



The **Legendary**

Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !

OCT./NOV./DEC. 2019

GCBLA's 5th Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony Shines!

On Saturday, August 24th, the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association held its 5th Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony at the Ohio History Connection. During the early meet and greet portion of the evening's festivities, attendees were able to view the many interesting displays featured in the OHC "Ohio - Champion of Sports" exhibit, which included a GCBLA contribution.

After the opening activities, attendees were treated to a sumptuous buffet meal that rivaled the fare of many of Columbus' five-star restaurants. After the dinner the guests proceeded downstairs and filled the auditorium to its capacity for the enshrinement ceremony. The 5th edition of the GCBLA Hall of Fame inducted a record 19 HOF awardees, 3 MVP of Character student awardees and 3 posthumous HOF awardees.

Acceptance speeches ran the gamut from humorous to inspirational to educational. GCBLA thanks all of the sponsors, vendors, volunteers and everyone who helped to make this ceremony a tremendous success.

- Photos by Terry Gilliam





2015 Inductee Tony Kent Succumbs



Anthony "Tony" Joseph Kent. Sunrise September 7, 1944 and Sunset September 12, 2019. Tony, as he was affectionately called lived his whole life on his own terms, unapologetically to the beat of his own drum. He loved

basketball, art, fishing and watching old westerns. He is preceded in death by his parents Hozie and Edna Hall and sister Sheila Irene Hall. Left to cherish his amazing memory is his loving wife, Marcia E. Kent; his children, devoted son and caretaker, Romaro Kent, Kevin (Carolyn) Kent, Mark (Kim) Kent, Leslie Eaves, Kinika Kent and bonus son Mark Brown; his siblings, Rodney (Tawana) Kent, Linda Bridges and Hozie Hall;

Tony had 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and he also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Funeral 11am Friday, September 20, 2019 at Union Grove Baptist Church, 266 N. Champion Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Interment at Glen Rest Cemetery.

Tony Kent's basketball prowess played a major role in the rise of Linden McKinley High School's prominence. Tony only played for the Panthers for two years, he was the team's leading scorer in 1962 and earned All League honors as well as honorable mention for All American honors, and was mentioned in the All American Sports Magazine. Tony had the ability to play all five positions and had done just that during his career at Linden.

2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Van Gregg loses both parents in first half of year.

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association's boards, officers and members wish to express their sincere condolences to Inductee Van Gregg in the loss of both parents in 2019 prior to his August 24th enshrinement into the GCBLA Hall of Fame.

Russell Edward Gregg "Coach", 91, of Whitehall, OH, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2019. Russ was born on January 6, 1928 in Ashville, OH. He attended Ohio University on a basketball scholarship before signing a professional baseball contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He later graduated from The Ohio State University. He is a member of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, The Ohio Capital Conference Hall of Fame, The Central District Basketball Hall of Fame and Teays Valley High School Hall of Fame. He was awarded The Whitehall Education Foundation Award of Excellence, Rogers Neighborhood Basketball Legend of the Game and was Founder and first President of the District 10 Basketball Coaches Association. He was a six-time OCC Coach of the Year, Central District Coach of the Year and Ohio Coach of the Year. He coached Whitehall Boy's 1982-83 basketball team to the AP-UPI State Poll Championship and was a Paul Walker Award Winner.

Clara Louise (Roese) Gregg, 91, of Whitehall, OH passed away on Saturday, July 20th, 2019. Clara was born on June 11, 1928 in South Bloomfield, OH. On April 9, 1951 she married the late Russell E. Gregg, a fellow Ashville graduate. They were married for 68 years. Clara retired from Whitehall City Schools. Clara, a coach's wife, was often seen in the stands at local sporting events cheering for her husband, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.



Take in a HS basketball game this season.

Support boys and girls high school basketball in your local area this season. You could be getting a sneak preview of some young talent that could end up being inducted in the GCBLA Hall of Fame some day!

JORDAN HORSTON MAKES BIG SPLASH ON NATIONAL SCENE AND SIGNS TO PLAY AT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Jordan Horston kept an open mind on all of her visits – but every sign kept pointing to Tennessee. The elite point guard in the Class of 2019 made it official by announcing publicly her commitment to the Lady Vols.



Horston, the No. 2 recruit in the country and top-ranked point guard, managed to keep her decision under wraps until a school assembly when the Columbus Africentric High School girls' basketball team received their state championship rings. Horston then released a well-done video on social media.

https://youtu.be/31yk-_GOXpk <https://bit.ly/2IATdbW>

The video has the voice of the late Pat Summitt during an interview in which she said: "You win in life with people."

In the end, the relationships established at Tennessee sealed Horston's decision. Assistant Coach Sharrona Reaves was Horston's primary recruiter – and it made a difference.

"First of all, I built a really good relationship with Coach Reaves," Jordan Horston said. "I feel like one of the main reasons why I chose the school is because of her. Secondly, I prayed about it. I prayed about it every night. I kept getting different signs. I prayed about it, and I asked God to give me a sign every day. He was giving me all these signs."

Horston chose Tennessee over Connecticut, Louisville, North Carolina, Ohio State, South Carolina and UCLA.

USA/SUMMER BASKETBALL: As a member of the gold-medal winning USA U17 National Team and MVP of 2018 FIBA U17 World Cup in Minsk, Belarus, Jordan Horston helped the 2017 USA U16 National Team capture the FIBA Americas U16 Championship gold medal with a perfect 5-0 record in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She played summer ball for All Ohio Girls Basketball.

HIGH SCHOOL: She was #2 overall player, #1 guard, five-star recruit by espnW HoopGurlz. Jordan was #2 overall player, #1 guard, five-star recruit by ProspectsNation.com. and #2 overall player in Dan Olson College Girls' Basketball Report. She was named MVP of the McDonald's All-American Game (2019) and participated in the Jordan Brand Classic and Jump 25 Ohio

All-Star Classic (2019) as well as being named WBCA All-American (2019). Horston garnered Naismith First-Team All-American (2019) honors and was a Naismith Trophy Finalist (2019) as well as the Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year (2019). She was selected USA Today First-Team Ohio (2018, 2019), Ohio High School Coaches Association MVP (2019) and the Jump 25 Ohio Player of the Year (2019). Other honors included Division III Ohio Player of the Year (2018, 2019), Division III All-State First Team (2018, 2019), Division III All-State Second Team (2016, 2017), Columbus Dispatch All-Metro Co-Player of the Year (2019) and Columbus Dispatch All-Metro Team (2017, 2018, 2019). Jordan was also selected All-Columbus City League First Team (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019). Africentric Early College won three state titles during her career (2016, 2018, 2019).

Career highs include 39 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds. As a senior in 2018-19, she averaged 18.0 points, 7.0 rebounds and 6.0 assists. While still recovering from a 102-degree fever the day before, she tallied 15 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in the 2019 state title game victory. She tallied 17 points, 17 assists and 10 points in a triple-double effort vs. Eastmoor Academy as a senior. As a junior in 2017-18, she started in all 30 games and averaged 18.1 ppg., 5.8 rpg., 4.5 apg., 5.1 spg. and 1.7 bpg. to help her team to a 27-3 record, the City League title and a state championship.

Jordan Horston was a 2017 GCBLA MVP of Character Award recipient.



Want to nominate a player, coach or team?

GCBLA is accepting nominations for future HOF induction consideration. Download a nomination form from our website: www.greatercbla.org and follow the guidelines and instructions for submission.



Coach Reggie Lee Scores Ohio Hall of Fame Victory

Reginald Lee, a graduate of Columbus East High School and Central State University, was head girls basketball coach at Brookhaven High School from 1981 to 2011. His teams compiled a 515-157 record. They won 11 City League championships, seven district titles and two regionals before adding a state Division I championship in 1996 when they were unbeaten with a 28-0 record.

The Bearcats won the 1996 title by defeating defending champion Beavercreek, 73-64, in the semifinal and Wooster, 56-46, in the final.

Lee was selected as City League coach of the year five times. The Associated Press named him Ohio coach of

the year in 1996 when the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association also picked him.

He coached three Ohio high school players of the year – Jai Jones (1987), Helen Darling in 1996, who was also an All-American (WBCA, Nike & McDonalds) and Brittany Hunter, in 2003, who was an All-American (WBCA, Nike, McDonalds), as well as Parade Magazine’s National Player of the Year. Twenty-eight of his players went on to play college basketball.

Lee was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame on May 18, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus and was a 2014 GCBLA Hall of Fame inductee.

Burke Continues to Succeed at OU

2017 MVP of Character awardee **Amani Burke**, is set to lead the Lady Bobcats of Ohio University as their leader in the upcoming 2019-20 hoops campaign. The 5’9” senior guard takes into the season, a 13.4 ppg, 4.6 reb, 1.9 ast resume that points to a successful season and career for the Columbus native and Eastmoor Academy alumn. Burke will attempt to improve on last year’s 14-4 conference and 30-6 overall records and will return to Columbus to face the OSU Lady Buckeyes on Sunday, November 17th, 2019.

GCBLA Thanks Ohio History Connection for being the gracious host venue for the 2019 Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony.



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