



The **Legendary**

Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2020

COVID-19 Postpones GCBLA Honor

The "100 Black Women of Columbus" announced that during their Annual "Jazz, Eggs and Friends" event scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at the Boathouse, from 10-12 noon, they were to recognize and award GCBLA for their contributions to the Metropolitan Columbus and surrounding counties in support and recognition of student-athletes, youth, former male/female players, coaches, media personalities, and others who have contributed to the sport of basketball and beyond. Due to outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and safety precautions this event has been postponed until further notice. On behalf of our Executive Committee, members, and supporters, we want to thank the "100 Black Women of Columbus" in advance for this honor.

MILLER BARNES SUCCUMBS

MILLER BARNES JR. was a dedicated Executive Board member and officer of the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association where he as Treasurer, for many years and was inducted to the GCBLA Hall of Fame in 2015 for his outstanding coaching career making him one of our legendary sports personalities. Miller earned his Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education and Recreation in 1964 from Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio. He achieved a Master of Education in 1971 from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Barnes began his professional experience at the Training Institute State of Ohio Mental Health Division, Columbus. He began in 1961 as a Cottage Life Parent and after two years was promoted to Cottage Life Supervisor, a position in which he excelled for four years. Barnes became a Physical Education Teacher in the Columbus Public Schools at Roosevelt Junior High School for seven years where he was the head basketball and baseball coach. He coached the boys basketball team to four championships. Many players



on his basketball team went on to enjoy much success in the sport, including fellow inductee Brad Hoffman. Barnes also served as Home School Community Agent (1970-71), and 1971-75 he became Assistant Principal at Marion Franklin High School and then assumed the same duties at Beechcroft High School, 1975-94. At Beechcroft, he implemented educational programs for the development of the new facility and established athletic teams and programs at the varsity level for the Cougars. He helped to create outstanding race relations among the student population and created a safe and secure educational environment. Barnes then became Assistant Principal at Independence High School, where he retired as Administrator in 1996, after which he moved on to become Assistant Basketball Coach at Brookhaven High School, winning a Central District Championship in 1998. Miller Barnes Jr. had been a Substitute Administrator in the Columbus Public Schools, 2001-08. Miller was 86 years of age.

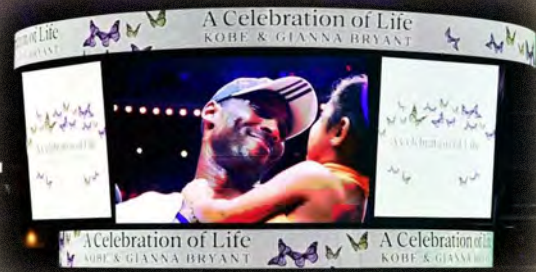


Want to nominate a player, coach or team?

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The World Mourns The Passing Of Kobe Bryant & Daughter Gianna With Seven Others In Helicopter Crash

By Don A. Sellers



Los Angeles, California February 24th. The Kobe Bryant Memorial Service. When I wrote this personal account of my time in Los Angeles for the memorial I struggled to say I was blessed to go. I didn't want to lose sight of a family who lost a key component of their family cog. A husband, father, son and so much more. So even though I was able to see or rekindle a lot of friendships this was a very sad occasion. I was asked to do a radio interview with WHIO in Dayton, Ohio with the great Dan Edwards by my good friend Tyree Fields a week after the tragedy. I did the interview with one of the greatest shooters in NBA history Dale Ellis. What an honor. I talked about Kobe's third or fourth practice with the Lakers at the Pyramid on the campus of Long Beach State University and how he would not give up in a shooting game vs Assistant Coach Larry Drew. I told him on the ride back to the hotel to keep that competitive nature, don't ever lose it. We had short conversations about the triangle offense and players such as Devean George, Raja Bell, Leon Powe and Ronny Turiaf all of whom had been a part of a team I had worked for or I had worked them out for. There was an intense time where Columbus Ohio's own Jim Clemons was putting in the backside of the triangle offense and Kobe was working in the triangle with the assistants from the previous staff. Well, the young one was not comprehending the term rebound, screen, cut. I mentioned to him a couple of times what it meant. Still not grasping it. He then told me to get my ass up and come show him. Intense brother. The memorial was heartbreaking watching Vanessa navigate through it. It was especially tough to watch his parents Joe and Pam Bryant. Joe is a very good friend of mine and it hurt to see his pain. I enjoyed Alicia Keys' performance, as well as Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal's words of comfort. It was surreal to see the tears being shed by everyone. This kid truly touched a world. His daughter and that infectious smile was remembered all through the service. It was good to see Mitch

Kupchak and spend time talking with Lisa Leslie, AC Green and more in the concierge lounge and trade stories with some and just wave at others. I am especially appreciative of Tyree for facilitating the trip and for the good friends who made the tickets and hotel suite possible. I remember how many people Kobe had an impact on. Rest Well Brother.



JOYCE (Jones) CLARK

Pictured here with her son Johnny Clark.

A lifelong Columbus, Ohio resident and mother of 2019 inductee, Johnny Clark, Ms. Clark was summoned home to our Lord on December 10, 2019.



You too can join the GBCLA team!

GBCLA is accepting applications for organization membership. Check our website: www.greatercbla.org for details.

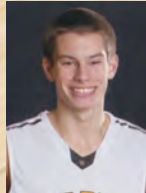
Keeping Up With The MVPs of Character



TOWNS



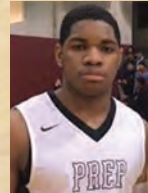
BURKE



KAHLER



CAUSEY



ANTHONY



PITZER

Former Harvard wing **SETH TOWNS**, the best graduate transfer on the market, has committed to Ohio State. The 2015 GBCLA MVP of Character Awardee Towns chose the Buckeyes over Duke, while his final list also included Kansas, Virginia, Syracuse, Michigan and Maryland. He will be eligible immediately next season and will have two seasons of athletics eligibility to his credit.

"I'm coming home," Towns said. "From a basketball standpoint, it makes sense for me. Obviously, there's no place like home. Towns has missed the past two seasons with knee injuries, but he was the Ivy League Player of the Year in 2017-18 after averaging 16.0 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. He shot 44.1% from 3-point range that season.

Towns discussed his decision with his family, close friends and former Ohio State star Jared Sullinger. "He's like a big brother to me," Towns said.

Towns' commitment should move Ohio State into the top 15 nationally for next season -- but he has his sights set a little higher. "I'm expecting nothing less than a Final Four run and a national championship," Towns said. "I'm a winner first and a basketball player second. We're going for it all."

In her final year at Ohio University, 2015 Awardee **AMANI BURKE**, played and started in all 29 games for the Lady Bobcats, scoring in double-figures in all but four contests, second on the team at 13.6 points per game and 4.3 assists per game. Burke scored at least 20 points 12 times and notched a season-high 30 points on 11-22 shooting, including 6-13 from deep, in the win at Butler and scored at least 20 points in a career-high four-straight games from February 22 - March 4. She finished her career in fifth place on the Ohio scoring list with 1,496, third all-time with 235 made three-point field goals, and sixth in school history with 502 field goals made. In a senior season highlight, Amani led her team in a first time ever win over the OSU Lady Buckeyes by scoring 23 points in the upset. Amani and her team were performing very well

when the season and her OU career was abruptly ended by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NICK KAHLER, 2015 MVP of Character inductee, Played HS Basketball at Upper Arlington HS, who accepted an Academic Scholarship to the Air Force Academy, in Colorado Springs, will be graduating in 2020 with a degree in Business Management, ranking in the top 3rd of his class, while serving as manager of the basketball team. After Graduation, Nick will enter Pilot Training for the United States Air Force.

KEILAH CAUSEY, 2015 MVP of Character inductee, following a successful HS career accepted a track/field scholarship to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, is scheduled to graduate in 2020, with a degree in communication, and intends to complete graduate studies in Higher Education at either Ohio University, John's Hopkins (Baltimore, MD) or Wright State (Dayton, OH).

2019 MVP of Character honoree, **CHRISTOPHER "CJ" ANTHONY**, was named Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Division III Ohio player of the year for the second straight season. CJ, a 6-foot senior guard, powered Harvest Prep to a state title in 2019, a runner-up finish in 2018 and was still alive in its bid for another state title before the 2020 season was cut short by the COVID-19 virus pandemic as the Warriors held a 18-3 record and a #1 ranking in the Associated Press state poll. Anthony is the all-time leading scorer in central Ohio with more than 2,200 career points. This season Anthony averaged 28.4 points, 7.1 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 3.5 steals per game while shooting 63 percent from the field.

SOMMER PITZER, 2017 MVP of Character inductee who played HS Basketball at Westerville South HS, is currently a starting point guard at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana where she averages 7 points per game..



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GCBLA WILL LAUNCH A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2021

We will introduce a program titled GCBLA “Elevates Youth”, which will focus on social responsibility towards student-athletes/youth, providing a legacy of inspiration that supports relevant social issues like education, health and wellness, and environmental concerns, in the Columbus Metropolitan area and surrounding counties. This initiative will look to recognize individuals/business groups who are involved in addressing social issues daily, teaching core values of basketball that move youth beyond the court and above the rim. Some of our previous initiatives like “My Brothers Keeper”, will be reevaluated, along with introducing the following “New” initiatives.

- Develop and refurbish courts in needy communities, personally involving youth

in designing/building by teaching aspects of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)

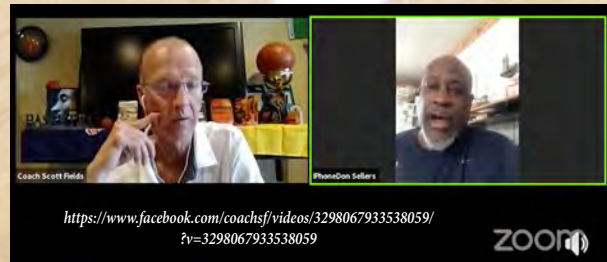
- Back-to-School Books/Bags/Hair, geared towards elementary and middle school youth

- Dress for Success, this initiative will instruct student-athletes in the “Art” of dressing well and navigating the sports and business world, while learning to be personally responsible and accountable for their own brand. This will be done in collaboration with Tyler Phillips, manager of Pu-Sut, suiting the next generation, located in Short North business district.

We want to partner with others in the Columbus community who want to teach our youth “How to learn, How to live, and How to Play” in the game of life.

Don Sellers KNOWS Basketball

On the Coach Scott Fields Show, a Facebook streamed pod-cast, Coach Scott Fields conducted an extensive in depth interview with 2019 GCBLA Hall of Fame Inductee **DON SELLERS**. Don was very candid in the interview which delved into his coaching experiences in the NBA, Harlem Globetrotters, and various leagues and teams overseas. Humorous memories with many basketball acquaintances both national and international. This interview must not be missed. <https://www.facebook.com/coachsf/videos/3298067933538059/?v=3298067933538059>.



www.greatercbla.org
legends@greatercbla.com

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