

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE *of the* NATIONAL BASKETBALL RETIRED PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

LEGENDS

HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2021

A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER
FOR INCOMING INDUCTEES

MAGAZINE

20/21 Summer



LEGEND AMONG
LEGENDS

PURVIS
SHORT

NBA PLAYOFFS

FROM THE PLAY-IN TOURNAMENT
TO BUCKS IN SIX

TAMIKA CATCHINGS

HER IMPACT ON THE GAME OF BASKETBALL AND BEYOND





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NBA PLAYOFFS 2021

FROM THE PLAY-IN TOURNAMENT TO BUCKS IN SIX

by **GREG HANSBROUGH**



Trane Young #11 of the Atlanta Hawks high fives Kevin Huerter #3 of the Atlanta Hawks during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference Finals of the 2021 NBA Playoffs on June 25, 2021 at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, WI.

The NBA Playoffs has always elicited a wide range of emotions from both fans and players that make it one of the greatest events in all of sports. Players and fans both become wide eyed for the spectacle that is the NBA Playoffs.

The NBA started the “play in” games last year as a way to generate excitement in the final games of the regular season. The 4 teams that are in 7-10 position in their conference play to determine the 7th and 8th seeds in the playoffs. The teams that are in the top 6 of each conference have already secured their spots on the main stage. The 7th and 8th ranked teams in each conference play one game, the winner secures their spot in the playoffs as the 7th seed. The loser of this game will face the winner of the 9th and 10th ranked teams. The loser of the 9th and 10th ranked team goes home while the winner faces the other team in a battle for the final playoff spot.

NBA PLAYOFFS 2021

EASTERN CONFERENCE

In the Eastern Conference, the 9th place Pacers met the 10th place Hornets in a game that is best represented by the phrase “Age before beauty”. The older, seasoned veterans took control of the game from the opening tip-off. The Indiana Pacers led by Doug McDermott and Malcolm Brogdon easily controlled the tempo of the game as they closed it out with a victory that was never in doubt. Hornets Cody Zeller captured it perfectly after the game by saying, “Nothing went right.”

The other match up in the east featured the Wizards in a game controlled by Jayson Tatum of the Boston Celtics as he poured in 50 points to secure the win over Washington.

The final play-in game in the east featured a great match up between the Indiana Pacers and the Washington Wizards. Indiana Pacer Domantas Sabonis poured in a triple double with 19 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists. The Wizards battled adamantly as their leaders, Russell Westbrook and Bradley Beal combined for a total of 43 points as they secured their spot in the playoffs. It seemed as though the Wizards were ready to step in their hard-earned playoff spot as Beal said, “We have a lot of noise to make.”

The first round of the Eastern Conference Playoffs began with the Milwaukee Bucks making an emphatic statement by defeating Miami in 4 straight games behind the leadership of Giannis Antetokounmpo as the “Greek Freak” closed the door on the Miami Heat.

The rest of the first round featured the Philadelphia 76ers, led by Joel Embiid, wrapped up the Wizards, sending Westbrook and the rest of the Washington squad home. The Brooklyn Nets, led by James Harden, Kevin Durant, and Kyrie Irving as they defeated the Celtics in “super team” fashion under the leadership of the “Big 3”. The Hawks also closed out the first round in 5 games as they defeated the Knicks.

The Hawks and the 76ers found themselves in an epic match to get to the conference finals. As the series entered a game 7, the Hawks found themselves relying on Kevin Huerter as he poured in 27 points to lead the Hawks past Philadelphia and into the franchise’s first conference championship.

The Eastern Conference semi-final match-up between the Milwaukee Bucks and Brooklyn Nets was nothing short of incredible. Both teams seemed to scrap for every point they could find as the series went into game 7. Durant poured in 42 points as the Nets forced overtime with a buzzer beating shot at the end of regulation. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 49 points to secure a two-point lead as the final buzzer rang to send Milwaukee into the conference finals.

The Bucks and the Hawks featured an impressive series as the 2 teams battled in an epic struggle for the conference title. Trae Young dropped in a 48-point game to secure a game 1 victory for the Hawks. As the series progressed, the Bucks proved too much for the Hawks despite a hyper-extended knee keeping Antetokounmpo out of the rest of the series. The Bucks found traction behind Brooks Lopez as he poured in 33 points to secure game 5. The Bucks wrapped up the series with a game 6 victory over the Atlanta Hawks to secure their place as the Eastern Conference Champions and their chance to play for an NBA title.



Domantas Sabonis #11 of the Indiana Pacers shoots the ball against the Charlotte Hornets during the 2021 NBA Play-In Tournament on May 18, 2021 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN.



Russell Westbrook #4 of the Washington Wizards celebrates against the Indiana Pacers during the 2021 NBA Play-In Tournament on May 20, 2021 at Capital One Arena in Washington, DC.



Kevin Durant #7 of the Brooklyn Nets takes a shot in the second half against the Milwaukee Bucks during Game Two of the Eastern Conference second round series at Barclays Center on June 7, 2021 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City.

NBA PLAYOFFS 2021

WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Playoff scene in the West featured dramatic play in games featuring the defending champs. The Spurs and the Grizzlies with Jonas Valančiūnas controlling the post with 23 points to help Memphis edge out the win. The LA Lakers, led by LeBron James, edged out the Golden State Warriors in a tight game featuring King James getting poked in the eye as he put up a triple double with 22 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists. Golden state coach Steve Kerr summed up his frustrations after the game by saying, "This was a bitter pill to swallow, this was our game and we couldn't get it done".

As the Warriors dusted themselves off, they faced the Grizzlies in a "win or go home" game. Curry poured in a phenomenal 49 points as the Grizzlies battled to end the game with a 117-112 victory over Golden State to secure their spot in the playoffs.

After briefly celebrating their hard-fought entry as the 8th seed in the playoffs, Memphis met the number 1 seeded Utah Jazz and quickly discovered why they had secured the top seed in the conference. As Mitchell, Conley, and Gobert set the tone for the seasoned team, they ensured that the Jazz were not going to have an early exit as they had the previous year. The Jazz seemed to easily advance to the second round by defeating the Grizzlies in a 5-game series.

The Los Angeles Clippers and the Dallas Mavericks featured a match up placing both teams in a bitter grudge match to advance. After going down 2 games to start the series, Kawhi Leonard and Paul George seemed to work together to pull the Clippers up and force a game 7 showdown that showed the grittiness of the Los Angeles team as they closed out the series at home.

Nikola Jokic seemed to lead the way for the Nuggets as they were down 14 points. The Denver Nuggets never quit as they closed out the Trail Blazers in 6 games. Jokic's comments stand as a warning to their next opponent, "Quit is not in our vocabulary."

The LA Lakers fought to get into the playoffs this year and the defending champions reached a road block as they faced the Phoenix Suns. With Anthony Davis out with an injury, LeBron James poured in as many points as he could, scoring 24 in the final game. "We got kicked", James commented after the loss. The Suns dominated the series and closed out the Lakers in 6 games.

The second round of the Western Conference Playoffs put the hype of everything to rest as two teams emphatically stated that they deserved to be in the conference finals.

The Phoenix Suns, led by Chris Paul, averaging over 8 assists per game, made quick work of the Denver Nuggets by sweeping them out of the playoffs. After the Suns put the league MVP and the Denver squad out of the playoffs, they seemed poised to get some rest and make some noise in the Western Conference finals.

On the other side of the bracket, the LA Clippers seemed locked in an epic battle against the Jazz. After coming from being down two games in the first round, they rallied to win the series and advance past the Mavericks. As the Clippers franchise has never advanced to a conference championship, even with Kawhi Leonard left with a sprained knee. Paul George and Terance Mann responded with incredible grit as they helped lead the team to mount a comeback and secure their place in the Clippers first conference finals.

As the Suns met the Clippers for the Western Conference Finals, it seemed as though the Suns were going to quickly send the Clippers into the offseason by taking a commanding 2-0 series lead. Paul George stopped the sweep by pouring in 27 points to secure a game 3 victory for the Clippers. After the Suns' victory in game 4, Paul George added some heroics to win game 5 as he contributed 41 points. Game 6, it was all Suns as Chris Paul secured the conference championship for the Phoenix Suns.



Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors plays defense on LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers during the 2021 NBA Play-In Tournament on May 19, 2021 at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, CA.



Damian Lillard #0 of the Portland Trail Blazers does a spin move on Nikola Jokic #15 and Gary Harris #14 of the Denver Nuggets during the second half of Game Six of the Western Conference Semifinals at Moda Center on May 9, 2019 in Portland, OR. The Blazers won 119-108.



Ja Morant #12 of the Memphis Grizzlies attempts to drive between Donovan Mitchell #45 and Rudy Gobert #27 of the Utah Jazz in Game Two of the Western Conference first-round playoff series at Vivint Smart Home Arena on May 26, 2021 in Salt Lake City, UT.



Khris Middleton #22 and members of the Milwaukee Bucks celebrate after defeating the Phoenix Suns in Game Six to win the 2021 NBA Finals at Fiserv Forum on July 20, 2021 in Milwaukee, WI.

NBA PLAYOFFS 2021

NBA FINALS



Above: Giannis Antetokounmpo #34 of the Milwaukee Bucks celebrates after receiving the Bill Russell Finals MVP Award after winning Game Six of the 2021 NBA Finals against the Phoenix Suns on July 20, 2021 at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, WI. Right: Devin Booker #1 and Chris Paul #3 of the Phoenix Suns celebrate during the second half in Game One of the NBA Finals against the Milwaukee Bucks at Phoenix Suns Arena on July 6, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ.

As the Bucks and the Suns championship series began, it seemed as though the wisdom from the veteran Chris Paul would prove too much as Phoenix quickly secured the first two games of the series with Paul pouring in 32 points in the first game and Booker adding 31 to secure the second game. But, then it was time for Antetokounmpo to show why he is called the “Greek Freak” as he seemed to put Milwaukee on his shoulders by having a 41-point game followed by a 40-point performance to even the series at 2 games. Giannis then continued his touch by scoring 32 points in a pivotal game 5. As experts predicted a Bucks victory in game 7, Antetokounmpo seemed to propel himself to an untouchable level as he dominated game 6 by scoring 50 points and securing the championship for the Milwaukee Bucks, their first championship since 1971.





The newly announced Class of 2021 honorees poses for a group photo during the opening of the newly renovated Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on May 16, 2021 in Springfield, MA.

A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER FOR
INCOMING NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021

by VIKAS CHOKSHI

The 2021 Basketball Hall of Fame class was announced in May with Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell headlining. NBA players Paul Pierce, Chris Webber, Chris Bosh and Ben Wallace spotlight the players class. The coaches being inducted are Russell, Rick Adelman, and Jay Wright. WNBA players Lauren Jackson and Yolanda

Griffith are among the inductees as well. Also getting in among the international committee route is former Chicago Bulls star Toni Kukoc.

The Class of 2021 will be enshrined in Springfield, MA on September 11.

"For the first time in our history, we'll enshrine two Classes in one calendar year," said John L.

Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "We couldn't be more excited to welcome the Class of 2021 to Springfield – the Birthplace of Basketball – where we can celebrate them and honor their remarkable achievements and contributions to the game."

NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE:

CHRIS BOSH

Bosh was drafted by the Toronto Raptors in 2004, where he finished as a member of the NBA All-Rookie Team. Bosh's career, cut short due to health issues, was filled with many accolades and awards. He finished as an 11-time NBA All-Star and a two-time NBA Champion (2012, 2013) with the famous Miami Heat big 3 teams. Bosh also won a gold medal on the International level in 2008.

Chris Bosh #1 of the Miami Heat celebrates after the Heat won 83-80 against the Chicago Bulls in Game Five of the Eastern Conference Finals during the 2011 NBA Playoffs on May 26, 2011 at the United Center in Chicago, IL.



Chris Webber #4 of the Golden State Warriors posts up against the Denver Nuggets circa 1994 at the McNichols Sports Arena in Denver, CO.

CHRIS WEBBER

Webber had an impressive collegiate career at the University of Michigan which led to him being selected No. 1 overall 1993 NBA Draft. C-Webb played 15 seasons in the League, most notably for the Warriors, Washington Wizards, and the Sacramento Kings.

His 2002 Kings' team played with a ton of flair and pushed the defending, and eventual, champion, Los Angeles Lakers to the brink in the Western Conference Finals. Webber won Rookie of the Year in 1993-1994 and finished his career as a 5-time All-Star, finishing his career averaging nearly 20-10.

BEN WALLACE

Wallace is one of the best defensive players in the history of the NBA. While he only averaged 5.7 points per game over his career, he was a force of nature on the defensive side of the ball. Big Ben was named to six All-Defensive teams and won the Defensive Player of the Year award four times.

He also won an NBA Championship, anchoring the Detroit Pistons that took down the Los Angeles Lakers in 2004, led by Bryant and O'Neil.

Ben Wallace #3 of the Detroit Pistons grabs the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 1 of the 2004 NBA Finals on June 6, 2004 at Staples Center in Los Angeles, CA.



PAUL PIERCE

Pierce is one of the best to ever don the Celtics jersey. He leads the franchise in several categories, including free throws made, 3-point field goals, and steals. He's also in the top 5 in points, assists, and games played.

"The Truth" helped lead Boston to an NBA Title in 2008, in which he was named Finals MVP. He also led the team to another appearance in the NBA Finals in 2010. Pierce is a 10-time All-Star and made the All-NBA team four times in his career.

Paul Pierce #34 of the Boston Celtics drives the ball upcourt against the Miami Heat in Game One of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals during the 2010 NBA Playoffs on April 17, 2010 at TD Garden in Boston, MA. The Celtics won 85-76.

NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE:



Head coach, Bill Russell of the Sacramento Kings calls out a play against the Dallas Mavericks during the game on November 21, 1987 at ARCO Arena in Sacramento, CA.

BILL RUSSELL

Russell, who was inducted as a player back in 1975, is going into this class for his time as a coach. Mr. 11 Rings first started his coaching career as a player/coach when he replaced Red Auerbach as head coach of the Celtics in 1966. He remained a player/coach for the final three seasons of his illustrious career.

While he dominated the league as a player, he was also successful as a coach, as Boston won the NBA title in his final two seasons as player/coach.

After retirement, Russell went on to coach the Seattle SuperSonics. He stayed in that position for four years, leading the franchise to their first playoff appearance.

RICK ADELMAN

Adelman comes to mind with the aforementioned Webber as he was the head coach of those entertaining Sacramento teams. Overall he coached 23 seasons in the League, compiling an overall head coaching record of 1042-749 (.582).

His teams were successful the majority of the years he coached, reaching the playoffs in 16 of his 23 seasons. The pinnacle of his career was leading the Portland Trail Blazers to two NBA Finals (1990, 1992). He ranks ninth all-time in NBA career wins, including two 60-win seasons and 11 50-win seasons.

Adelman also made three appearances as the head coach in the NBA All-Star Game (1991, 2001, 2003).



Head coach Rick Adelman of the Minnesota Timberwolves looks on as his team plays the Houston Rockets on December 26, 2012 at Target Center in Minneapolis, MN.



Head coach Jay Wright of the Villanova Wildcats in action against the Seton Hall Pirates during a college basketball game at Wells Fargo Center on February 8, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA. Seton Hall defeated Villanova 70-64.

JAY WRIGHT

Wright has changed the game when it comes to coaching at the Collegiate level by coveting a team model instead of going the route of stacking up his teams with one-and-doners. It paid off for the two-time Naismith National Coach of the Year (2006, 2016), as he led Villanova to two NCAA national championships (2016, 2018) and eight Big East regular season championships (2006, 2014-17, 2019-2021).

Overall, the six-time Big East Conference Coach of the Year (2006, 2009, 2014-16, 2019) has led the Wildcats to three Final Fours, four Elite Eights and five Sweet Sixteen appearances. Wright has compiled an overall coaching record of 612-274 (.691) and won the John R. Wooden Legends of Coaching Award in 2018.

Yolanda Griffith #33 of the Sacramento Monarchs dribbles upcourt against the Los Angeles Sparks during Game Three of the first round of the WNBA Playoffs at Staples Center on September 28, 2004 in Los Angeles, CA. The Monarchs won 73-58.



YOLANDA GRIFFITH

Griffith had a great WNBA career, as she won the 1999 League MVP and 2005 Finals MVP. In 2005, she led the Sacramento Monarchs to their first WNBA title over the Connecticut Sun, winning the only title in the now dissolved franchise's history.

At the International level, Griffith won two gold medals for the USA in 2000 and 2004. After the WNBA, she went on to have a terrific overseas career in Germany, Italy, and Russia before retiring.

VETERANS COMMITTEE:

BOB DANDRIDGE

Dandridge is among the top forwards to ever play in the NBA and was a 2-time NBA champion (1971 Milwaukee Bucks, 1978 Washington Bullets). The 4-time All-Star playing alongside the Hall-of-Fame duos of Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) and



Oscar Robertson in Milwaukee and later with Elvin Hayes and Wes Unseld in Washington, cemented his place in history as a prolific scorer by scoring more points in the NBA Finals in the 1970s than any other player in that decade. He averaged 18.5 points per game over 839 regular season games and 20 points per game in 98 playoff games, including a total of 450 points in four NBA Finals played.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE:

LAUREN JACKSON

Jackson is one of the most decorated women basketball players of all-time. She's one of the best players in Seattle Storm history, winning two championships and three MVP awards for the team. Jackson also led the WNBA in scoring three times (2003, 2004, 2007) and won Finals MVP in 2010.

Internationally, she also won four titles in the WNBL, and three silver medals in the Olympics and a bronze for Australian Women's National Team.



Lauren Jackson #15 of the Seattle Storm takes a free throw shot during the WNBA game against the Phoenix Mercury at US Airways Center on July 14, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. The Storm defeated the Mercury 111-107 in triple overtime.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE:

TONI KUKOC

Kukoc was nicknamed "The Waiter" because he served up defenders overseas and in the NBA. His versatile playing style was before its time and would translate to today's game as well. Kukoc finished his 13-year NBA career as a three-time champion with the Chicago Bulls (1996-98) and won the NBA Sixth Man of the Year award in 1996.

He also racked up accolades internationally, winning three EuroLeague titles, one FIBA World Championship gold medal (1990) with Yugoslavia, two Olympic silver medals and a FIBA World Championship MVP.

Additionally, Kukoc was a five-time Euroscar European Player of the Year (1990, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1998) and three-time EuroLeague MVP (1990, 1991, 1993). Before coming over to Chicago, he made the list of FIBA's 50 Greatest Players (1991).



Toni Kukoc #7 of the Chicago Bulls dribbles the ball against the Sacramento Kings during a game played on January 30, 1997 at Arco Arena in Sacramento, CA.

Lauren Jackson of Australia battles with Yolanda Griffith of the USA during the Womens Basketball Final at the Sydney SuperDome on day 15 of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.





FROM THE SOUTHSIDE AND DOWN UNDER

*TWO LEGENDS LOOK BACK ON
THEIR ROAD TO SPRINGFIELD*

by **GIAVONNA HEATH**

Yolanda Griffith and Lauren Jackson are both WNBA Champions who have a slew of accolades and titles to add to their name, but now they can add Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to that list.

Griffith is the youngest of five, a Chicago Native and proud Southsider. Her first love was softball, and she began playing basketball as an accident. Self admittedly a tomboy growing up, Griffith would play street ball with the boys in her neighborhood but didn't start playing organized ball until the eighth grade. However, when she picked up the ball, she was a natural giving her a sense of belonging. It wasn't until the end of her Sophomore year at George Washington Carver that she began to take basketball seriously because of her coach, Ms. Smith.

Smith explained to her that she needed to focus on her skills and hone them to use them as an instrument to get the education she needed and propel her to the next level.

Similarly, Jackson, who is passionate about her country, Australia, and her family, assumed she would use her basketball DNA to succeed in anything she wanted to do. Her parents both played professionally and instilled in her that she could do anything that she wanted to do, even believing in becoming the first woman in the NBA. However, she acknowledges her soft tendencies and thinking her skillset was much better than it was at a young age, needing a few reality checks before she would toughen up and get to the level she wanted.

The 15-year-old Jackson would leave home and participate in the Australian Institute of Sports. The most talented 12 to 15-year-old children were selected and placed in dormitory-style living to perfect their craft, helping her achieve her dream of playing against the best in the WNBA.

"To be the best, you have to go through the best," Jackson said in an interview with Legends Live.

She was excited and eager to play in America, but it wasn't long before realizing the cultural difference. Jackson shares that during her first practice with the Seattle Storm, she was caught off guard as they scrimmaged with no rules or referees, completely



Yolanda Griffith #33 of the Sacramento Monarchs celebrates after making a basket while playing the San Antonio Silver Stars in Game Three of the Western Conference Semifinals during the 2007 WNBA Playoffs at the AT&T Center August 27, 2007 in San Antonio, TX.



Yolanda Griffith celebrates after defeating the Connecticut Sun during Game 4 of the WNBA Finals September 20, 2005 at Arco Arena in Sacramento,



Above: Yolanda Griffith holds onto the championship trophy during the game between the Oklahoma City Thunder and Sacramento Kings on April 9, 2016 in Sacramento, CA. Right: Yolanda Griffith rebounds against the Cleveland Rockers during a game played in 1999 at Arco Arena in Sacramento, CA.





Lauren Jackson #15 of the Seattle Storm shoots against Krystal Thomas #34 of the Phoenix Mercury on September 23, 2012 at U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix, AZ.



Lauren Jackson #15 of Australia celebrates in the second half against Russia during the Women's Basketball Bronze Medal game for the London 2012 Olympic Games on August 11, 2012 in London, England.



Lauren Jackson #15 of the Seattle Storm holds up the 2004 WNBA Championship trophy after defeating the Connecticut Sun on October 12, 2004 at the Key Arena in Seattle, WA.



Lauren Jackson speaks during the WNBL 2020-21 Season launch at The Ville on November 10, 2020 in Townsville, Australia.

opposite of what she was used to playing, organized, and with boundaries.

Yet, Griffith chose a different route to become the player she is recognized for being.

Beginning her professional career in the ABL, she proclaims her love for the league and how competitive it was before it suspended its operations—attributing her toughness to her upbringing. Growing up in a two-parent household, with strict rules and tough love but a supporting family, greatness was expected, unknowingly preparing her for her unconventional journey to the WNBA.

Some would call her Yo-yo, prides herself on defense. She said she knew she would score, but someone had to do the work on defense. A crucial role because “that one jump-ball could be a difference in winning the game or not.”

Both soon-to-be Hall of Famer's recognize Anne Donovan as someone they looked up to for her fastidious work ethic and the way she carried herself.

Igniting their path, both are passionate about helping others who want to follow their dreams and play professionally as they did.

Jackson's advice is, don't be afraid, “give it your all but still enjoy the process.” Griffith saying to trust that you can do it and remain true to yourself, “know who you are.” Both matching beliefs emphasizing that discipline is something needed to be successful in the WNBA.

Griffith says she is “very thankful for this honor... I am over the top because of my journey.” She is taking time to spend with her family. She enjoys her time at home and being a grandmother but is looking forward to going back into coaching and currently working on opening a sports academy for girls in Chicago. Jackson is the head of the Women's National Basketball League in Australia, and she's committed to lifting their profile, professionalism, and standards. She becomes emotional thinking about being inducted and believes it is an honor.



LEGEND AMONG LEGENDS

PURVIS SHORT

by VIKAS CHOKSHI

People who meet Purvis Short today, know him as the Chief of Player Programs with the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA), but a lot transpired for him to get here.

Short, considered one of the best NBA players to never make the All-Star game, was born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in the 1960s. Growing up, racial tensions ran high in the deep south, but he praised his mother for teaching him that race and color were not an issue and that he should treat people the way that you would want to be treated.

During the conversation, Purvis mentions Eugene Short, his older brother, frequently. He credits his brother for attracting him to basketball.

"Eugene was great at all sports, as he was a tremendous quarterback in football, a baseball pitcher, and an excellent basketball player," Short said. "So as you know, whenever you have an older brother you want to be like them, you want to do what they do, and so I started playing basketball."

As for his game, Short credits his early fundamentals to Johnny Hurtt, his coach at Hattiesburg High. Hurtt taught Short to shoot high-arching jump shots by guarding him in shooting drills with a broomstick, earning him the nickname "Rainbowman."

"My 11th grade year, we won the state championship, and I was named high school All-American."

His success that year attracted many college offers, which led him to follow his brother's path once more. Eugene had gone to Jackson State University, an HBCU in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Purvis remembers falling in love with the school the first time he got a chance to go watch his brother play and experience the HBCU atmosphere.

Short credits his HBCU experience to helping him not only grow as a basketball player but as a person and leader. He also mentions how happy he is to see a lot of the elite high school players now considering attending HBCUs.

"I knew that was where I needed to be, that was where I wanted to go," Short stated. "There's nothing like an HBCU experience, and it's great to see a rebirth of interest in HBCUs."

Short played four years at Jackson State, where he finished as the school's all-time leading scorer. He was also an All-American, the NCAA's second leading scorer in 1978, and named the SWAC player of the year in 1977 and 1979.



Former Houston Rocket Purvis Short takes the Rockets First Shot For Charity at Toyota Center on March 28, 2019 in Houston, TX.

His success earned him a spot in the Aloha Classic, the big college all-star game that took place in Hawaii. He played well against the best college players in the country, leading him to be drafted fifth in the 1978 NBA Draft by the Golden State Warriors.

The kid from Mississippi had never traveled anywhere, so California was an eye-opening adventure. Short is thankful for the support system the Warriors had in place, which was led by head coach Al Attles.

"They had a black coach," Short said. "He really was not only a coach to me but also a mentor and showed me what it took to be professional."

He also mentioned Pete Newell, Clifford Ray and Phil Smith as guys that helped him adjust and learn the NBA game, like physical play, offensive strategies, which are all hard to learn in the first year.

"Pete Newell was probably the greatest fundamental basketball teacher that I've ever come across," Short explained.

Newell was a consultant for the Warriors and held a big man camp where he would select guys in the NBA and work with them on footwork fundamentals. Short began going to the camp.

Every summer he played against the likes of Kiki VanDeWeghe, Bernard King, James Worthy, and big men, Hakeem Olajuwon, Ralph Samson, and Steve Johnson.

"The camp really laid the foundation for my offensive game," per Short. "I had some of my best scoring seasons and highest scoring games."

It was during his early years with the Warriors that he got his first experience with the NBPA. At that time, the union was still growing, but the messages they talked about were very important.

"I was the player rep for the Warriors and after my first year, I realized how important it was and so every year I'd volunteer to be a player rep because I wanted to understand the business of basketball," he said. "Things that all players needed to know were very important in terms of what your rights were, the benefits that all players needed, and the help players needed to resolve issues as a player or as a team."



Purvis Short #45 of the Golden State Warriors shoots over Darren Daye #25 of the Washington Bullets during an NBA basketball game circa 1984 at the Capital Centre in Landover, MD. Short played for the Warriors from 1978-87.



At the 2019 NBPA x HBCU Top 50 Camp at Morehouse College, NBPA Chief of Player Programs and former HBCU alumni Purvis Short sits campers down to share some advice on the privilege of being an HBCU athlete and taking the road less traveled.



Eugene Short



After he left the game, he continued to stay in contact with the Players Association, especially the head of the union at the time, Charlie Grantham.

"He was a phenomenal person," Short remembered. "He was so concerned about the well-being of all players current and retired."

Grantham called in 1993 with a proposition. He was creating a department called the Player Program, which would provide services for all NBA players in the area of career development, financial education, and a health/ drug education program. The programs were to be designed to address any issues that players would have during their career. Short dedicated his post career to trying to help players, especially because of his own experience with his older brother Eugene.

"Eugene was a tremendous basketball player and the programs we talked about, he needed all of those things," Purvis reminisced. "Anytime you're a professional athlete and you've worked so hard to get to that status and then all of a sudden when you can't do it anymore, that's a huge adjustment."

"A lot of players go through what I call a grieving process. We don't have the luxury of leaving a job when we choose to. Oftentimes, we're told we can't do it anymore or we're not wanted and all of a sudden you're without something that you've done 20 plus years of your life."

Purvis candidly admitted that he wasn't very successful in his ability to help his brother, which is what motivated him even more. So, when he got the job with the NBPA, he realized the significance of the work he would be doing.

"I made a commitment that the remainder of my post basketball career would be dedicated to trying to help all NBA players and retired players, and that's been the scope of my work," Short explained.

Short, who was named the Director of Player Programs in 1999-2000, has been helping players ever since.

He gets excited when he talks about his work. He brings up the top-100 camp that the NBPA does every summer, which has become one of the elite camps in the country.

"Our top-100 camp has been by far one of the best and most comprehensive basketball camps in the world."

The player funded camp was born in the early 90s, when high school players were coming directly into the league. So they started the camp so they could work with the young athletes and lay a foundation on navigating their careers.

They've had a lot of players come through the camp that have gone on to be stars. Guys like Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, DeAndre Ayton, to name a few.

There's also a leadership program for players that are interested in being involved in basketball operations and a program for players that are interested in coaching.

"Guys like Ime Udoka, who was just hired by Boston, and Luke Walton came through the program," Short smiled. "We have a lot of guys that participated in our coaching program that now have NBA jobs, whether it be head coaching or assistant coaching jobs, so we're very proud of what we've done in that area."



I MADE A COMMITMENT THAT THE REMAINDER OF MY POST BASKETBALL CAREER WOULD BE DEDICATED TO TRYING TO HELP ALL NBA PLAYERS AND RETIRED PLAYERS, AND THAT'S BEEN THE SCOPE OF MY WORK."

PURVIS SHORT

Purvis Short #45 of the New Jersey Nets looks on against the Washington Bullets during an NBA basketball game circa 1990 at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland. Short played for the Nets from 1989-90.

The NBPA and NBA also have joint programs, like the rookie transition program. They've seen so much success with that initiative that it's been modeled by other leagues.

"We've created a very effective model in terms of how we address incoming players into the NBA and the foundation we try to lay with them.

Two of the biggest programs Short is ecstatic about are the PA's mental wellness programs and comprehensive substance abuse programs. He attests those to Michelle Roberts, the NBPA's Executive Director.

Short recalls a conversation he had with the late, great Oscar Robinson during his rookie season.

"He said, 'You always want to make this league better than it was when you came in,' and that always stuck with me," Short recalled. "So, in all of my encounters, it's about giving back and passing on what was passed to you."

As for his own mentors, Short showed love to many, but especially Al Attles and Clifford Ray. He says they've done so much for him, so he tries to pass it on.

"What I'm most proud of when looking at the span of my life, is to be placed in a position where I could fulfill my dream of becoming a professional basketball player," he said. "But even greater than that, was to stay involved with the game that I love so much and be able to give back and help these younger players that are coming into the NBA and trying to help them navigate this environment, that's what I'm most proud about.

"I think in life we're all here for certain reasons, so I thought that playing in the NBA was the reason but it wasn't," Short said. "It had to happen to get me here, and I think this is my calling, this is what I was put here to do."



WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL RETIRED BASKETBALL PLAYER ASSOCIATION

At Wintrust, we're committed to giving back to the organizations that support and strengthen our communities, like the National Retired Basketball Players Association. Thank you for your dedication to positively impacting the next generation through basketball. We can support you during your time after the game with financial solutions, including:

- Commercial and community banking
- Wealth management guidance
- Mortgage origination
- Commercial insurance premium financing
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NOT FDIC INSURED | NOT BANK GUARANTEED | MAY LOSE VALUE | NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY**



LEGENDS CARE

Legends Care is the initiative of the NBRPA that positively impacts communities and youth through basketball. NBRPA Legends give back through clinics, mentoring, charitable outreach and other grassroots initiatives in the United States and abroad with the goal of educating, inspiring and keeping youth active, healthy and safe.

LEGENDS HBCU SCHOLARSHIP



The Legends HBCU Scholarship is a scholarship fund and scholars program for undergraduates attending HBCUs. Legends Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of their academic excellence and desire to positively impact the world.



FULL COURT PRESS

Legend Care's cornerstone program - Full Court Press: Prep For Success - went virtual, giving children around the world the opportunity to learn basketball skills through drills demonstrated by WNBA Legend Sheryl Swoopes and NBA Legends Grant Hill, Shawn Marion, Dale Ellis, Fat Lever, Greg Oden and Caron Butler.



LEGENDS GIRL CHAT

Legends Girl Chat is a virtual Legends Care program consisting of one-hour video conversations between middle school and high school girls and WNBA Legends. Partnering with the NBRPA on Legends Girl Chat is Girls Inc. Through this Legends Care partnership, all 78 affiliates of Girls Inc. are able to schedule a Legends Girl Chat to incorporate into their programming.



LEGENDS HOME COURTS

Through the Legends Home Courts program, monetary grants are given to community groups for the renovation of outdoor basketball courts.

BACK2BACK

BACK2BACK prepares elementary students for the upcoming school year by providing them with brand new backpacks filled with essential back to school supplies.

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY ASSIST

The Thanksgiving Community Assist is an annual Legends Care program through which families in need receive a Thanksgiving turkey and holiday cheer from the Legends of Basketball.



LEGENDS HBCU SCHOLARSHIP

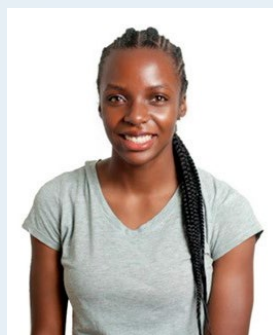
The Legends HBCU Scholarship and Legends Scholars program were created in 2020 under the NBRPA's Legends Care initiative as a way to honor the rich history of HBCUs and their alums while moving the legacy forward by supporting current HBCU undergraduates.

The five Legends Scholars will receive a \$10,000 academic scholarship from the NBRPA for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition to addressing the financial needs of Legends Scholars, a comprehensive scholars program will assist Legends Scholars in the areas of career preparation and development, job placement and mentoring both during and after their undergraduate years.

INTRODUCING THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF LEGENDS SCHOLARS:



**Damon Germaine
Bryan Jr.**
South Carolina State
University
Class of 2022



**Saniya
Keeton**
Tuskegee University
Class of 2023



**Tyrell
Miller-Johnson**
Central State
University
Class of 2023



**Erin
Foster**
Spelman College
Class of 2024



**Jayla Imani
Thornton**
North Carolina A&T
State University
Class of 2024

VISIT LEGENDSOFBASKETBALL.COM/HBCU TO LEARN MORE.



LegendsTM GIRL CHAT

While in Las Vegas for WNBA All-Star, W Legends made time to connect with local teens during a Legends Girl Chat. Mistie Bass, Hamchetou Maiga-Ba, Jamie Redd and Nakia Sanford spoke with members of Girls on the Run Las Vegas about basketball's life lessons, being female athletes in high school, pathways to college and much more. This inspirational Legends Girl Chat ended with high spirits and high fives.





Mark West unveils a refurbished basketball court with NBA Cares at Maryvale Community Center in Phoenix.



Earl Cureton attends the unveiling of a renovated 911 call center in Detroit.



LEGENDS IN THE COMMUNITY



Marques Johnson plays hoops with kids at the dedication of an NBA Cares Learn & Play Center at Running Rebels Community Organization in Milwaukee.



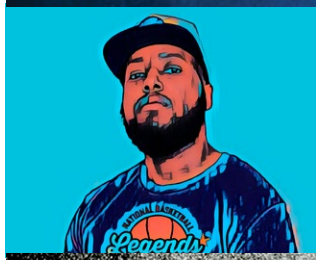
Cynthia Cooper and Ben Wallace speak to Springfield youth during Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend.



Ticha Penicheiro attends a basketball court renovation that was dedicated to her in Figueira da Foz, Portugal.



Bill Walton at the unveiling of "Rocky's Courts" in Colina Del Sol Park. The renovation project of Bill's childhood courts received an NBRPA Legends Care Home Courts renovation grant.



TRILL'S TAKE:

TOP 10 VILLAINS OF ALL TIME

by **TRILL WITHERS**

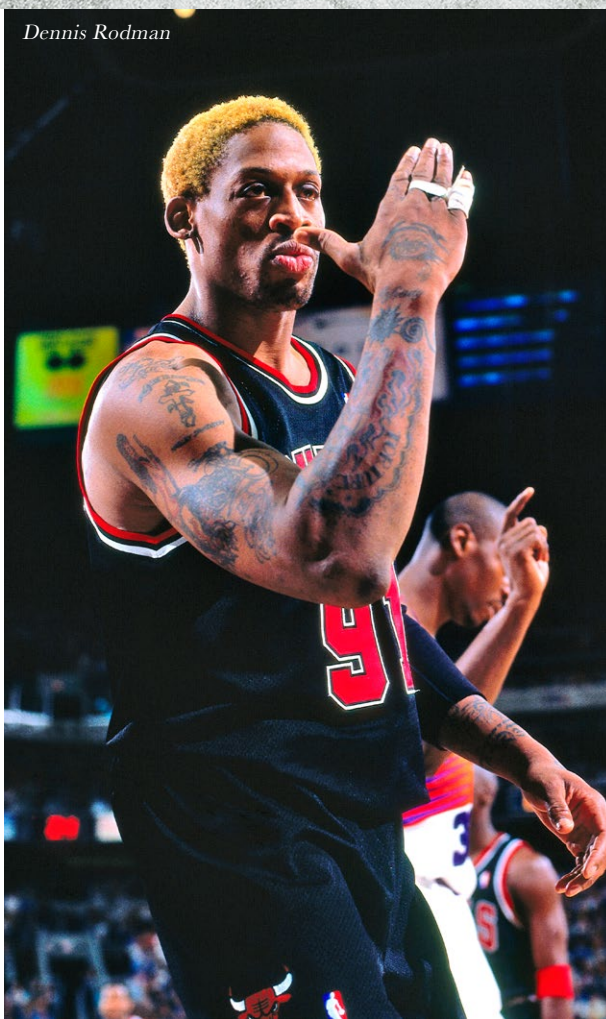
Villains get a bad rap, and I can explain. We hear the word “villain” and think of the bad person in the movie and how awful they are, but we should be thinking of how important they are. Think about how much less enjoyable the 1980’s era of basketball would have been if they were the “Good Boy” Pistons! How would we remember that time if the champs from Motor City were known for helping their opponent up or congratulating a foe after a good play? You loved the Pistons or you loved to hate them.

That love/hatred for a good villain is something that sticks with you throughout the years. Here are some of my favorite heels from NBA past and present:

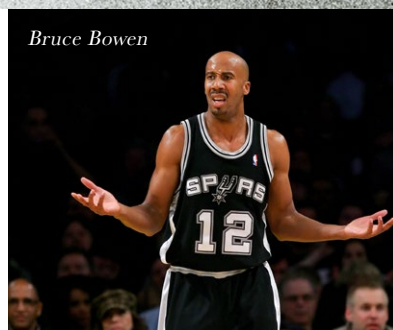
TOP 10 VILLAINS OF ALL TIME

- 10 DANNY AINGE
- 9 DRAYMOND GREEN
- 8 TRAE YOUNG
- 7 RICK MAHORN
- 6 KARL MALONE
- 5 CHARLES OAKLEY
- 4 BRUCE BOWEN
- 3 DENNIS RODMAN
- 2 REGGIE MILLER
- 1 BILL LAIMBEER

Dennis Rodman



Bruce Bowen



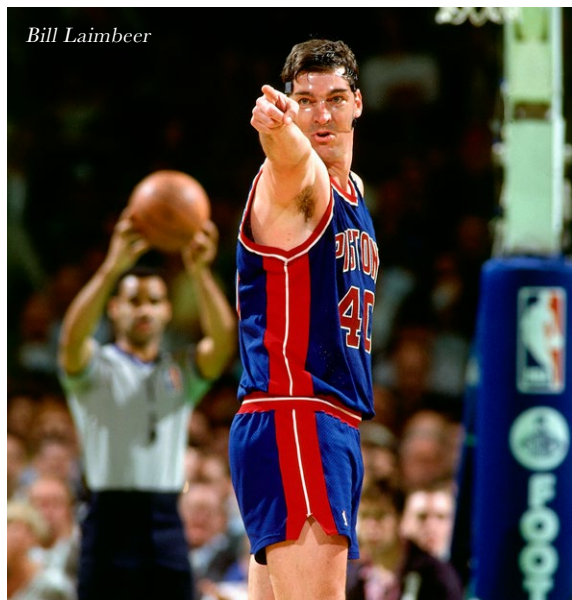
Reggie Miller



Charles Oakley



Bill Laimbeer





Legends Studios, presented by the NBRPA, is the #1 podcast destination for basketball fans who want to hear from NBA and WNBA Legends.

Episodes of the All-Access Legends Podcast, On Deck with Scott Rochelle, Legends Live, Hoop du Jour with Peter Vecsey, and Legends Lounge with Trill Withers can all be found in one place at Legends Studios.



SUBSCRIBE to Legends Studios on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher or wherever you listen to podcasts to stay up-to-date with Legends content.





NEW EXPANDED MULTIMEDIA PLATFORM TO SHOWCASE THE STORIES, SUCCESSES, LESSONS AND PERSONALITIES OF NBA AND WNBA LEGENDS

The National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA) announced the expansion and launch of Legends Media & Entertainment (LME), a multifaceted storytelling platform that will produce, distribute and quantify the wide-reaching stories of many of the NBA and WNBA's biggest stars. The content will span the history of both leagues and feature more recent alums of the game ranging from Sheryl Swoopes and Grant Hill to the sport's greatest legends and business successes on and off the court, delivered through all forms of media, from print and spoken word to long and short form video.

The NBRPA represents over 1,000 former NBA and WNBA players, making it the largest agency of its kind in basketball. This has allowed for direct access to players for opportunities domestically and internationally.

"With the creation of LME, we are building a multimedia platform for some of the most compelling men and women connected to basketball's history and culture under one umbrella, something which has been asked for, and needed for some time," said NBRPA President and CEO Scott Rochelle. "LME will be a vibrant stop for fans, businesses and others who want to enjoy, learn and explore the amazing stories of our Legends both on and off the court. These stories are some of the best in the global business of sport, and now we can house them under one impactful roof."

NBA Champion and NBRPA Director Caron Butler adds, "Every NBA and WNBA player has a story to tell and Legends Media & Entertainment offers ALL Legends a platform to tell their stories and let their voices be heard."

Some of the key unified elements of LME will include:

Legends Magazine which debuted in 2018 and is the official publication for NBA and WNBA Legends. Produced quarterly, Legends Magazine has featured cover stories about NBRPA Director Caron Butler, Jerry Stackhouse, Elton Brand, Jamal Mashburn and "The Knuckleheads" – Quentin Richardson

and Darius Miles. Each issue is delivered to all former players, active players, coaches, stakeholders, influencers and league officials worldwide.

Legends Studios also debuted in 2018 with the launch of original live-action and animated short videos and two podcasts, the All-Access Legends Podcast and On Deck with Scott Rochelle. In April 2020, Legends Live, a weekly web series broadcasted to multiple social media platforms featuring live conversations with NBA and WNBA Legends, was added to the Legends Studios portfolio. In addition to 32 standard episodes, Legends Live also covered the 2020 WNBA Draft and ESPN's The Last Dance with live commentary from Legends. Last week, media personality Tyler Johnson, aka Trill Withers, joined the LME team as host of Legends Live, where he will spend time with many of the game's most successful and dynamic personalities and business people. Johnson will also be a key contributor to Legends Magazine, the All-Access Legends Podcast and the NBRPA's social media strategy and content.

To follow along with LME
content from the NBRPA,
find us on social media.

TWITTER, INSTAGRAM,
YOUTUBE AND TWITCH:
@NBAALUMNI

FACEBOOK:
NBA ALUMNI

TAMIKA CATCHINGS

*HER IMPACT ON THE GAME
OF BASKETBALL AND BEYOND*

by **MYAH TAYLOR**



Tamika Catchings #24 of the Indiana Fever shoots the ball against the Phoenix Mercury during Round One of the 2016 WNBA Playoffs on September 21, 2016 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN.



Left: Tamika Catchings of the Indiana Fever poses for a portrait during the WNBA Media Day at Bankers Life Fieldhouse on May 3, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The world might look at Tamika Catchings and instantly put limitations on her. She's Black. She's a woman. She wears a hearing aid on each ear.

But she's never given the naysayers any power. All the people who bullied her because of her speech impediment. All the people who reminded her she was different. They had no clue what she would achieve.

Catchings is the Vice President of Basketball Operations and General Manager for the WNBA's Indiana Fever, the team she played on for the entirety of her 15-year, All-Star career. She boasts four Olympic gold medals and a WNBA MVP award. She owns two tea shops in Indianapolis. She is a public speaker.

Basketball set her up for life. That was the main point she wanted to emphasize during her Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame induction speech this past May.

"Basketball is a big reason and a big part of who I am today and why I am the way that I am," Catchings told Legends Magazine.

She comes from a generation that knew a world where the WNBA didn't exist. So a seventh grade Catchings set out to become a professional basketball player — in the NBA. Her father, Harvey Catchings, played in the league for 11 years. She wanted to be like her dad, even though people teased her for being a girl with NBA dreams.



Left: Tamika Catchings #10 of United States dribbles the ball against China on Day 9 of the 2016 Rio Olympics on August 14, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Right: Tamika Catchings #24 of the Indiana Fever hugs Penny Taylor #13 of the Phoenix Mercury after the game during Round One of the 2016 WNBA Playoffs on September 21, 2016 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN.



Tamika Catchings #24 of the Indiana Fever celebrates with the Championship Trophy and MVP Award after defeating the Minnesota Lynx during Game four of the 2012 WNBA Finals on October 21, 2012 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN.



Indiana Pacers Director of Player Programs Tamika Catchings poses for a photo print to Game Four of Round One of the 2018 NBA Playoffs between the Indiana Pacers and Cleveland Cavaliers on April 22, 2018.

"Girls don't play in the NBA," they'd say. They'd laugh. They'd point. Ask her if she'd ever actually seen an NBA game.

It was during the summer of 1997, before Catchings began her freshman year at Tennessee, when WNBA league play began for the first time. The year before that, the U.S.A Women's Basketball team won gold at the Olympics in Atlanta.

Both events set the tone for Catchings' college career and inspired her to create a new goal — she had to play in the WNBA. This desire intensified when the Phoenix Mercury drafted her sister, Tauja Catchings, in between Catchings' junior and senior years at UT. During Catchings' internship with the Mercury that summer, she caught glimpses of what her future could look like.

"Just being around all these phenomenal women, it was just like, 'OK, this is my journey. This is where I want to go,'" Catchings said. "These are the people I want to follow and be like when I grow up."

To achieve her dream, Catchings had to put in the work. Under Pat Summitt, she won an NCAA title in 1998, the same year Sporting News and the United States Basketball Writers Association named her National Rookie of the Year. Catchings won the ESPY award for the College Women's Basketball Player of the Year after her senior season in 2001.

All of Catchings' collegiate success culminated at the 2001 WNBA draft when the Fever selected her with the No. 3 pick. The 12-time WNBA All-Star led Indiana to a WNBA title in 2012 behind a Finals MVP performance.

Because of Catchings' prolific scoring and defense during her career, no one without outside knowledge would guess that she couldn't always hear her teammates well. On the court, the small forward used sign language or looked for visual cues.

"I had to go over and beyond to make sure that I understood," Catchings said. "... Over communicating at times and trying to connect eyes with the coach. Connect eyes with the point guard."

Catchings' parents found out about her hearing disability when she was 3 years old. It was hard not being like the other kids, but Catchings said she learned to have confidence in herself.

Playing team sports built that confidence. So has leadership, which she said has given her a voice in the community. Catchings founded Catch The Stars Foundation, an Indianapolis-based non profit organization, in 2004. Catch The Stars is dedicated to helping youth from ages 7- 18 set and achieve their goals through fitness, literacy and mentorship programs

The Fever legend retired from playing basketball in 2016. When Catchings looks back on her career, it's not the accolades she's most proud of, but the platform basketball has created for her. Basketball stars come and go. Helping others means more to her than Olympic gold medals or game winners, titles or Hall of Fame selections.

"God blessed me with a lot in my life, but it's really to whom much is given, much is expected," Catching said. "When you impact lives beyond the game of basketball or using the platform that basketball has given, you're able to touch people where they need to be touched."

Catch The Stars Foundation is Catchings' way of mirroring the support people in her life gave her as she worked to achieve her goals. Those individuals who were a part of her success story are special to her.

It's why when she sat down to write her Hall of Fame induction speech, she thought about all the people she wanted to thank. All the people who didn't limit her. Her father Harvey Catchings is one of them. He taught her to over prepare.

Catchings said she and her dad are alike, so they'd bump heads, especially when he would try to double as her coach. But she appreciated the template he provided and his knowledge of basketball. He's a big reason why she loves the game.

Her father, along with the rest of her family, was in attendance when Catchings was inducted into the 2020 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame class alongside fellow legends like Kim Mulkey and the late Kobe Bryant. Being a hall-of-famer was not a goal Catchings set for herself, so she wouldn't describe it as a dream come true, though it was an honor to be on that stage.

The world tried to limit Tamika Catchings. She's Black. She's a woman. She wears a hearing aid on each ear. Yet, she's achieved things she herself hadn't even imagined.

"Basketball definitely chose me," Catchings said. "And it's given me a path and it's given me a journey out to still be successful in this world."



Tamika Catchings of the Indiana Fever poses for a portrait during Media Day on July 20, 2020 at IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL.



(L-R) Jaja, Harvey, Tamika Catchings, and Mrs. Catchings during a half-time ceremony retiring Tamika Catchings college jersey December 7, 2003 at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, TN. Catchings, who currently plays for the WNBA Indiana Fever, is only the fifth Lady Vol player to have her jersey retired.



Gold medalist Tamika Catchings #10 of United States celebrates during the medal ceremony after the Women's Basketball competition on Day 15 of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at Carioca Arena 1 on August 20, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Tamika Catchings speaks to the crowd during the Jr. NBA World Championship KaBOOM! event in Orlando, FL at Oak Street Park on August 9, 2018.



Ime Udoka poses for a portrait after a press conference introducing him as the Boston Celtics Head Coach on June 28, 2021 at the TD Garden in Boston, MA.

LEGEND SIGHTINGS

*FORMER NBA PLAYERS ARE TAKING THE CALL TO STEP INTO
HEAD COACHING ROLES DURING THE OFFSEASON*



Chauncey Billups is introduced as the new head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers by General Manager Neil Olshey at the team's practice facility on June 29, 2021 in Portland, OR.



Head Coach Jason Kidd address the media during the Dallas Mavericks Press Conference on July 15, 2021 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, TX.



Assistant Coach Willie Green of the Phoenix Suns looks on during the game against the Golden State Warriors on February 29, 2020 at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, AZ. On July 22, 2021, Green was named head coach of the New Orleans Pelicans.



Head coach Nate McMillan of the Atlanta Hawks looks on against the Milwaukee Bucks during the first half in Game Six of the Eastern Conference Finals at State Farm Arena on July 3, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. On July 5, 2021 McMillan and the Atlanta Hawks agreed to drop the "interim" tag from his title and make him head coach.



Head Coach Rick Carlisle of the Dallas Mavericks looks on during Round 1, Game 5 of the 2021 NBA Playoffs on June 2, 2021 at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California. On June 24, 2021, Carlisle was hired as the head coach of the Indiana Pacers.

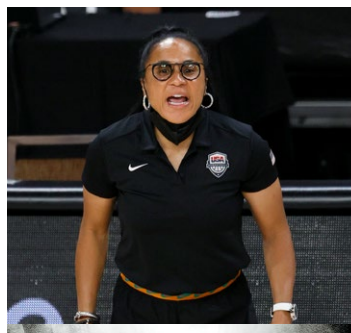


LEGEND SIGHTINGS

WNBA Legends were spotted on and off the court at the WNBA All-Star Game on July 14th in Las Vegas. On the court, Tina Thompson and Lisa Leslie took co-leading roles as coaches for Team WNBA while Dawn Staley was at the helm of the USA Women's National Team. The 1996 US Olympic Women's Basketball Team was honored with a special mid-game presentation at half court as part of Team USA's send-off to the Tokyo Olympics. Former WNBA players in attendance gathered in the NBRPA suite to watch the game and cheer on both teams, followed by an exclusive Players Party at Libertine Social – Mandalay Bay.



Co-head coaches Lisa Leslie (L) and Tina Thompson of Team WNBA look on during the 2021 WNBA All-Star Game. Team WNBA defeated the USA Women's National Team 93-85.



Head coach Dawn Staley of the USA Women's National Team yells to her players during the 2021 WNBA All-Star Game.



Head Coach Dawn Staley of the the USA Basketball Womens National Team huddles with the team during the AT&T WNBA All-Star Game 2021 on July 14, 2021 at Michelob ULTRA Arena in Las Vegas, NV.



Co-head coach Tina Thompson of Team WNBA gestures to players during the 2021 WNBA All-Star Game against the USA Women's National Team.



Co-head coach Lisa Leslie of Team WNBA looks on during the AT&T WNBA All-Star Game 2021.



Members of the USA Women's National Team help honor the gold-medal-winning 1996 U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team during the AT&T WNBA All-Star Game 2021.



Sue Bird #6 of the USA Basketball Womens National Team gives flowers to Jennifer Azzi of the 1996 United States Olympic Team.



Brittney Griner #15 of the Basketball Womens National Team gives flowers to Venus Lacy of the 1996 United States Olympic Team.



Jewell Loyd #4 of the USA Basketball Womens National Team gives flowers to Katy Steding of the 1996 United States Olympic Team.





WE STAND TOGETHER, TODAY AND EVERY DAY, IN UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF RESPECT AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

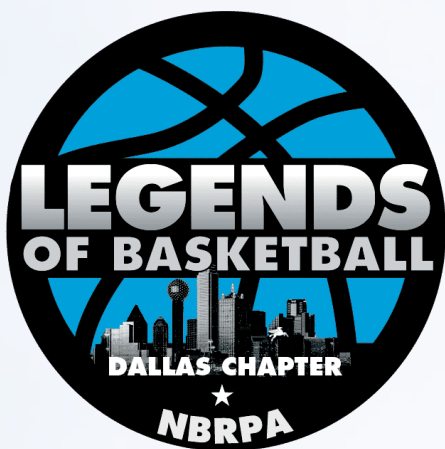


THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL RETIRED PLAYERS ASSOCIATION
AND ITS MEMBER LEGENDS REPRESENT A DIVERSE GROUP OF
BACKGROUNDS, BONDED TOGETHER BY AN INCLUSIVE
CULTURE OF ACCEPTANCE, RESPECT, AND EMPATHY.

**It is with these values that we seek to move forward, together,
in advancement of a collaborative culture that openly and
willingly denounces racism and discrimination.**



#LegendsTogether



DALLAS CHAPTER INAUGURAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

On May 24, 2021 the Dallas Chapter of the NBRPA hosted a golf outing at Hackberry Creek Country Club in Irving, Texas – filled with NBA and WNBA Legends – benefiting the Dallas Mavs Foundation and UNT's Agnes Greene Memorial Scholarship.







Fans hold up signs for Ticha Penicheiro #21 of the Chicago Sky in honor of her last career WNBA game, against the Washington Mystics on September 22, 2012 at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL.

TICHA PENICHEIRO WAS A LEGEND. NOW SHE'S FAMILY

by HOWARD MEGDAL

Few people had a greater impact on the WNBA than Ticha Penicheiro during her playing career. The second overall pick in the 1998 WNBA Draft finished her career as the league's all-time leader in assists, defining the position of point guard as one with equal parts offensive engine and bringer of flair, with her distinctive style of delivering passes and wowing fans in the process.

Nor was this just a show: Penicheiro's teams won and won often, reaching the playoffs in ten of her 15 seasons, including two trips to the WNBA finals and in 2005, a championship with the Sacramento Monarchs.

But as the Women's Basketball Hall of Famer wound down her career with the Chicago Sky in 2012, she knew two things: she wanted to stay involved in basketball. And she didn't want that to mean coaching.

"I didn't want to be on the sideline and watching film and being inside of a gym," Penicheiro said in a phone interview. "I've done that all my life and I basically put my personal life on hold because of basketball. And I know that being a coach probably was even more demanding than being a player, and I didn't want to do that."

That didn't mean Penicheiro was uninterested in helping the next generation of players. She just had a different model in mind, one that wasn't typical — but anyone who watched her make something out of nothing won't be surprised at that. She decided to become a player agent. After a year partnering with a friend of hers, a solo practitioner on the men's side, she was approached by Boris Lechitski, one of the original power players on the women's side, to join his agency, Sports International Group, as an agent.

Ticha Penicheiro #21 of the Chicago Sky drives against the Atlanta Dream at Philips Arena on August 22, 2012 in Atlanta, GA.



WNBA Legend and former Chicago Sky team member Ticha Penicheiro in attendance for the Sky pre-season game against the New York Liberty on May 15, 2013 at the Jacoby D. Dickens Physical Education and Athletic Center on the campus of Chicago State University in Chicago, IL.



Former WNBA Player Ticha Penicheiro poses for portraits during the NBAE Circuit as part of 2013 All-Star Weekend at the Hilton Americas Hotel on February 15, 2013 in Houston, TX.

"It just made sense that I would join forces," Penicheiro said. "...[SIG is] so well respected and he has the experience and I felt like I could learn something, I could learn a lot from him. So when he approached me, it was really a no-brainer."

That didn't mean Penicheiro's work was complete, of course. It was only just beginning. And her first task was to add clients, with little experience, in time for the 2013 WNBA Draft.

That year, a driven young guard from Notre Dame was looking for someone with wisdom to guide her into the next phase of her life. Kayla McBride's collegiate career guaranteed she'd be in high demand, both in the WNBA Draft — where she went third overall, to San Antonio — and the overseas offseasons that have long been a staple of how professional women's basketball players make a living as well.

But in what McBride said was a precursor to the relationship she's had with Penicheiro ever since, it was the way their first meeting, at the 2013 ACC Tournament, revolved around McBride's world.

"The thing that really stuck out to me with Ticha was how much she wanted to get to know my family," McBride recalled in a recent interview. "...She really went in, like, got to know them, and everybody who knows

me knows me, knows me to be close to my family... And she's treated me like family [ever since]."

That kind of constant support is a must for agents in the realm of women's basketball. There's nothing as simple as negotiating a single, long-term deal and then sitting back and reaping the benefits. A WNBA offseason is in-season for players who head overseas, and contracts for overseas gigs, usually lasting a year at a time, need to be negotiated during the WNBA campaign.

All of which provides an extra layer of comfort, McBride says, with someone who knows that grind first-hand from her own playing days.

That's echoed by many of her other clients, such as Bridget Carleton of the Minnesota Lynx, who not only plays overseas, but is part of Team Canada's national team as well. When Carleton met up with Penicheiro at the 2019 Final Four after her Canadian teammate, Kia Nurse, introduced them, she immediately got a sense that Penicheiro understood her goals and how to reach them.

"I think having an agent that's been through it, that knows the ins and outs of what a women's professional basketball player goes through in terms of both being in the WNBA, but also going overseas. — I think that's the biggest thing... I want to feel comfortable. And



someone who has been through it knows what I'm going through, knows what's the positives and negatives are, everything that comes with it. That was the biggest draw to her for sure."

Merely sharing an experience is not, itself, sufficient to connect with and keep clients for the long-term. The reason Penicheiro finds herself with a growing collection of the league's best talent comes from what another Penicheiro client, Layshia Clarendon, calls "a place of empathy and understanding."

Part of that comes from the way Penicheiro processes her games these days. She's successfully avoided the coach in a film room life, as she hoped, and nearly a decade into representation, her WNBA game night isn't team-focused, or trying to diagnose issues with a particular team. Her primary work as a player came with a now-defunct franchise, so she doesn't have a rooting interest at that level.

Instead, she's watching her team — the Ticha players — and she isn't shy about cheering. She even enjoys occasional yelling at the refs, because "you can yell at the TV and the ref is never going to give you a technical," she said with a laugh. Many of her clients now were too young to even see her play. Instead, she spends her evenings watching them.

"I have my TV, my iPad, my computer going on at the same time," Penicheiro said. "I cheer for my clients, I don't cheer for teams. I have

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KAYLA MCBRIDE

players basically on every team now, so I'm a little bit neutral when it comes to the outcome of the game, but I'm definitely cheering on the individual level."

She's not kidding. Guards alone, Penicheiro clients include Clarendon, McBride, and Carleton, along with Lindsay Allen, Jordin Canada, Stella Johnson, Maite Cazorla, Chelsea Dungee, DiJonai Carrington, Kahleah Copper, Aerial Powers, Allie Quigley and Alysha Clark.

Accordingly, it was a busy offseason for Penicheiro as well, with Powers, Clark and

McBride among the most in-demand free agents. But what could be a stressful experience turned into anything but for her clients, with all three signing long-term, lucrative deals.

And for McBride, the comfort level came directly from that sense of family she said dated back to that very first meeting.

"I knew she was gonna have my back," McBride said. "And I think that was the biggest thing that made the decision a lot easier. Like I said — Ticha's family... She knew the things that I wanted and I was looking for. I knew she was going to make sure that she told other teams the things that I wanted to be a part of and she made the process seamless yet again for me."

When McBride made her choice — a move to the Lynx, after a career-to-date with San Antonio and then Las Vegas after the Stars moved — she remembered that phone call, hearing Penicheiro tell her how happy she was with her choice, how proud of her she was.

And for Penicheiro, too, that was the moment she relishes most.

"I think the best thing is to really feel their appreciation," Penicheiro said. "You know, it's one thing when they say, I appreciate you and I respect you. But when you feel it? I really felt that this offseason, this free agency, the fact that, you know, they appreciate my input, and they respect my opinion. So that's definitely rewarding... that's why I'm in this business."



Ticha Penicheiro poses with Kahleah Copper after the WNBA All-Star game on July 14, 2021 in Las Vegas, NV.



Retired WNBA Player, Ticha Penicheiro attends the game between the Las Vegas Aces and the Dallas Wings on July 30, 2019 at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, NV.



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