create a festive atmosphere with soft Jazz and R&B sounds. Nominees also signed a designed poster which shows name, school and uniform number or information for other categories. This poster will be framed and displayed at the 2019 HOF event. We want to thank all who participated in this event celebrating our legends and special kudos to those who continue to support our mission and vision.

The selection of the 2019 inductees will be announced in January 2019 along with the date/time/place of the HOF enshrinement.

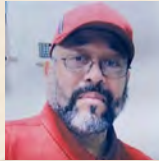


Photos by Terry Gilliam



Columbus City Schools Contemplates Changes

The Columbus City School Board is considering eliminating the high school segments of Marion Franklin and Linden McKinley with both schools remaining as middle schools. The Marion Franklin HS students to combine with South HS and Linden HS to combine with East HS.



COLUMBUS WEST HS BASKETBALL LEGEND LAID TO REST

Jerome "Jerry" Francis Sr. of Camp Wood, Texas passed away Monday, May 14, 2018, at his home. He was born in Columbus, Ohio on January 15, 1948, to Charles Henry Francis and Bettie Jane Carter Francis.

He was a schoolboy legend at Columbus West High School 1964-1966. For the Cowboys he lettered in baseball, basketball, and cross-country all three years. In 1964 he was ALL-City 2nd Team basketball and 3rd Team baseball, 1965 All-City 1st Team basketball and baseball. He was selected High School All-American 3rd Team basketball in 1965. In 1966 he was 1st Team All-City and All-State as well as 1st Team All-American in basketball and baseball. Jerry played in the 1966 Dapper Dan Classic held in Pittsburgh, PA then attended University of Dayton from 1966 to 1968 followed by a stint in the United States Army sending him to Vietnam in 1968 to 1970. After that he attended Capital University from 1970 to 1972. His love of sports at an early age led him to be recognized by the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association which inducted him into their Hall of Fame in 2017.

He was a member of the Southwest Officials Assoc. and Texas Assoc. of Sports Officials refereeing baseball, softball, volleyball, and basketball from little leagues to college level.

Jerry had a passion for the Martial Art. After studying stateside and abroad, he went on to become a Senior Grandmaster with a 9th degree Black belt in Shotokan Karate (Japanese) and a 1st degree Black belt in Taekwondo (Korean). He was Sensei and Kaicho to a number of students across Texas.

Jerome accepted Christ and was baptized in 2000 at First Apostolic Church of Austin. He chose to spend his retirement years in the Nueces Canyon area.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Francis Sr. and Bettie Jane Francis, brother, Johnny Francis, and nephew, Nathan Francis.

Those left to honor and cherish his memory are his wife Ana Francis; son Jerome Francis Jr. and his wife Mimi Lang-Francis; daughters, Evadne Jevon Francis and Marci-Ana Janel Francis; grandchildren, Jaren, Jarel, and Jeremiah Francis, and Ava Stennis; brother, Charles Francis and sister, Julie Francis; nieces Tamara Francis-Fisher and her husband Daniel and Nathana Francis; 4 great-nephews and 2 great-nieces.

Graveside service was held Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at Fort Sam National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas 78209.



GCBLA: Keeping Up With 2015 Student Athlete Awardee KEILAH CAUSEY

Causey, a junior majoring in Communications from The Wellington School in Columbus, Ohio is jumping her way in the sand these days. This past season 2017-18 Causey etched in the record books with the 3rd best Triple Jump in Ohio University women's track and field program history. After a successful freshman and sophomore season as a Mid-American Conference Championship qualifier in the Triple Jump, Causey hit her stride with a life time personal best of 38'5" in the Ohio University Buckeye Tune up meet. This jump placed her in the top 10 in the Mid-American Conference.

Keilah continues to keep pace on and off the track with her balance as a student athlete, recognized as a academic student in Track & Field, Black Student member of the BSCP, 2018 Cherry Blossom Invitational Tripler & Long Jump Champion and Chaplin of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

"One of my goals is to continue to compete with the best in the Midwest and find ways to score points for my team, while using my leadership along the way"

-Keilah Causey



www.greatercbla.org
legends@greatercbla.com

P.O. BOX 307412
GAHANNA, OHIO 43230-6280