



The **Legendary**

Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . ! NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Renown Coach Ed Zoog, Jr. Passes

EDGAR WILLIAM ZOOG, JR., age 90, passed away at Wesley Ridge nursing home on Friday, October 16. He was born on September 19, 1930 in Columbus, Ohio to Edgar and Florence Zoog. Ed was a beloved father and respected man, a retired teacher from Roosevelt, Mohawk and Independence High School, a coach, and a mentor to many students. He inspired and touched the lives of many throughout central Ohio. He graduated from Linden McKinley high school as a 3-year letterman in football, basketball and baseball, received All City for all 3 sports for all 3 years in high school, received the Lifetime Athletic Achievement Award at Linden McKinley, and received the Scholar Athlete Award American Legion. After high school he attended college in Georgia, playing football, but missed his beloved wife, Myra, whom he met in the fifth grade, and came back to Ohio and attended Toledo University and then OSU. Ed excelled at sports and he played football and basketball his freshman year and often could be found on the court playing pickup basketball. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education from OSU and received his Masters



of Education at Xavier. He was dangerous at a game of cards or dominoes, and partnered with Myra and formed the dream team or G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) team. He loved sports and exercise, did the crossword puzzle daily, getting help to fill in the squares from Myra and any of his children or grandchildren who were often visiting. He loved to read, was always curious, loved music, and was often begged by family to sing his perfect Sinatra rendition. He frequented Beverly Beach, Florida every winter for over 25 years, and he shared his love of the ocean with friends and family. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Geri (Zoog) O'Reilly, and wife Myra (McCollister) Zoog. He is survived by his sister, Phyllis (Zoog) Ort; 5 children, Lanna Kay Trimmer, Edgar William Zoog III, Eric (Barbara) Louis Zoog, Elliot Scott Zoog, and Eugene (Julie) Donald Zoog; as well as 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. His funeral service was held on Saturday, October 24 with burial at Glen Rest Memorial in Reynoldsburg.





“ SHOWING LOVE BY TAKING CARE OF THE LEAST OF US”

GCBLA has formed a collaboration with Pastor, Greg Hines of Impact Ministries, in an effort to feed people in need around Metro Columbus. The program has been in existence for six months, and food boxes are delivered on the weekend, by volunteers, some of whom include former inductees and associates of GCBLA. We are elated to assist in some small way to ease the difficulty of people during this pandemic. If you want to volunteer to deliver food boxes or make a donation, contact Pastor Greg Hines at (614) 598-9728

GCBLA's 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) initiatives to encourage and make student-athletes cognizant of potential careers in writing/publishing, and graphic arts as viable professional options once sports has ceased.

- 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.



GCBLA Welcomes Its First Ever COLLEGE STUDENT INTERN

MIKAYLA WRIGHT is our first ever college intern, to assist with researching basketball history and other related subjects regarding the sport of basketball, and the impactful sports personalities who have made a difference within and beyond sports in Columbus, Ohio.

Q: *Where are you from and what high school did you attend? What college do you currently attend and what is your major field of study?*

A: I'm from Columbus, Ohio where I attended high school at Metro Early College and I'm currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University, majoring in Multi-Platform Journalism.

Q: *What is the reason you chose Journalism?*

A: I chose this major because I don't want to be put in a box, and want to be flexible enough to do different things, and this major allows me to do this. I hope to eventually have my own radio show discussing sports or entertainment.

Q: *How did you become acquainted with the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association (GCBLA)?*

A: I became aware of GCBLA through a family friend, who told me about the organization and what it was doing, and I became interested, and fell in love with its mission.

Q: *What are your thoughts regarding GCBLA'S mission and type of impact it could have on Columbus and the surrounding counties?*

A: I think GCBLA'S mission/vision is something that Columbus really needs. Ohio is definitely big on basketball, especially youth, and I think it's important that these players know the history of basketball in Columbus, Ohio, and who paved the way for it to be as prominent as it is here.

On behalf of the Officers and Executive Board, we want to welcome Mikayla on board.

GCBLA to Launch a "Sports Radio Show" in 2021



Since we are in the business of sports, GCBLA thought why not speak to the issues that we are familiar with regarding sports and its effects on society and visa versa. The program will be hosted by Don Sellers, Linden McKinley Alum, former NBA Scout, G-League and overseas coach. Program title is "**Off The Dome**", which is an old adage, which meant talking straight from what's on your mind no pretense or facade. The show will discuss various aspects of sports along with education, business, and social activism. We are currently working on all the logistics and anticipate launching the initial show in January 2021, so get ready for "**Off the Dome**", with your host Don Sellers.



Be safe during the COVID-19 pandemic!

GCBLA is urging EVERYONE to remain safe and follow the guidelines set by the CDC, your local, state, and federal health officials to keep yourself safe and those around you. Wear a mask and maintain safe social distancing!

PARTNERING WITH “100 BLACK WOMEN”

GCBLA is elated to announce our collaboration with the “100 Black Women”, Columbus, Ohio, for the 2nd year to distribute Hats, Scarfs, and Gloves, to needy youth up to ten (10) years of age, in the Columbus Metropolitan Area. Last year (2019), Hall of Fame inductee, Scott Weakley spoke to the youth about bullying. This year’s event will be held at Glenwood Recreation Center, in December. Other sponsors include: Omega Psi Phi, Federally Employed Women, Blacks in Government, American Bankers, Insurance Agent - Martin Smith, and Queens Creation. For further Information contact: S. Yolanda Robinson at (614) 357-0134.

RECOMMENDED BOOK READINGS: This section entitled “What’cha gonna do when the ball stops bounce’n”, will recognize books written and published by former athletes, GCBLA Hall of Famers, and other notable sports figures on a wide variety of topics. This will continue to demonstrate GCBLA’s commttment to reading/writing as the essence of education, and athletes moving above and beyond the world of sports.

- 1) **Sociopsychonomics: How Social Classes Think, Act, and Behave Financially in the Twenty-First Century** (2017), written by Lawrence Funderburke, MBA, and Certified Financial planner
- 2) **The Mysterious Gems: The Black Ruby** (*Fictional Novel Series / 2016*), written by John Howard Jr., Ph.D, The Ohio State University
- 3) **There is Magic in the BlackBerry Patch** (*Fictional/Children / 2011*), written by S. Yolanda Robinson
- 4) **Winning with Purpose: Raising Our Game and Lifting Our Team-mates, On and Off the Court** (2013), by Satch Sullinger with John Dauphin
- 5) **Bring Me My Hushpuppies: My Dad is a Superhero** (*Children / 2020*), written by Ahmad Aliyy (formerly Skip Young)

Note: All books should be ordered by contacting the author regarding purchasing.

★★★ DO YOUR PART: GET OUT AND VOTE ★★★

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association, is locking arms with other athletes, and particularly fellow Ohioian, LeBron James to encourage individuals to cast their vote. One of the request made by NBA players prior to continuing the season and playoffs, was opening up NBA arena as polling sites for the elections, which are safe locations, and can accommodate a lot of people. The other request was for continued education on the voting process, and emphasizing the necessity to vote and how extremely important everyones vote is in making change. Therefore, **we at Greatet Columbus Basketball Legends Association, also encourage you to vote.**

City League Basketball is a “GO” ... for now!

In the early days of October, Linden McKinley High School Athletic Director, **Walter Dudley** was asked about this season’s high school basketball scheduling and if there was to be any wholesale reconstruction due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. His response was: “As of RIGHT NOW we are expecting to have this season’s schedule to play out as normal without revamping anything outside of requesting the wearing of masks by the spectators and maybe the coaches and players not on the floor. Nothing yet has come

down from on high - either from Columbus City Schools or the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) but we have to be flexible and be ready and willing to make any adjustments on the fly if necessary. We most certainly have high hopes, though.”



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