



GCBLA:
Where Legends Are Remembered



GREATER COLUMBUS BASKETBALL LEGENDS ASSOCIATION
2019 HALL OF FAME
5th ENSHRINEMENT CEREMONY



Congratulations Inductees!

Award-Winning Ice Cream Fit for Legends.



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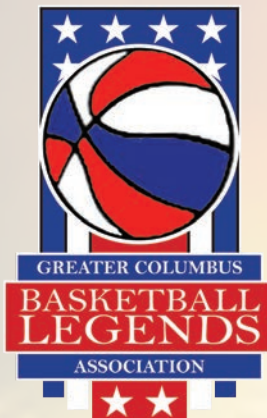
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GREATER COLUMBUS BASKETBALL LEGENDS ASSOCIATION

During the 1920's, the game of basketball had long been developed but there was no prospect of making a career out of the sport due to the disbanding of the most popular leagues and teams. The first professional league was disbanded in 1904 and the Original Celtics, "The Fathers of Basketball", were disbanded in 1928. Nevertheless, the YMCA kept basketball alive by spreading knowledge of the game across the USA and the rest of the world. Basketball soon grew in popularity and brought a sense of camaraderie to communities such as Columbus, Ohio. Thus, the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association was founded on September 8, 2012 to provide recognition and support to former players, coaches, sports media personalities, and others who have significantly influenced the sport of basketball dating back to the 1920s.



The idea for the GCBLA was initially discussed during a conversation between, **Skip Young**, current president, and his friend, John "Pineapple" Louis, who thought it was necessary to record the history of the basketball legends from Franklin and surrounding counties. Skip shared this idea with other former players and they envisioned that the organization would emphasize the impact of basketball on the Ohio community, be responsible for telling their own story, and help the younger generation of athletes in their academic and athletic careers. Unfortunately, before Louis could witness the realization of this dream, he passed away from cancer. Unbeknown to Skip, **Dr. Wallace Chandler** also had a similar vision and they came together, then called upon **John Howard Jr., Phd** to join them. The seeds planted by this founding trio came to life 20 years later, forming the GCBLA in honor of Louis and other influential basketball players who have since passed away.

The current executive board took it upon themselves to lead by example through their athletic and

academic achievements. **Skip Young**, president, played basketball at Linden McKinley HS, Florida State University, and was drafted by the Boston Celtics. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Social Welfare and is the former basketball coach at Florida A&M University Developmental Research School, where they have won three state titles and appeared in seven state final

fours within 11 years. **Reginald Lee**, Historian/Archivist women's basketball, earned a Bachelor of Science from Central State University (1975), and graduated from Columbus East HS (1970). Reggie coached at Walnut Ridge and Brookhaven HS - Track and field, Cross Country, and Girls Basketball. Reggie has coached some of the most recognized and honored players in Columbus, like Helen Darling and Brittany Hunter, He has recently been inducted in the Ohio HOF (2019), recognizing his outstanding coaching career. **Kenneth E. Clark**, secretary/treasurer, received an Athletic Scholarship to play basketball at Hannibal-LaGrange Junior College in 1972, where he received an Associates of Arts degree. He played semi-professional basketball for 2 years prior to attending Hannibal-LaGrange Junior College. Kenneth advanced to Central Missouri State University in 1974, also on an Athletic Scholarship, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. Kenneth retired after 24 years of service for a government agency. He is also a graduate of East High School, Class of 1967. Sgt. at Arms, **Alfred Young** earned his Bachelor of Arts, in Communication/English from Central State University in 1977. He played both college and high school football. He graduated in 1971 from Linden McKinley HS, in Columbus, Ohio where he also ran track. Al worked as the Director of Re-Entry Center at Alvis House for thirty-five (35) years. Al's love for sports and his dedication to assisting youth in developing their talents led him to forming the Columbus Hidden Gems AAU team basketball team.

GCBLA Eligibility Criteria

Inductees were selected under the following criteria:

- Outstanding performance in basketball as a player, coach, media expert, administrator, or supporter/sponsor
- Contributor to youth development, business, education, or improvement to social affairs beyond basketball
- Application of one's academic skills in life to benefit youth and society
- Recognized by peers and others who possess knowledge of your basketball talents and who were willing to nominate you for your athletic and or academic achievements resulting from your participation in the game
- Awards received (i.e. All-conference/league/city, All-State, All-American, MVP, coaching awards, media recognition, etc.), postseason success, leadership, outstanding achievement in basketball, national or international recognition/honors, athletic or professional success while in or after high school, college, professional, or recreational, semi-professional levels of athletics
- Display of sportsmanship and citizenship and ambassador to the game

The Eligibility Criteria is subject to review and revision, in whole or in part, by the GCBLA at any time and without public notice. Inductee/Awardee nominations are subjected to the sole approval of the GCBLA and/or its appointed selection committee.

GCBLA Hall of Fame Inductees Categories

FORMATIVE ERA: 1892-1949

GOLDEN ERA: 1950-1979

SILVER ERA: 1980-1999

MODERN ERA: 2000-Present



GCBLA Mission

Provide recognition and support to former players, coaches, sports media personalities, and others who have significantly influenced the sport of basketball in the Greater Columbus Area.

GCBLA Vision

To acknowledge, promote, and disseminate the illustrious history and impact that basketball as a sport had on the Greater Columbus Area, and to create a better overall image of sports to current and future participants of basketball by building community relations with charitable and educational leadership organizations.

GCBLA Motto

GCBLA: *Where Legends Are Remembered!*

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legends@greatercbla.com



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EDWARD "SKIP" YOUNG
President

KENNETH CLARK
Secretary/Treasurer

REGINALD L. LEE
Historian / Archivist

ALFRED YOUNG
Sgt. at Arms

GREATER COLUMBUS BASKETBALL LEGENDS ASSOCIATION
5th ENSHRINEMENT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019

Ohio Historical Connection / 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

Meet and Greet 6:00 - 7:00 pm ★ Program begins at 7:00 pm

P R O G R A M M E

- LOBBY LEVEL -

Welcome GCBLA Executive Committee

Meet and Greet 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees

- UPSTAIRS on 2nd LEVEL -

Invocation **DINNER**

Prayer for recently deceased Players and Coaches

Introduction / Recognition of Founders GCBLA Executive Committee Member

Recognition of Officers

Recognition of Members

Recognition of Former Hall of Fame Inductees

Recognition of Dignitaries and Distinguished Guests

- AUDITORIUM -

ENSHRINEMENT CEREMONY

Master of Ceremonies: DEWAYNE CUPE

Red Carpet Entrance 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees

PROCLAMATIONS

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTIONS Cy Butler, *Coach* / Junior Gunnell, *Coach* / Al Washington, *Player*

Special Recognition: MVP of Character

STUDENT/ATHLETE AWARD CJ Anthony / Taylor McMichael / Jerry "JJ" Saunders Jr.

INDUCTIONS
Sen. Hearcel F. Craig / *Leadership* Kenneth E. Clark / *Player*
Wil Haygood / *Felix Hoover Awardee* Van Gregg / *Player*
Mike Jackson / *Television Media NBC4* Brittany Hunter / *Player*
S. Yolanda Robinson / *Media/Marketing* Tony Lucas / *Player*
Gayle Saunders / *Corporate Public Relations* Keith Neal / *Player*
Terry Guice / *Official* Mike Stumpf / *Player*
Joe Toone / *Official* Scott Weakley / *Player*
Johnny Clark / *Skills Coach* Dr. John Howard Jr. / *Player, Co-Founder*
Don Sellers / *Coach* Skip Young / *Player, Co-Founder*
Tomeka Brown / *Player*

Acknowledgements / Closing Remarks Edward 'Skip' Young

DEWAYNE CUPE / *Master of Ceremonies*

Dewayne Cupe has been an entertainer for more than four decades. He has been a radio personality, D.J., musician, and a professional speaker. He has helped to produce fashion shows, and corporate events. Dewayne is a graduate of Linden McKinley High School and has earned a B.A. in communications from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Dewayne is a member of several organizations and is the founder/owner of Wreckshop Entertainment, a company that is well versed in all facets of entertainment, which includes but is not limited to production, sound reinforcement, comedy, and event planning. He is currently a professional clothier and fashion consultant for Tailored Brands, the largest men's clothier in the U.S.



MVP of CHARACTER

CJ ANTHONY / *Harvest Prep HS*

The 2018-2019 season at Harvest Prep was special for me and my teammates as we became State Champions and I was blessed with State Player of the Year honors. With the championships won I have also been awarded with 1st Team All-Metro, District and Conference Player of the Year. I have also been blessed to achieve 1000 career points, only the 2nd at HP to achieve that mark. In my off time I volunteer with Young Warriors a program that helps to develop future young athletes. During school I am the class president and maintain a 3.6 GPA. In the next phase of my life I would like to attend college and study physical therapy.



JERRY "JJ" SAUNDERS / *Pickerington North HS*

Jerry Saunders Jr., a sophomore, excels in math and is a consistent academic performer. He's earned the *Student Pillars of Character* award. Recognized as a leader amongst his peers, he is an elite basketball standout for the class of 2022. His AAU teams were ranked nationally in the top 10. Saunders led his junior high basketball teams to winning their respective league championships. As a freshman, he led his junior varsity team to a league championship with a record of 22-1 and played and lettered with the varsity team, winning the 2019 OCC District Championship. He aspires to be a business leader, earning his college degree in business or finance and continuing to earn his MBA. He also has dreams of playing professional basketball after college.



TAYLOR McMICHAEL / *Linden McKinley HS*

Taylor McMichael, class of 2021, is a starting point guard on the Linden McKinley Lady Panthers' basketball team. A steady player with speed and excellent ball-handling skills, she has shown ability as a long-range shooter. While maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Taylor has performed community service through her STEM class, working with a OSU agricultural program and has worked with the Moms2B initiative. She was named Honorable Mention All-City her freshman year and as a sophomore was 1st Team All-City North Division and Honorable Mention All-District.





INTRODUCING THE 2019 GCBLA Hall of Fame

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **INDUCTEES**

GCBLA: *Where Legends Are Remembered*

TOMEKA BROWN / *Player*

Tomeka Brown, Marion Franklin HS class of 1998, had an illustrious career at the south end school as a prolific point and shooting guard. She garnered All-City honors all four years, Honorable Mention All-State honors as a sophomore and junior and 2nd Team All-State as a senior. Tomeka earned All-American honors as a sophomore and as a junior when she averaged 32pts, 10rebs, 6asts per game. She finished with 1,825 career points for the Lady Red Devils. Earning a scholarship with The Ohio State University Lady Buckeyes, Tomeka played in every game and had 80 career starts. She was selected All-Big Ten Honorable Mention as both a junior and senior and finished 11th All-Time in career steals and 20th All-Time in career assists. Her production at OSU caught the attention of the WNBA where she was drafted 55th overall by the Orlando Miracle in 2002. After the WNBA, Tomeka turned her skills and knowledge to coaching with stints assisting the Africentric Lady Nubians to a state championship, then coached Harvest Prep Lady Crusaders and her alma mater Marion Franklin Lady Red Devils. Basketball has called for Tomeka to wear many different hats - she has been the University of Cincinnati Women's Basketball director of basketball operations, assistant director at the Neighborhood House, Inc., Columbus Recreation and Parks, director at Beatty Center, a substitute teacher at Columbus City Schools, she has been a mentor and public speaker. She is the 2002 recipient of the Alex Shumate Leadership Award. Tomeka Brown has an extensive variety of community service affiliations.



JOHNNY CLARK / *Skills Coach*

Former pro point guard/shooting guard, Johnny Clark, is a former Assistant Player Development/Shooting Coach for the Toronto Raptors, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and one of the premier basketball clubs in all of Europe, Olympiakos, in Athens, Greece. He has served as a Consultant in Player Development with the Milwaukee Bucks, the Indiana Fever (WNBA), and has coached at the minor league level serving as the lead assistant coach for the Great Falls Explorers (CBA) and the Fresno HeatWave (ABA). Clark also served as a Player Development Coach for the Shanxi Brave Dragons in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) in 2015. In May of 2013, Clark was named head coach of the Lechugeros de Leon Basketball Club for the 2013-14 season. Lechugeros competes in the LNBP - the top men's pro basketball league in Mexico. Clark was chosen as November LNBP Coach of the Month during that season. Respectfully known in basketball circles as "the Jumpshooter", Clark has shared his training techniques with or has served as an off-season Shooting/Player Development Coach for many current and former NBA, WNBA, European League and collegiate players. Coach Clark is also the Founder and Director of the Jump25.com OHIO All-Star Basketball Classic, which annually features many of the top mens and womens college seniors from Ohio and nationally, as well as the outstanding boys and girls high school seniors from Central Ohio and around the state.



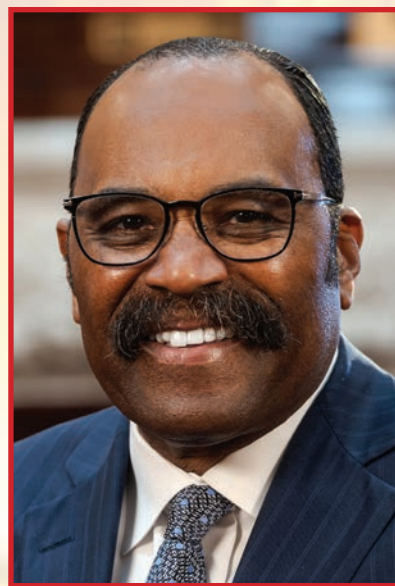
KENNETH E. CLARK / *Player*

Kenney Clark never played varsity basketball for the Columbus East HS Tigers during the brightest part of their illustrious basketball history but he did play forward on the Tigers' 1967 Hi-Y State Championship Team his senior year. He played semi-professional basketball for 2 years prior to receiving an Athletic Scholarship to play basketball for the Hannibal-LaGrange Junior College Spartans in 1972, where he averaged 18 points and 7 rebounds per game for two years and received an Associates of Arts degree. Kenneth advanced to Central Missouri State University in 1974, also on an Athletic Scholarship averaging 14 points and 6 rebounds per game for the Mules. After two years he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He played basketball in the Columbus Industrial League for Westinghouse and played in a Semi-Professional League for Jacobs and Sons AAU. He has retired after serving 22 years for the Franklin County Government and he was included in the 2004 edition of *Who's Who in Black Columbus*. In 2013 Kenney received a Resolution from the Franklin County Commissioner's Office and is a board member on the James Preston Poindexter Foundation and he also works with the Consumer Advisory Council. Kenneth is the current GCBLA Secretary/Treasurer.



SEN. HEARCEL F. CRAIG / *Leadership*

Hearcel F. Craig brings a strong background of public service to the Statehouse as he serves as state Senator following two two-year terms as state Representative. Craig's commitment to the residents of Columbus began decades ago when he worked as legislative liaison for the Ohio Department of Youth Services. During his tenure at ODYS, Craig drafted legislation and secured legislative sponsorship for bills introduced in the Ohio General Assembly, including legislation which secured \$83 million for much needed capital improvements to ODYS facilities. He has been director of recruitment & admissions for City Year, the former executive director of the Hilltop Civic Council, elected as a Columbus City Councilman. During the past three decades, Craig has volunteered his time as a trustee on numerous community service boards, many focused on education. He has served as a member of the Columbus Public Schools Equity Task Force, the Columbus State Community College Department of Business and Industry Technology Curriculum Committee, the Southside Learning and Development Center's Board of Trustees, the Ohio Hunger Task Force Board of Trustees and the Columbus Cultural Arts Center Board of Trustees, and more recently served on the board of the Military Veterans Resource Center. Craig also served as board chair for the Alliance for Cooperative Justice, board chair for the Franklin County Prevention Institute and chair of the State Education Committee for the Columbus Chapter of the NAACP. He proudly served our nation in the United States Army from 1970-1972.



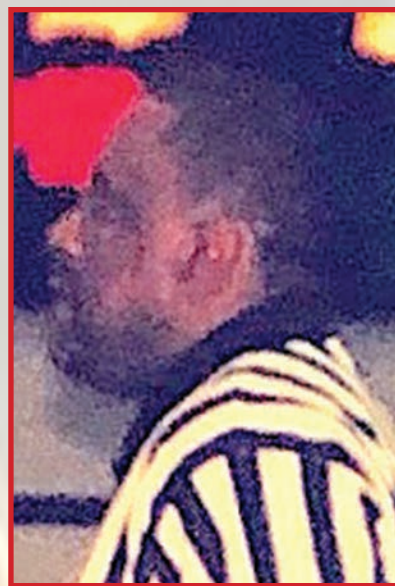
VAN GREGG / *Player*

Coached by his dad - the great Russ Gregg, guard/forward Van Gregg had carved out his place in the Ram's basketball records book by the time he graduated from Whitehall-Yearling HS in 1971. Van left Whitehall as their all-time leading scorer and the Franklin County 1971 leading scorer at 30ppg. During his three years of varsity basketball, Van compiled a 48-16 record and led the Rams to a league championship and a Central District title as a senior and racked up individual accolades as a All-League selection his sophomore, junior and senior seasons and received All-State and Honorable Mention All-American as a senior. Van Gregg's basketball exploits continued on the next level with the Clemson Tigers where he sported a hefty 24ppg on the freshman team. As a sophomore he scored 33 points vs Georgia Tech, which was a school record for most points scored in a first varsity game. He led the Tigers in scoring his junior and senior years and led them to a berth at the NIT. Gregg was drafted out of high school in the 17th round to play baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies but passed on it to play basketball at Clemson. It appears that everything worked out for the good. His life successes have taken many directions which have included teaching (35 years), coaching basketball and golf, serving eight years on Whitehall City Council, and is now the Public Safety Director for the City of Whitehall.



TERRY GUICE / *Official*

Terry Guice graduated from Linden McKinley HS in 1966 at a time when the Panthers' rich basketball tradition was just being birthed. He was a two year starter at guard on the basketball team at Linden for the 64-65 and 65-66 seasons and he came from a family that had a strong basketball pedigree, putting him squarely in the inside lane of the sport while playing along side his brother Eddie who has become a all-time Linden great. Terry did play industrial league basketball for OSU Hospital as a captain and organizer. He has been a referee for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and has officiated eight State Tournaments as well as many Regional and District Tournaments. Terry Guice has been Athletic Director at World Harvest and has worked with many coaches and new officials.



WIL HAYGOOD / *Author*

Wil Haygood is a prominent American journalist and author of several best-selling biographies and other works of non-fiction. Haygood was born in 1954 in Columbus, Ohio. He grew up in Columbus, Ohio and graduated from Miami University in 1976. Haygood worked as a manager at a department store in New York City but later was fired from that position. He decided to become a journalist. Although he had little formal training, the Charleston (West Virginia) Gazette hired him as a copy editor. Two years later, Haygood accepted a position with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. In 1984, Haygood became a staff writer at the Boston Globe and as a national and foreign correspondent. He remained with this newspaper for the next seventeen years. In 1991, he became a writer for the Style Section of the Washington Post. Haygood has received numerous awards, including the Sunday Magazine Editors Award, the New England Associated Press Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists Award for Foreign Reporting. Haygood has written several books. These include *Two on the River*, *King of Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.*, *The Haygoods of Columbus: A Love Story*, and *The Butler: A Witness to History*. Most recently he penned *Tigerland*, which is the story of the illustrious legacy of the Columbus East HS basketball and baseball state championships in 1969 and their dominance during a time of great racial oppression in Columbus, Ohio and the nation.



BRITTANY HUNTER / *Player*

Former UConn standout Brittany Hunter joined head coach Tonya Cardoza as an assistant women's basketball coach at Temple. Cardoza is quite familiar with Hunter's work ethic, serving as her assistant coach during the pair's time at Connecticut. Hunter started in 24 of 30 games as a senior, averaging 5.5 ppg and 3.3 rpg while leading the Huskies to the NCAA Final Four, the BIG EAST regular season title and the BIG EAST Tournament championship. A solid post player, Hunter helped her squad to two BIG EAST regular season titles, Two BIG EAST Tournament titles, the Elite Eight and the Final Four during her three-year UConn career. She spent her freshman season at Duke, averaging 8.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg and 1.2 bpg in 27 appearances. A Columbus, Ohio native, Hunter was the consensus top-rated high school player in the nation in recruiting rankings by All-Star Girls Report, Full Court Press, Blue Star and All-Game Sports. The 2003 Parade National Player of Year, Hunter holds the distinction of being the first woman to ever compete in the McDonald's All-American slam dunk competition. As a senior at Brookhaven High School, she was selected Miss Basketball in Ohio, was one of three players selected Associated Press Ohio Player of the Year and Associated Press First Team All-State. Hunter was also a *USA Today* First Team All-American and the Gatorade Ohio Player of the year. Hunter graduated from UConn in May of 2008 with a degree in sports administration.



MIKE JACKSON / *Media*

Mike Jackson has worked at NBC4 since 1994. He has more than 30 years of broadcast experience, with his first job coming in his hometown of Charleston, WV at radio station WCHS-AM.

Mike's first television position was at WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, WV, where he anchored the late evening news. He was also a sports reporter at WCHS-TV in Charleston, before working in Columbus the first time with the local ABC affiliate. Mike also served as operations manager and announcer for WBES-FM in Charleston, W.Va. News Director at WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, WV, and served as evening anchor at NewsChannel 8 in Washington, DC before he returned to Columbus.

Mike is a graduate of West Virginia State College with an Associate Arts degree in mass communication.



Mike proudly received a first-place award for reporting by the National Association of Black Journalists in 1993 in Washington, D.C. Other honors include four local Emmy nominations for reporting and two-second place awards for reporting by the Society of Professional Journalists. He excelled as the 2015 and 2017 GCBLA Master of Ceremonies.

DR. JOHN HOWARD JR. / *Player, Co-Founder*

University High School Basketball

University High School career leading scorer 1600 points + 3 yrs
Franklin County Sophomore of the Year 1961-62
Franklin County leading scorer 1962-63/1963-64
All-time Top Ten Franklin County leading scorer for 3-yr career
Ohio High School First Team All-State – 1962-63/1963-64
High School All-American 1964

University of Cincinnati Basketball

Most Valuable Freshman Basketball Player – Univ. of Cinn. (1964-65)
Most Valuable Basketball Player – Univ. of Cinn. (1968) (1,000 pts scorer)
Univ. of Cinn., James P. Kelly Athletic Hall of Fame Induction 2004
Missouri Valley Championship 1965-66
NCAA Post-Season – lost to the eventual National Champions – Texas Western
Drafted by the Cinn. Royals, Denver Rockets, and Harlem Globetrotters 1968



The Original Harlem Globetrotters Professional Basketball

John (“The Cincinnati Kid”) Howard Jr., PhD, was a first year Starter at Shooting Guard on the International Unit and played opposite Playmaker/Dribbler extraordinaire Fred “Curly” Neal on the National Unit with Meadowlark Lemon.

Founder and President of Center Jump Professional Basketball, Inc.

Dr. Howard, the Founder and President of Mixed Gender Basketball Association, Inc. and Center Jump Professional Basketball, Inc. CJPB, Inc. - originated the first ever Professional Co-Ed Basketball League.

Education

B.S. Degree, The University of Cincinnati, M.A./PhD Degrees, The Ohio State University

Professional Career

However, Dr. Howard’s shining moments may have occurred beyond athletics when he committed his career to educating America’s youth. John taught graduate and undergraduate courses at several universities. As Professor Emeritus of English and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at St. John’s River State College in Palatka, Florida, Dr. Howard taught nine English Composition and Literature courses.

He has written and produced over 100 academic and scholarly journals in Diffusion Research, General, and Vocational Education. Over 30 students have written books under his tutelage. A former classroom teacher, researcher, state department supervisor, high school principal, associate superintendent and superintendent of schools, he reached finalist status as national superintendent of the year.

He owns his own publishing company and has produced his magnum opus; the Mysterious Gems six book fiction series, leading with *The Black Ruby*, *The Blue Ice Topaz*, *The Purple Sea Pearl*, along with a colored-picture book of the former.

He is recognized nationally and internationally as the first author worldwide to have written not one but three fiction books in “E-Prime,” sentences grammatically arranged that excludes the use of “To Be Verbs” - Am, Be, Been, Being, Is, Are, Was, Were, and Become. No To Be Verbs appear in this fictional series. Every sentence is written in active voice; narration, description, and dialogue.

EDWARD “SKIP” YOUNG / *Player, Co-Founder*

Linden McKinley High School

- One of Linden's All-Time Leading Scorers
- All-City 2nd team as a sophomore
- All-City 1st team as a junior and senior
- State Final Four MVP 1967
- Co-Captain 1st State Championship team in school history
- 1st team All-State
- Selected Captain-South team of All-Ohio game
- High School All-American
- Inducted into Linden McKinley HS Hall of Fame 2011

Florida State University

- One of 1st African-Americans recruited and signed by a predominately white University in the South
- 2nd leading scorer as a sophomore and junior
- Ranked 12th All-Time assists leaders
- Ranked in top 100 All-Time scores
- Co-Captain of team with best record in school history 23-3, 1969-70
- Ranked among top five guards in college
- Inducted into FSU Hall of Fame in 2006
- Currently serves on FSU Hall of Fame committee

Professional career

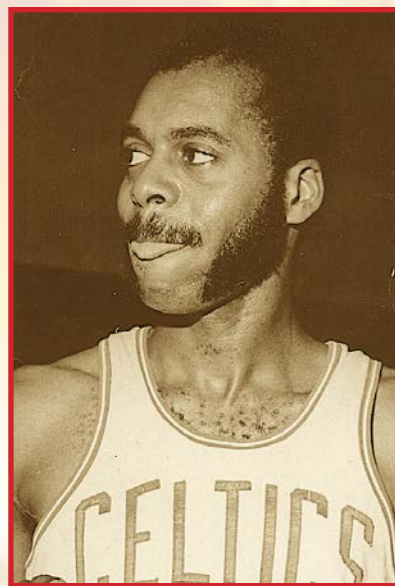
- Drafted by NBA - Boston Celtics, ABA New York Nets
- Played briefly with ABA Kentucky Colonels

Education

- BS Degree in Criminology and Social Welfare
- Studies in Public Administration Masters program at FSU

Professional Career / Coaching

- WCTV-6 sports reporter and cameraman for feature stories
- Director of investigations for Florida Commission on Human Relations
- Adjunct Professor FSU African American Studies program
- Head Coach Girls Basketball FAMU DRS HS, Tallahassee, Florida, 1st state title in school history 2004 and 2011/2012
- 7 final four appearances in 11 years of coaching
- Selected Coach of the year 2004 and 2011
- School ranked as 2nd best Girls program in the State of Florida regardless of Class
- Co-founder of Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association (GCBLA) 2011
- CEO/Founder High Five Sports and Academic Foundation, assisting youth in the areas of sports, education, business and leadership
- Founder of Optimum Performance Training Systems, Inc.
- Has organized and conducted Basketball camps in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Los Angeles, and Ghana West Africa
- Book writer - *“Bring me my hushpuppies”* (Childrens) and *“The Panther Way: Rise, Fall, and Rejuvenation of a Championship Culture”*



TONY LUCAS / *Player*

Tony Lucas began racking up the accolades at an early age while playing AAU basketball where he was named to the AAU National All-American Team. Tony came to the local forefront as the small forward/guard for the Bishop Hartley HS Hawks. His team honors include leading scorer and rebounder three consecutive years and he is still the all-time leading scorer and rebounder in the school's history, playing only his freshman, sophomore and junior seasons for the Hawks. His senior season was at Maine Central Institute, in Pittsville, Maine, a prep school with a national basketball reputation where Sam Cassell is among its noted attendees. While playing for the Huskies, Tony earned a spot as a McDonald's All-American. He played his collegiate freshman season at Youngstown State University before transferring to Alderson-Broaddus College in West Virginia. While playing for the A-B Battlers, in Tony's sophomore, junior and senior seasons, he was selected 2nd Team All-Conference and the All-Tournament Team. His junior year he won the Heart and Hustle Award in the tournament and as a senior he averaged 30 points per game in tournament play. Tony Lucas participated in the Worthington Summer League, playing for Aqua Science and 2-time league champion BJ's All-Stars. He had coached in the Reynoldsburg community over 15 years and has helped many young ladies receive college scholarships and he has volunteered in many AAU basketball leagues.



KEITH NEAL / *Player*

Keith Neal graduated from Columbus Central HS in 1972 where he played basketball for the Pirates under the guidance of Coach Al Bowen. As a senior Keith led his team in scoring and was the leagues 2nd leading scorer with a earned 25ppg average. He was selected for All-District honors while guiding the Pirates to the 1972 District Championship. Keith Neal played basketball at Hill Jr. College in Hillsboro, Texas where he earned All-League honors representing the Rebels. After his collegiate career, Keith played in the Columbus Old Timers' League and then a stint in a Pro-Am NBA Winter League for Temple University sponsored team in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His successes include: he has been the Executive Director of the J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center, Assistant Basketball Coach at Columbus West HS, helping the Cowboys achieve three consecutive City League Championships ('98, '99, '00). Keith also has 32 years experience as a Class I Basketball Referee. He has an extensive list of community service involvements and has received many awards in recognition of those activities. Aside from his past as a basketball player, coach and referee, Keith Neal has also been a trainer, a mentor, a poet, and has established a street ministry. His contributions to sports and his community have been plentiful.



S. YOLANDA ROBINSON / *Media/Marketing*

S. Yolanda Robinson is a multi-media personality. Each week she hosts a popular radio show entitled *All In Our Family* that is aired on **Talktainmentradio.com** on the internet. She is a social commentator and critic on *Straight Talk Live* that is aired on 95.5 every Sunday and an occasional news commentator on *Khari Free At Last* on Bounce Columbus 23 News Report. Yolanda has worked as an administrator for a city wide tutoring program, instructional reading coach for Columbus City Schools and the Family Wellness manager for CMACAO Head Start. She has worked as acting program manager of The Ohio State University Black Studies Community Extension Center and as national conference chair of The National Council for Black Studies. Under her leadership the OSU Black Studies Community Extension Center was recognized as a model program by the provost office of the University of Texas at Arlington in 1996. She presently serves as the First Vice President of 100 Black Women Columbus. She is profiled in *Outstanding Young Women in America* (1979); *Black Women in America An Historical Encyclopedia* edited by Darlene Clark Hines (1993); *Who's Who Among Black Americans* (1988), and *An Encyclopedia of Path Breaking Women at The Ohio State University* (2017). Yolanda is the recipient of numerous awards for her work with women and families. Yolanda is a peer reviewer for the Corporation of National and Community Services. Yolanda is the author of *There Is Magic in the Blackberry Patch*, which is a supplemental text for the Columbus Public Schools.



GAYLE SAUNDERS / *Corporate Public Relations*

Gayle Saunders, APR, is founder and CEO of The Saunders Company, a public relations agency in Columbus, Ohio, specializing in reputation management, media relations and training, crisis communications and media buying. Named 2018 Public Relations Practitioner of the Year by the Central Ohio Public Relations Society of America, Saunders is the first African American to earn this title in the history of the chapter. In 2019, she earned the prestigious Prism Award for her company's work with CelebrateOne. Saunders was liaison to the White House and managed over 100 national media during The Ohio State University's Spring 2013 Commencement when former President Barack Obama gave the address. She has led public relations for Nationwide, AT&T, the Memorial Tournament, NASCAR, and held executive roles at National City Bank, The Ohio State University, The City of Columbus and Columbus City Schools. She is a past president of the Child Development Council Head Start, past board member of the YWCA, The Columbus Urban League and the King Arts Complex. She has earned awards from Public Relations Society of America, the National School Public Relations Association, and the Cleveland Press Club. She and her husband Jerry and son, Jerry Jr. reside in Pickerington, Ohio.



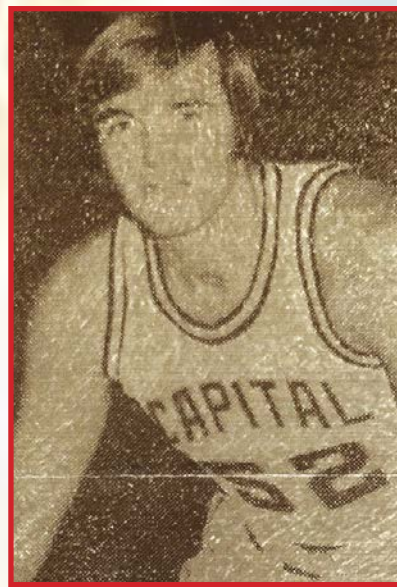
DON SELLERS / *Coach*

As a proud 1978 Linden McKinley High School graduate, Don played on the Panthers' 1976 State Semi-final and 1977 State Title Teams, with Ohio Player of the year, Todd Penn. He has been a well respected NBA Scout/Evaluator for Los Angeles Clippers, Memphis Grizzlies, Portland Trailblazers, and San Antonio Spurs. Sellers has Coached overseas professional teams for, Chinese Basketball Association, Lebanese Basketball Association, Hong Kong National team, and served as Director of USA player personnel in Beirut, Lebanon, has won (3) USA minor league title Championships, (2) Rochester Razor Backs 2008/2016, (1) Continental Basketball Association, Yakima Sun Kings 1998, and (1) CNBA Championship, Changhuan Tigers. Served as Director of Player Development/Head Coach for The Harlem Globetrotters Organization. Don currently is an independent consultant/Evaluator and conducts coach's clinics. Don has remained a staunch advocate for the Linden McKinley HS athletics program and has often lent a hand, in a advisory capacity, to the coaching staffs, primarily basketball and football. He has shared his technical knowledge and has encouraged the young athletes at practices, before games and during halftime breaks. He has also enlisted the aid of his wide network in all phases of athletic disciplines.



MIKE STUMPF / *Player*

Mike Stumpf started early with his basketball success story by earning All-League honors as a Hilltonia Jr. HS 9th grader. He played center at Columbus West HS for coach Fred Heichman's Cowboys where he was All-League Honorable Mention (10th grade) then 1st Team All-League (11th and 12th grades) as well as Honorable Mention All-State as a senior in 1969. In college he played at Capital University and his story of success continued when he made Honorable Mention All-League as a freshman and then 1st Team All-League as a sophomore and junior. He closed out his senior year with the Crusaders with another selection to 1st Team All-League, Player of the Year, 1973 All-American, and Capital University's all-time leading scorer and rebounder. Mike coached the Big Walnut HS girls' basketball team and was named the 1998 Coach of the Year in the Ohio Capital Conference. Outside of basketball, Mike's accomplishments include President of Riverstone Construction (1988-present) and member of Building Industry Remodel Council. He has been honored as the Building Industry "Remodeler of the Year". Mike Stumpf has been involved in community service and he proudly lists his activities as a Trustee with Worthington Christian Village, he is a church elder with New Albany and Beechwood Christian Churches as well as a Big Walnut School Board Member.



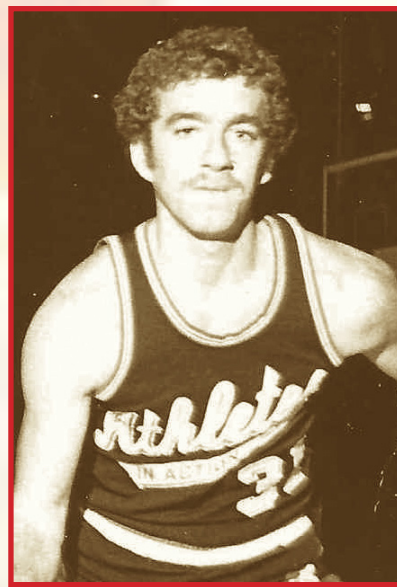
JOE TOONE / *Official*

Having graduated from Marion Franklin HS in 1966, the path to this Hall of Fame Induction for Joe Toone was not navigated by way of the normal route. Joe's journey began on the hardwood courts of Army Bases at Fort Benjamin Harrison of Indianapolis, Indiana and at Fort Campbell of southwestern Kentucky. While in the military, Joe was a shooting guard. A Vietnam War Veteran, Joe didn't believe in doing anything half way and the attitude carried over into all of his endeavors on the court or off. Joe has participated on a number of industrial league teams in basketball and softball. His Gold Circle Distribution Center basketball team captured city and league championships and the Frebis Avenue Church of God team won city championships and a state title. He has played on softball teams that have won numerous championships. Toone served 23 years as basketball referee for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and because of his exemplary knowledge of the rules of the game and his on the floor accuracy, the animated Joe Toone regularly drew assignments for top games. He has officiated 13 state tournaments, 13 regional tournaments, 13 City League championships and 13 district tournament championships. Number 13 has been pretty lucky for Joe thus far.



SCOTT WEAKLEY / *Player*

1969 Bexley HS graduate, Scott Weakley, led the Lions and Franklin County in scoring his senior year (25ppg) as well as being named to the 1st Team All-Mid Eight Conference, Honorable Mention All-State and Honorable Mention All-American. He has been inducted into the Bexley HS Hall of Fame. Scott played all four years of college basketball at Capital University for legendary coach Vince Chickerella and was a starter for 101 consecutive games and compiled a 84-17 record on the way to winning three Ohio Conference Championships. Scott is 5th on Capital's scoring list with 1496 points and is also a member of Capital University's Hall of Fame. He played in the Columbus Adult Recreation and AAU League for the Porter Drywall team that won the 1977 State AAU Championship. As a semi-professional, Scott was a four year team member with USA Athletes In Action basketball who competed against top Division I schools and followed with his participation for 10 years in the Worthington Summer League with his Citywide Painting team. Weakley has participated in hundreds of clinics and camps. He was head basketball coach at Trinity Western University (1980-82), girls' varsity coach at Worthington Christian HS (1984-85), then boys' varsity head coach at WCHS (1986-89) where he built a very successful basketball program.





POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEES

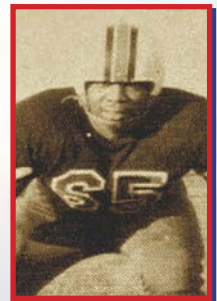
WILLIAM “CY” BUTLER / *Coach*

William “Cy” Butler returned to Columbus from Delaware State College in 1937. He served as basketball and track coach at Delaware State. He taught at Champion Jr. High School from 1937-1973. He coached basketball from 1944-1962, accumulating a record of 149 wins and 32 losses (82.3%), winning City League Championships in 1945, 1949, 1954, 1958 and 1959. He was a major contributor to East high School’s basketball success. Five Champion Players were significant contributors to East High’s 1951 state championship team. He was never afforded the opportunity to coach at the high school level until late in his career. By that time he had embarked on a second career as the first African-American property and casualty agent for a major insurance company. His career at Motorists Insurance began in 1952 and spanned 39 years. His greatest satisfaction was in his players who led successful lives after basketball. He encouraged players to further their education and was always available for advice to his players long after they left Champion.



WILLIAM “JUNIOR” GUNNELL / *Coach*

Bill “Junior” Gunnell graduated from Central HS, class of 1956 where he was a stand-out tackle and fullback in football and exhibited exceptional skills in baseball. He played semi-pro baseball as a catcher for the Spartans and semi-pro football as a tackle for Pope’s Inn. Junior became a supervisor at TICO, now known as Columbus Boy’s Ranch. For a great many years he was a supervisor at the Columbus Boy’s Club, Milo- Grogan Branch where he flourished in coaching multiple sports, especially basketball, baseball and football. He had a special connection with young people, mentoring to many young men in the north end and surrounding areas and turning every team he coached into winners. Coaching was Junior’s calling.



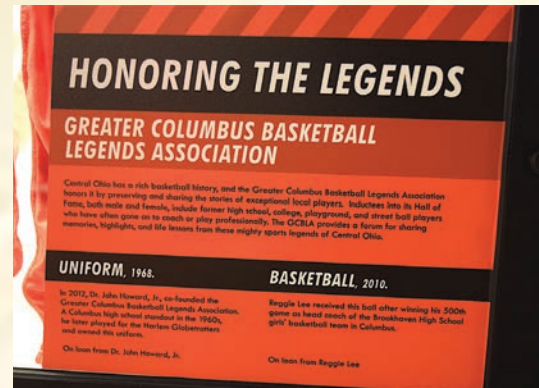
ALFONSO “AL” WASHINGTON / *Player*

Alfonzo Washington was a standout at Rosary High School, graduating in 1959 where he was All City and a Catholic Diocese Star. He was Franklin County League 1959 leading scorer, all time leading scorer and rebounder at Rosary High School. Al started all four years at Rosary and afterward went on to play collegiate basketball at Otterbein College where he excelled in the classroom and on the hardwood and played on several recreation and AAU teams, winning multiple championships throughout Ohio 1960’s to early 1970’s while completing his undergraduate and post graduate studies at OSU. He competed in the top tier Columbus recreation leagues resulting in multiple championships and gold medals. Big Al was a pillar and leader in the community. Residing in the Linden area he was a stalwart for civil rights during the turbulent sixties. He was a mentor in basketball and life for future Columbus area basketball greats.



GCBLA Showcases Columbus Stand-outs in Ohio Historical Connection's "OHIO - CHAMPION of SPORTS"

On March 14, 2019, The Ohio Historical Center Museum, after two years of grinding research, development, and design, titled "Ohio - Champion of Sports", founded on the theme of Character, Victory, Adversity, Identity, and innovation, which sums up Ohio's compelling sports history. GCBLA was afforded the opportunity to collaborate with OHCM in this project and loaned several artifacts from inductees, Dr. John Howard Jr. (Globetrotter uniform), and Reggie Lee, former Brookhaven Coach (500 win ball). GCBLA also included in a video presentation with legendary players from Central Ohio discussing the history of basketball in Central Ohio.



In a follow-up to this collaboration with OHCM, GCBLA in April 2019, assisted in developing and presenting a program focused exclusively on basketball, titled "Home Town Heroes", with several GCBLA 2019 inductees sharing their experiences and answering questions. We want to thank OHCM for allowing our organization to participate in such a monumental project, which highlighted the entire State of Ohio sport history. We encourage you to visit this exhibit to acquaint you and family with this experience.



GCBLA Co-Founder and 2019 Hall of Fame inductee Dr. John Howard Jr. (left) stands with his Harlem Globetrotters jersey and shorts on loan to the "Home Town Heroes" exhibit - part of the Ohio Historical Connection's "Ohio - Champion of Sports" presentation.

GCBLA's Historian/Archivist and 2014 Hall of Fame inductee (right) stands next to the game ball awarded to him upon winning his 500th game as the head coach of the Brookhaven HS Lady Bearcats.

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The Ohio State University African & African Studies Community Extension Center
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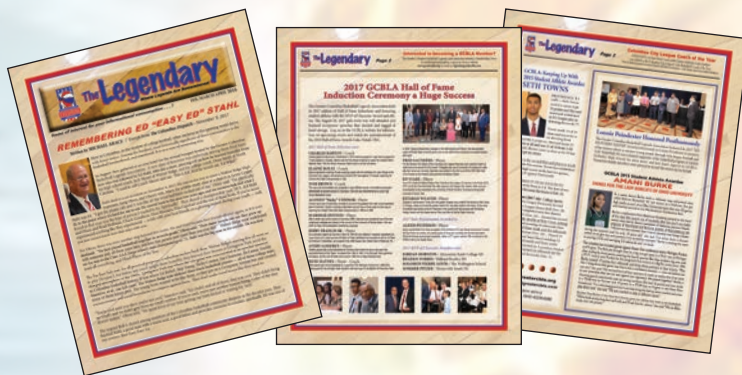
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