

The **Legendary**

Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2022

Our mission has been to acknowledge, promote, archive, and disseminate the illustrious history and impact that basketball as a sport has had on Metro-Columbus and surrounding counties, which has produced some of the most accomplished women and men in the field of sport, business, and social activism.

CENTRAL OHIO CAGERS ENJOY TOURNEY SUCCESS

Teams enjoyed much success during the 2022 OHSAA basketball tournament. There were 16 teams capturing District Titles or greater in a season with parity absent in recent years. Accomplishments included 2 State Titles, 1 State Runner-Up, 1 State Semi-Finalist, and 12 District Title winners.

Division I - State Champions
PICKERINGTON CENTRAL TIGERS



Division I - State Champions
REYNOLDSBURG LADY RAIDERS



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Spread The Word!

GCBLA invites you to share this Legendary Newsletter with your friends, relatives and colleagues whether they are basketball enthusiasts or not. There is always lots of pertinent information within these pages!

Division III - State Runner-Up **WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN LADY WARRIORS**



Division III - State Semi-Finalist **AFRICENTRIC EARLY COLLEGE NUBIANS**



Division II - District Champion **LINDEN MCKINLEY PANTHERS**

- PICKERINGTON CENTRAL (BOYS)** Division I - STATE CHAMPION
- REYNOLDSBURG (GIRLS)** Division I - STATE CHAMPION
- WORTHINGTON CHRISTIAN (GIRLS)** Division III - STATE RUNNER-UP
- AFRICENTRIC EARLY COLLEGE (BOYS)** Division III - STATE SEMI-FINALIST
- DUBLIN COFFMAN (GIRLS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- GAHANNA LINCOLN (GIRLS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- PICKERINGTON CENTRAL (GIRLS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- GAHANNA LINCOLN (BOYS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- UPPER ARLINGTON (BOYS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- WESTERVILLE SOUTH (BOYS)** Division I - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- BISHOP HARTLEY (GIRLS)** Division II - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- GRANVILLE (GIRLS)** Division II - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- HEATH (BOYS)** Division II - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- LINDEN MCKINLEY (BOYS)** Division II - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- CANAL WINCHESTER HARVEST PREP (BOYS)** Division III - DISTRICT CHAMPION
- NEWARK CATHOLIC (BOYS)** Division IV - DISTRICT CHAMPION



Support local high school athletics!

Make it a point to attend a (or several) boys and/or girls high school athletic event(s). Support the student-athletes of your community or alma mater. The players today could be the ones you'll be watching on television tomorrow!

A FASHION, ENTERTAINMENT, BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE!



A Fashion, Entertainment, Basketball, Experience! That is how John Pace, Columbus native, President/CEO of Classic Columbus, a non-profit organization, promoting education, economic development and diversity, pitched the event.



The HBCU All-Star Basketball Game & Celebrity Sports Extravaganza, was held from April 20-24, 2022, at Nationwide Arena. It featured a game between Old School vs New School Teams. Coached by actress Vivica A. Fox, and entertainer That Girl Lay Lay. Another feature was the screening debut of a movie titled “The Women of Troy”, introduced the infamous Basketball legendary Player/Coach/Analyst, Cheryl Miller. The other main event featured the HBCU All-Stars, former players from various Black Schools and conferences vs The Ohio All- Star Team, which was coached by our very own Jim Clemons, GCBLA HOF, former NBA Player/Coach and assistants Jene Davis (Linden McKinley), and Brian Weakly (Worthington Christian). Many NBA scouts were also on hand to scout potential NBA prospects, which was sponsored by Nationwide, Franklin County Commission, and Columbus Sports Commission. GCBLA applauds John Pace and the Classic Columbus effort to present our very own “April Madness” HBCU style.

Photos by Linnie Haynesworth





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.

Columbus Natives who played or Coached for the **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS**



HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS - INTERNATIONAL UNIT -1969

L. to R. Standing: Al Dixon, Joe Cunningham, Doug Robinson, Frank Stephens
L. to R. Kneeling: John Howard, Pablo Robertson, Player-Coach Bob "Showboat" Hall, Ray Lothery, Hubert Ausbie

Have you ever experienced attending a basketball game, I mean an unequivocally unique, once in a lifetime unforgettable experience. You arrive at the arena expecting a normal basketball game with the smell of popcorn and hot-dogs, then as you take your seat, the music starts blasting to the sounds of "Sweet Georgia Brown", causing the entire arena to vibrate, and then low and behold, the players come out dressed in their signature red, white, and blue uniforms, and you have just been introduced to the infamous "Harlem Globetrotters". As they make a circle at center court to perform their ball handling wizard, you hear the outburst of laughter and yapping, enticing the crowd, particularly the youth, deeper and deeper into the on-court magic show of the "Crown Princes" of basketball, known all over the world. They have performed before kings, queens, and dignitaries from countries around the world, even touring as many as fifty or more countries as Ambassador for the United States.

The Globetrotters were founded by Abe Saperstien, of Chicago, Illinois in 1926-27. The name Harlem Globetrotters was adopted due to the appeal and endearment Black Americans had for Harlem New York. They won a basketball world title in 1940, and after that they introduced comic elements into their game, even though all the players were superbly skilled and athletic.

GCBLA is proud to acknowledge our own players who have been affiliated with this infamous organization over the years to the present time. The first known player from Columbus to play for Trotters was William "Plunk" Ford, who lived in "Flytown", and honed his skills along with his brother

Murry "Chock" Ford, at the Godman Guild youth center. It is rumored that "Plunk's" excellent ball handling skills allegedly assisted in formulating the famous figure eight play used by the Trotters, and copied by Adolph Rupp, Coach of the University of Kentucky, title teams and NCAA HOF coach. Next was Jim Doughty (GCBLA HOF), graduate of North HS, member of the team that ended Middletown's undefeated HS record, who featured Jerry Lucas. Jim eventually attended The Ohio State University to play basketball, entering his senior year he was pronounced academically ineligible. He received a letter at that time from the Trotters to try out for the team, and eventually made the east coast squad (63-64) featuring such players as Curly Neal, Texas Harrison, and Meadowlark Lemon. Jim stated, "It was a great experience that greatly assisted in his maturity."

He was followed by our very own Co-Founder, Dr. John Howard Jr., (GCBLA HOF), graduate of University HS,



Do you know your basketball heritage?

GCBLA is striving to keep the spotlight on the historic exploits and traditions of Central Ohio basketball in the forefront of the archives to witness the contributions of the sport to the development of the thriving general community.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

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located on The Ohio State University campus, attended and graduated from University of Cincinnati (HOF), played for the Trotters under the moniker “Cincinnati Kid” (1968-69), with players like Pablo Robinson, Jackie Jackson, Bobby “Joe” Mason, and Herman “Helicopter” Knowles. Dr. Howard did not return the following year having decided to return to college to acquire a graduate degree, PhD in Education from OSU. Following Dr. Howard was Don Allen Sellers (GCBLA HOF), graduate of Linden McKinley HS, member of State Title teams, NBA Scout, Coach of NBA G League, and Overseas professional basketball coach. Work for the Trotters from 1998-99 and 2004-05, as a coach of the competitive team, and instrumental in coaching a select group of college players destined for NBA stardom, with legendary NBA coach Bernie Bickerstaff verses the Trotters. Our most recent member of the Globetrotters is Julius “Zeus” McClure, Independence HS, graduate of HBCU North Carolina A&T, who made the team as a walk-on and played. He earned an undergraduate degree, then entered Franklin University and obtained a graduate degree in marketing/communication. Zeus is currently one of the most decorated Globetrotters, holding six (6) Guinness world records for most slam dunks (5) in one minute, most behind the back three point shots (3), and is known for making crazy trick shots from unique places like Ohio State and the Mall of America which was featured on ESPN TV. Has been playing with the Trotters since 2011 to present. Zeus stated, “It has been such a pleasure to play for a world famous organization, that when you walk into a room with those red, white, and blue colors on that says Harlem Globetrotters, everybody knows who you are.” The Trotters are the reason for why many racial, gender, and ethnic barriers have been broken in sports, particularly basketball. So, as the ball keeps bouncing for the great organization, more visible and invisible barriers will continue to be broken to the sounds of “Sweet Georgia Brown.”

Recommended Reading



Recognizing 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 commitment to reading/writing as the essence of education, and athletes moving above and beyond the world of sports.

1) Basketball - A Love Story by Jackie McMullen/Dan Klores/Rafer Bartholomew
Description: *A oral history of Basketball as told through conversations with the games' greatest players.*
\$24.00 (Paperback)

2) Stephen Curry: The Inspiring Story Of One Of Basketball's Sharpest Shooters by: Clayton GeoFreys
Description: *Outlines how Steph became the player he is, starting with childhood and early life.*
\$9.99 (Paperback)

3) Sum It Up: A Thousand and Ninety-Eight Victories, A Couple Of Irrelevant Losses, And A Life In Perspective
by: Pat Summit with Sally Jenkins
Description: *Tells the remarkable story of victory and resilience as well as facing down her greatest challenge, early onset Alzheimers disease.*
\$18.00 (Paperback)

4) Legends of Women's Basketball
by: Emma Huddleston
Description: *Tells the story of the women who have thrilled and inspired fans on and off the court.*
\$9.95 (Paperback)

5) Hook Me Up, Playa! An Insiders Look Into Financial Fortunes, Misfortunes, and Fortunate Lessons From A Modern-Day Professional Athlete by: Lawrence Funderburke
Description: *Warns both professional and aspiring athletes of the dark side of the lime light and making right decisions.*
\$6.37 (Paperback)

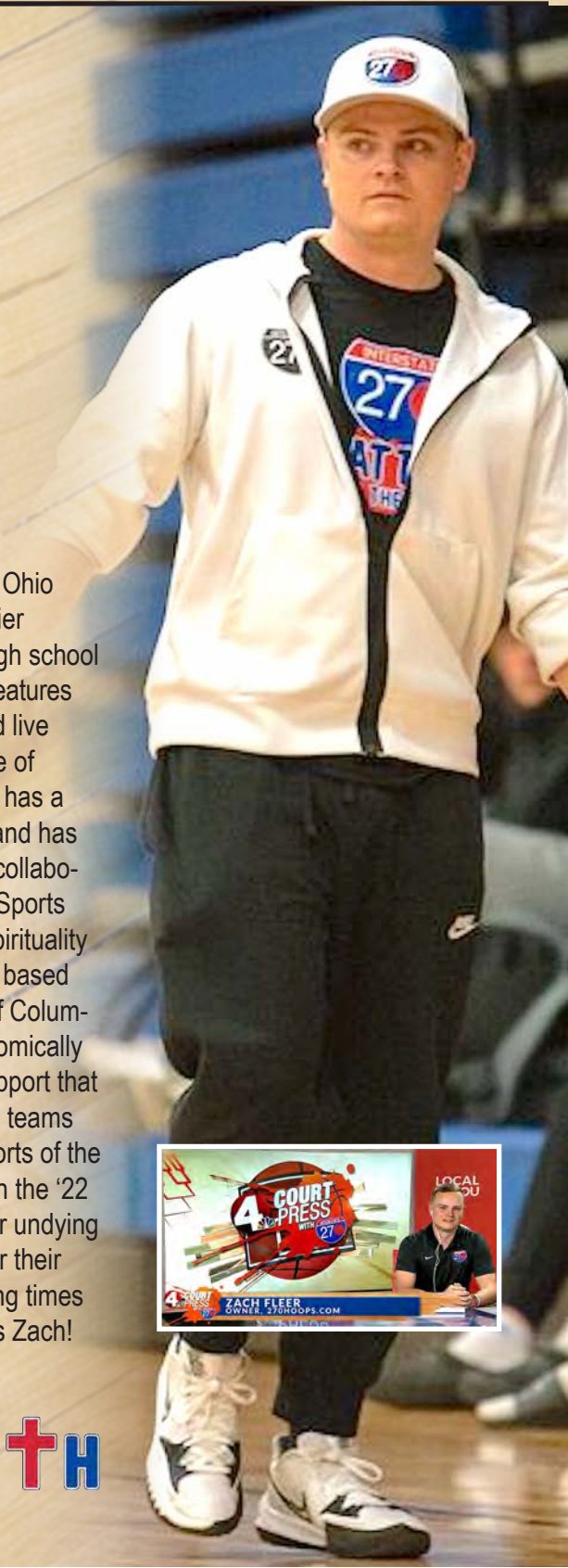


Be safe during the COVID-19 pandemic!

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. Remember: COVID is still with us! Get the vaccine!

ZACH FLEER THE CITY LEAGUE'S UNINTENTIONAL MVP

You will not find a bigger high school basketball fan in all of Ohio than **Zach Fleer**, proprietor of 270 Hoops, Columbus' premier internet media outlet on all platforms. **270 Hoops** covers high school cagers within and just outside the Columbus outer-belt and features the big-time games and players through articles, videos and live internet broadcasts. Zach is a husband, father and graduate of Central Crossing HS of the Southwest Schools District who has a unmatched affinity for Central Ohio high school basketball and has lent his expertise to WCMH TV4 sports segments and has collaborated with **Derrick Owens Jr.** of Central Ohio High School Sports Showcase (C.O.H.S.S.) on live streaming games. Zach's spirituality inspired the creation of **270 Faith**, a non-profit organization based on Christian principles. Fleer recognized that the majority of Columbus City Schools were at a disadvantage socially and economically and he used his platforms to give the City League some support that went a long way in returning a measure of pride to all of the teams within the League. That support was instrumental to the efforts of the Africentric and Linden boys teams making their deep runs in the '22 tournament to which both communities wish to express their undying gratitude to Zach Fleer and his 270 Hoops and 270 Faith for their selfless efforts to restore pride to communities in need during times when the mainstream media had shown no respect. Thanks Zach!





READ, READ, READ *instead of* BOUNCE, PASS, SHOOT!

The faithfulness, which we prove on every moment in space and time, every little chance we take to develop ourselves to our highest possible power, is an indication of the sort of person(s) we will be. This is the hope and dreams we have for the next generation, as our parents had for us, and their parents had for them. As the Great Marcus Moziah Gavey, a change agent for America (1919-26), stated. “Opportunities don’t just happen you create them.”

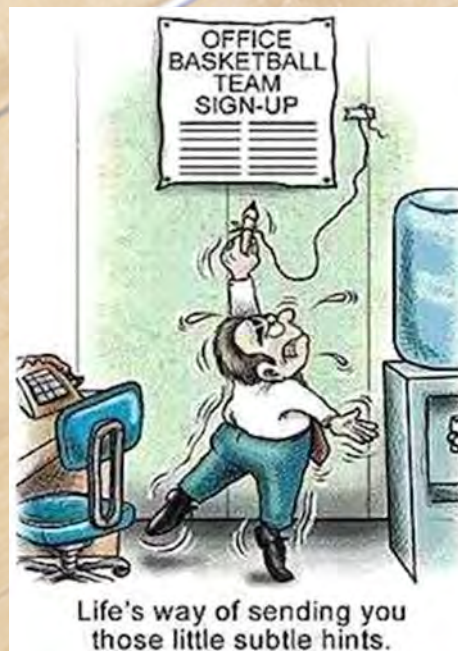
We are exerting far too much focus and energy on how well our children/youth are bouncing, passing, and shooting a basketball, in comparison to their ability to read, read, read, and read some more. We must not only encourage this in them, we must demonstrate its importance in our lives. It is a pity that far too many individual adults missed out on their opportunity for an education, while at school age, and now recognize the crippling effects of this failure, and recognize the great life-improver that can substitute for a higher education: **READING**.

The habit of reading, if not abused, not only can give one pleasure, but will make you larger as a person, more informed, and a more interesting person to be around.

When you read about people who have achieved great things under the most difficult conditions and succeeded, don’t you think to yourself, **WHY CAN’T I DO IT?** To which something inside responds, “**I CAN AND I WILL!!**”

In order to get the most out of books, magazines, periodicals, the reader must be a “**THINKER.**” Why do you think that during enslavement and during other historical periods in the world reading was something that only the elite had access to. The disenfranchised were denied this right, so they would never think about challenging their condition.

So, let’s balance our passion for bouncing, passing, and shooting a basketball with reading, reading, reading, which ultimately develops a person’s civility, respect for others, acceptance of instruction, respect for one’s cultural significance in the community, nation, and the world. Let’s **READ**.





Have you read a book lately?

GCBLA will issue a challenge to feed your mind when the "Recommended Reading" column returns to The Legendary. It will be promoting books with sports topics or books that are authored by people with a sports background or connection.



New Initiative

DON ALLEN SELLERS, 2019 GCBLA inductee, recognized for his accomplishments as a former NBA Scout, G-League Coach, and Overseas professional Coach, has agreed to serve as Director of Communication/Public Relations for GCBLA. In this capacity, he will maintain contact with former inductees, keeping them updated on our progress, and creating new contacts and collaborations. We thank Don for wanting to volunteer his time to advance the organization.

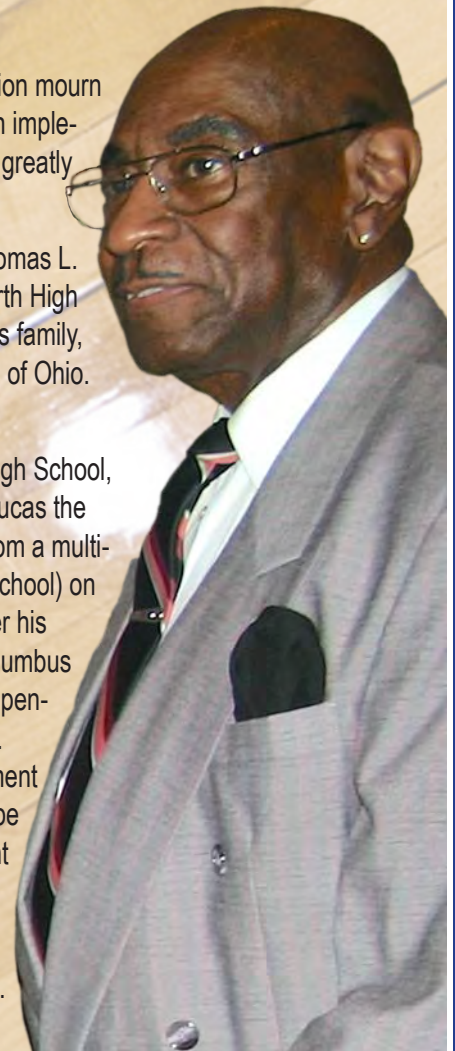
The Legend of Eddie Clark

The Officers and Members of the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association mourn the passing of Eddie Clark, a longtime member of GCBLA who was instrumental in implementing the organization's motto: "Where Legends Are Remembered!". He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Eddie Clark was born on February 14, 1940 to the late Delphine Wilbanks and Thomas L. Clark in Columbus, Ohio. In his early years, Ed was a star basketball player at North High School and went on to college in California and earned a B.S. degree. Missing his family, he returned to Columbus and received a managerial position working for the State of Ohio. Eddie really enjoyed working with the youth of Ohio.

Eddie's contribution to the sport of basketball has been gigantic. When at North High School, he scored the winning basket against Middletown High School which gave Jerry Lucas the only loss of his high school basketball career. Eddie received scholarship offers from a multitude of schools and accepted the offer from Texas Southern University (a HBCU school) on an athletic scholarship where he graduated in 1964 in Business Administration. After his retirement from occupational life in Columbus in 1980, he worked part-time for Columbus Public Schools as a substitute teacher and assistant girls basketball coach at Independence High School while also working to diminish gang violence in the community. Eddie joined GCBLA at its inception and has been a driving force for the development of the group and its mission to preserve the sport that he so dearly loved and will be honored as a posthumous inductee at the next GCBLA Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony.

Anyone and everyone who knew Eddie, knew he was a gracious man with a kind spirit and warm heart. There are no words to express how much he will be missed.





Where Are They Now? . . .

Des Watson

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School's Desmond "Des" Watson enjoyed a breakout season his junior year, averaging 22.7 points per game and leading the Stallions to a district title and took his team to the State Finals as a senior where they finished as runner-up.

Committing to Atlantic 10 powerhouse Davidson, Watson chose the Wildcats over Akron, George Mason, Bowling Green and Toledo. Davidson coaches attended several of Watson's high school games his junior season and despite there not being much of an AAU season due to COVID, they watched him compete that summer in several of the 270 Hoops Challenge events via livestream.

"They had been recruiting me for four or five months," Watson told 270 Hoops. "They were just the best fit for my family and I academic wise and basketball wise. I wouldn't say I was planning on committing as soon as they offered, it just ended up happening."

Despite winning just 16 games that previous season, Davidson is a program that traditionally wins 20+ games every year in the A10, however, that wasn't the only reason Watson chose the Wildcats. "My relationship with the coaching staff was super tight," said Watson. "We talked all the time. They loved the way I could get to the hoop and my passing ability." Watson also cited that he likes the size of the campus and the people around it, as that helped him make a decision as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8Qa1bEG1Rc>



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Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association has registered to participate in the **AMAZON SMILE** program, which allows customers to support their favorite non-profit charitable organizations. With every eligible purchase made from Amazon, a portion will be given to GCBLA. To participate search [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and insert, The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. For further information contact us via email at legendscba@gmail.com.



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