

LEGENDS

MAGAZINE

2023 Fall

FRAN HARRIS

*USING UNCERTAINTY AND CURIOSITY
TO THRIVE IN BUSINESS*



LEGENDS OF BASKETBALL
SHOWCASE & INVITATIONAL

*COLLEGE EVENTS SET FOR
DECEMBER 2023*

A portrait of Damon Stoudamire, a man with short dark hair and a goatee, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera. A small gold 'GT' logo is pinned to his lapel, and a light blue pocket square is visible in his jacket pocket. The background is a blurred image of a basketball arena.

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STOUDAMIRE

*BRINGING GEORGIA TECH BACK
TO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT*



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2023 LEGENDS SUMMER GETAWAY AND GOLF EXPERIENCE

By Erin Law

GROWING MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS BRING NEW ENERGY TO LAS VEGAS

For another amazing summer, the basketball world came together in Las Vegas for the highly anticipated 2023 NBA Summer League and this year's Legends Summer Getaway, proudly hosted by the NBRPA. This year, members of the NBRPA family traveled from far and wide to spend three incredible days together on the Las Vegas Strip. From July 9-11, the reunions and reminiscing were abundant thanks to our largest turnout of NBRPA members, guests, partners, and media in our organization's history.



This year's gathering took our annual meetup to new heights, complete with programming powered by Amazon and Google, visits to NBA Summer League, Topgolf and Spanish Trail Country Club, and a first-class stay at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

Day one of the Legends Summer Getaway tipped off with the opening of the Legends Lounge, a tradition like none other. We distributed hefty swag bags, kept the beverages flowing, and re-hashed old rivalries on the half court at the center of the Legends Lounge. Our partners showed up for NBRPA members this summer like never before, providing countless resources, one-on-one consultations, and networking opportunities that will span long past our time in Las Vegas.

As the evening portion of day one rolled around, our educational programming began with the Emerging Opportunities Summit Powered by Amazon. The summit was moderated by WNBA veteran and Boston Celtics scout Ashley Battle, who was accompanied on stage by panelists, fellow WNBA alums Mistie Bass-Boyd and Renee Montgomery, as well as Randy Rand, Head of Talent Relations at the SpringHill Company, and Wesley Snell Jr., Senior Manager of Proactive Security for Amazon Web Services (AWS). This powerhouse of panelists led a meaningful discussion about their career paths and the opportunities available to NBRPA members within their respective industries and beyond.

We concluded day one with a group outing to everyone's favorite nighttime destination off the Las Vegas Strip: Topgolf. Attendees mingled all night, showed off their golf swing (Detlef Schrempf has an impressive left-handed and right-handed technique), enjoyed delicious BBQ, and rounded out an incredible first day of the Legends Summer Getaway.

Day two began bright and early with NBRPA Health Screenings, continuing our organization's mission of providing



preventative long-term healthcare check-ups at every major event. Our healthcare providers, with an assist from our partners at ArimaHealth, ensured every attendee left the event with a comprehensive understanding of their health and next steps to guarantee their lifelong wellbeing.

After receiving clean bills of health, an eager and competitive group of NBRPA members headed to the Spanish Trail Country Club for 18 holes of golf on a beautiful July morning. The outing included breakfast and lunch, as well as recognition and awards for the top three highest scoring players — congratulations to NBRPA Chairman Choo Smith for having the best game of the day!

Those who didn't attend the golf outing enjoyed a lively afternoon of Brunch 'N Bubbles, after which all the golfers and brunch attendees alike reconvened back at the Legends Lounge to make their way to the next stop of the day: NBA Summer League. As in years past, NBRPA members enjoyed the premium hospitality in the courtside Michelob ULTRA lounge

while watching the league's up-and-coming talent, including the highly anticipated debut of San Antonio Spurs rookie Victor Wembanyama.

The latter part of the day moved right into the second summit of this year's event, the Business of Basketball Summit Powered by Google. CBS Sports Analyst and NBA veteran Clark Kellogg moderated the discussion and was joined by panelists and fellow NBA alums Jerry Stackhouse, Derrick Coleman and Evan Turner, as well as WNBA alum Ticha Penicheiro. This All-Star team of panelists led a wide-ranging and engaging conversation about their own careers on the court and beyond, as well as how basketball served as a catalyst for the future endeavors in their life.

We had to end day two of the Legends Summer Getaway the only way we know how: by bringing down the house with a Players Party and a packed dance floor well into the early hours of day three. NBRPA members may be retired from basketball, but there's no doubt that their footwork is timeless.



Although we hate to say goodbye, we love to end this event with the annual Members Meeting, including heartfelt addresses to membership from NBRPA Chairman Choo Smith and NBRPA President & CEO Scott Rochelle. After the group photo was taken, business cards and phone numbers were exchanged, and some final hugs and high-fives were given, we officially concluded another incredibly fun and memorable Legends Summer Getaway.

Same time next year?





THANK YOU!

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Thank you to our trusted partners at Google and Amazon for being a part of the 2023 Legends Summer Getaway! Both educational summits — the Business of Basketball Summit Powered by Google and the Emerging Opportunities Summit Powered by Amazon — were clear highlights of our programming, and the time you spent connecting with NBRPA members in the Legends Lounge and at our parties was incredibly beneficial for everyone involved. Throughout the entire event, you educated and engaged our members, provided valuable insights and long-term opportunities, and fostered meaningful relationships within our basketball family. We can't wait to see you at our next event!



DAMON STOUDAMIRE IS LOOKING TO BRING GEORGIA TECH BACK TO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

HE WAS AT CROSSROADS, AND A TRIP TO RICE UNIVERSITY CHANGED EVERYTHING

by **CHRIS SHERIDAN**

After playing in just 31 games for the San Antonio Spurs at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 season, Damon Stoudamire was aware of the obvious. He knew his playing career was finished, and the star guard was at a crossroads.

Like many NBA and WNBA players who hit the end of their playing careers, he had a conundrum: What do I do with all this time?

Stoudamire had felt it coming for several seasons, long after he won the 1996 Rookie of the Year Award. It happens to professional athletes in other sports, too. Since grade school, their days have been regimented by their sports schedule. There are workouts in the morning, practices in the daytime, weight training in the afternoons and games at night.

Suddenly, all that structure was gone, and Stoudamire needed something; he just did not know what.

“Athletes become creatures of habit. I was no different, but by my eighth year, I started to think about the end more than the beginning. I went back to Arizona and got my degree, and in my 10th year, I tore my patella tendon. I was 32, I had just signed a four-year deal, but it killed my momentum. I never really recovered from that injury. I still loved basketball, but you get older, and I had to admit some things to myself.

“So for me, I started to put my ego to the side. I never even turned in my retirement papers, but I knew I just couldn’t play anymore. I figured that out, and it was therapeutic. But still, athletes can get depressed. It is not enough for me to wake up and work out. Then it’s 10 a.m., and you still have a lot of time to burn.”



Head coach Damon Stoudamire - Practice photos of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket men's basketball team on Friday, July 18, 2023 in Zelnak Center, Atlanta, GA.

Stoudamire was living in Houston at that time and went to see John Lucas, who had worked with countless NBA players during and after their playing careers were over. Lucas had the NBA veteran work with youngsters at a middle school camp and then had a suggestion: “Go over to Rice University and volunteer with coach Ben Braun as an assistant coach.”

“I did it, and I stayed busy. It made me feel alive again. I went from watching practices and attending coaching meetings to going on road trips. That’s how it all got started.”

Word got around on Stoudamire’s new path, prompting Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins to summon the former star guard to Memphis to work as a player development coach for Mike Conley, Rudy Gay and Kyle Lowry, among others.

Fast forward 15 years, and Stoudamire is now the new head coach at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, his second Division I head coaching job after being at the helm of Pacific University from 2016 to 2021.

“After playing for the Spurs, I didn’t feel it anymore. I had always said I wasn’t built to be a 12th man. I didn’t have a plan, didn’t know what I wanted to do,” Stoudamire told Legends Magazine in September as he prepared for the upcoming NCAA season.

He spent some time as a studio analyst at NBA-TV in Atlanta before returning to Houston and meeting with Lucas.

“He put confidence back in me. That’s what he does. He told me: ‘Don’t run from it. Tell your story where it is. Just own it and move on. After that, what can people say?’”

“I owe him a lot. He taught me to be myself again,” Stoudamire said of Lucas. “I built myself back up.”

This summer at Georgia Tech, a typical day begins at 5 a.m. with breakfast, a workout and reading. He then heads to his athletic department office, where he always keeps the door open in case someone needs to step inside and have a heart-to-heart conversation.



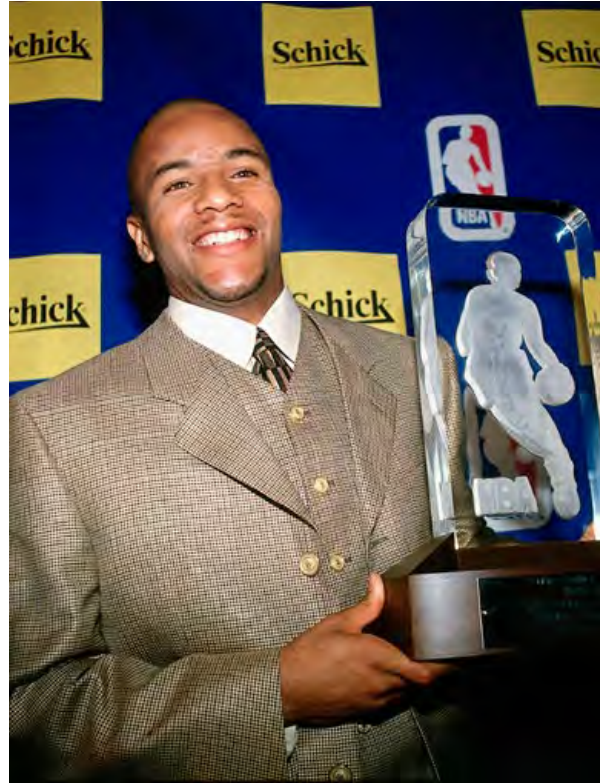
Assistant coach Damon Stoudamire and Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics participate during 2022 NBA Finals Practice and Media Availability on June 15, 2022 at the TD Garden in Boston, MA.



Head coach Damon Stoudamire of the Pacific Tigers reacts during a quarterfinal game of the West Coast Conference Basketball Tournament against the Gonzaga Bulldogs at the Orleans Arena on March 4, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Gonzaga won 82-50.



Head coach Damon Stoudamire, Ebenezer Dowuona - Practice photos of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket men's basketball team on Friday.



Damon Stoudamire of the Toronto Raptors poses for a portrait after receiving the Rookie of the Year Trophy on May 15, 1996 in Toronto, Canada.



Damon Stoudemire #20 of the Arizona Wildcats dribbles during a game played circa 1994 at Arco Arena in Sacramento, California.



Damon Stoudamire #3 of the San Antonio Spurs moves the ball against the Milwaukee Bucks during the game on March 1, 2008 at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, WI.



Damon Stoudamire #20 of the Toronto Raptors looks on during the game against the Chicago Bulls on December 22, 1995 at the United Center in Chicago.

“We have workouts every morning in the 8:30-11-30 a.m. window because I designed a schedule to get guys to know how regimented pros are. The players have classes from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and that’s when I have coaches meetings, do media interviews and check with my secretary regarding what is on my plate. I keep in contact with a bunch of people recruiting for ’24 and ’25, and I sometimes go out recruiting, but again, I always keep my door open because I want to be accessible. I know how I am wired. And then I start fading at about 9:30 p.m.”

Stoudamire has a message for current and recently retired players: “No matter how much money you make, there will always be a need for more [to do]. Only one to two percent of players have a level of fame that will allow them to be truly retired, and the challenge for everyone else is to invent a new life, embrace it.”

He spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach with the Boston Celtics before taking the job with Georgia Tech, which has fallen on hard times since making the national championship game 20 seasons ago.

“You have to find a way to stay relevant,” he said. “You’ve got to stay busy and keep making money, or at some point, it’ll all go away. You can’t just retire. Not everyone is Magic Johnson. You cannot rest on your laurels. You have to find something to stay relevant.”

At Georgia Tech, he has brought in former Portland teammate Bonzi Wells as an assistant

after Wells coached at LeMoyne-Owen, an HBCU in Memphis that competes in the NAIA. The Yellow Jackets, who went 15-18 and 12-20 the past two seasons, will begin their NCAA season on Nov. 6 against Georgia Southern, and a full ACC schedule will follow as Stoudamire tries to turn the program around.

He hopes to be included in a future event sponsored by the National Basketball Retired Players Association, which is sponsoring two NCAA events this season to highlight programs involved with NBA Legends. The first is Dec. 2 in Las Vegas (USC vs. Gonzaga and Washington vs. Colorado State), and there is the Legends of Basketball Showcase triple-header on Dec. 30 in Cleveland (Ohio State vs. West Virginia; Akron vs. St. Bonaventure; Ohio vs. Davidson).

“We need to get the Retired Players to put on one of those next season that involves only retired NBA players who are coaching NCAA teams. We can get Jerry Stackhouse and Vanderbilt, Juwan Howard and Michigan, Penny Hardaway at Memphis and Tony Bennett at Virginia. There are a bunch of us.”

Not a bad idea, Damon. Sort of like the idea John Lucas gave you when he told you to head over to Rice University and be a volunteer. That was a life-altering moment, and every single NBA player who will one day retire will find himself in similar circumstances.

Hopefully, Damon Stoudamire will be an inspiration.



Head coach Damon Stoudamire - Practice photos of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket men’s basketball team on Friday, July 18, 2023 in Zelnak Center, Atlanta, GA.



SUCCESS OF THE NBPA'S

"OFF THE COURT" PROGRAM BENEFITS LEGENDS

by JULIO MANTEIGA

For a player entering the final stage of their playing career, there is one question that seems to be omnipresent: "What's next?" Recognizing that this can be a daunting question for anyone to be asked, the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and the National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA) collaboratively put measures in place to help provide answers, and guidance for the next phase of professional basketball player's lives.

As part of an extraordinary working relationship between both organizations, an aptly named "Off The Court" program was created that is proving vital for players transitioning to life away from being on the hardwood.

Funded through the Ed Trust as part of the NBA's Collective Bargaining Agreement, the program is headed by NBPA Director Mario West and Manager Artie Bayes and aims to support and serve the interests of players following their career as a professional basketball player and aid with their transition process and help overcome common barriers they may face going into retirement. "Off The Court" is proactively and intentionally designed to empower active and recently retired players to create a culture of achievement by focusing on five pillars: Mental Health and Wellness/Relationship Management, Financial Literacy/Wealth Management, Brotherhood, Nutrition/Physical Health, Career/Professional Development.

Since inception in 2017, the program has assisted over 400 players by serving as a bridge to collaborate and connect members to their respective areas of interest. While some players may look at coaching options, others may be looking to build their business network or their charitable work in their communities. Others may just be looking to expand on the brotherhood and camaraderie from their playing days. Whatever avenue our members are looking to travel down, the "Off The Court" program serves a unique purpose in creating an extremely adaptable roadmap for the next phase of their professional lives. NBPA Director Mario West recently sat down to speak with Legends Magazine about the benefits of the



program, and he explained that the “NBPA’s aim is to celebrate the feat of playing in the NBA, but that celebration doesn’t stop when they stop playing. In fact, ‘Off The Court’ is a continuation of celebrating their success and their specific skill set that continues to create a culture of achievement in transition.” Added West, “We have many players that after going through the program have asked to be part of the future of the program by returning to speak to the next generation of former players about the benefits of the program and showcase how it has helped them.”

Among the programs readily available to all NBRPA members are the Assistant Coaches program (in which the NBPA, NBRPA and NBA work very closely to guide players interested in pursuing coaching as a potential career on the latest coaching and analytics methods), the NBRPA’s Health Screening program to promote healthy lifestyles, and the various NBRPA gatherings throughout the year including the Legends Summer Getaway, NBA and WNBA All-Star Weekends and the Pre-Draft Combine Player’s Party held annually in Chicago. “These NBRPA events, along with the support

mechanisms put in place by ‘Off The Court,’ show our players that the brotherhood and network is still alive and well and more importantly, here to serve them,” said West.

When asked about expansion and the impact of the program, West told us that the NBPA shares best practices with other player unions and alumni associations including the WNBPA, MLBPA, MLSPA and NFLPA and that sharing of information has been very warmly received. According to West, who borrows terminology from another sport: “Success is not measured by hitting home runs, but by hitting singles. This accumulation of successes shows our members that the special gift that they have as professional athletes, can translate into an infinite number of opportunities in their post-playing endeavors.”

Whatever pursuits a player may have, this program and the teamwork between the NBPA, NBA and NBRPA, shows our membership the importance of brotherhood and community among players and brings us closer to our ultimate goal of building and growing a supportive environment that creates stability, wellness and growth for all that take part.

Learn more at nbpa.com/offthecourt





WNBA LEGEND FRAN HARRIS IS USING UNCERTAINTY AND CURIOSITY TO THRIVE IN BUSINESS

by PETER CROATTO





Fran Harris played overseas and in the WNBA for two seasons. For years, she's called games on TV, most recently on ION Television. She worked as a life coach and was a finalist for Good Morning America's "Advice Guru." (If you have a co-worker with bad table manners, she said, politely point out the distracting behavior in a private moment. Some people aren't aware.) She's the creator of a sports drink company, Electra Beverages, which she presented on Shark Tank. (Yup, she took Barbara's deal.) She hosted a series on HGTV, Home Rules. She's written books and, with a master's degree in journalism, would write a less clunky intro.

Now, she's leading a group to bring a WNBA franchise to Austin, where she starred for the University of Texas. That's where she led an undefeated team to the NCAA championship in 1986. At the university, let's see, she has served as a professor of—

That's enough. You get the idea. Fran Harris is an accomplished star.

An athlete's success, both long-term and short-term, is based on the idea of constant adaptation. The only difference is Harris had to do that early.

Opportunities for girls in sports were limited in the 1970s and 1980s, so Harris had to pursue other interests. She didn't start playing basketball until she was 15. Tragedy provided more motivation.

"My mom, Bessie, died when I was 16 years old suddenly," Harris, 58, said. "So I think I understood, as most people do when they lose something unexpectedly, that life is not promised. My mother was just getting started in her life, as she was 45 years old when she died. She was just getting started with her own business. I think that triggered something in me, like, Hey, you better get going. Whatever you might think you want to do, you need to go and pursue that."

Harris had a fantastic career at the University of Texas, as she was named to the Southwest Conference's 1980s all-decade team. But she didn't begin her WNBA career until 1997, 11 years after her senior year — and with four years' experience as an account executive at Procter & Gamble on her resume.

The latter sounds preposterous in 2023. Imagine Caitlin Clark graduating from Iowa to become a junior executive at General Mills. But Harris was OK.

"I was actually somebody before I was a basketball player," she said. "Instead, basketball was

'a bonus' that allowed for other opportunities.

"The fact that I didn't start early meant that if basketball were somehow out of my life for some reason, I wouldn't be devastated. You have to establish an identity outside of the sport whether you're 20, 30 or 40. At some point, you've got to turn that light on where you go, 'What would I be if this ball or sport were not in my life?'"

Today, a comparative bounty of opportunities exists at home and abroad as Women's basketball continues to gain an audience. For example, thanks to the 2023 NCAA Women's Final Four, LSU's Angel Reese is now a legitimate celebrity.

That progress comes with a price.

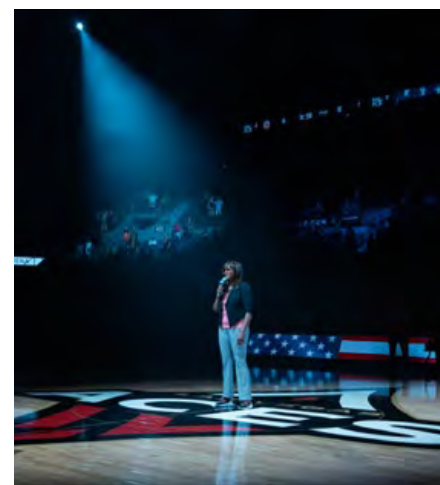
"You're competing more for deals and sponsorships and endorsements," Harris said of the brave, new world of NIL. "It's actually more stressful now, based on conversations I'm having with college athletes and professional athletes."

When Harris talks with athletes of all ages, a common theme emerges.

"They don't see themselves outside their sport," she said. "They legit think they're always going to be that guy or that girl. That's the hardest thing. There will come a time when you won't do that. They don't want to think about it. I get that. It's meant so much. It's a part of so much of who you are."

It comes down, Harris says, to "calling and purpose and mission." She poses this question: If we spent the day together only doing the things you love, what would we do? Most athletes are stumped with this question "because they've never known their life without their sport or trying to do something around their sport."

The National Basketball Players Association's "Off the Court" program offers help to retired players in that transition, but it's important to "find one other lane that you can move in, that you can learn in," Harris said. Current players,





she added, should spend the offseason indulging that curiosity.

“Athletes know how to do things,” she said. “When I tell them how to think about calling and purpose, they don’t know how to do that yet, but they know, ‘Oh, I can find something I’m curious about, and I can pursue that for a year.’”

Harris’ pursuits weren’t the result of boredom or a scattered mind. She was making choices about her future.

Basketball followed Harris into business. The relationships Harris made at the University of Texas “have followed me, literally, for 30 years.”

Longhorns’ legendary women’s basketball head coach, Jody Conradt, once had players submit the names of three team members they considered friends. Harris learned her name appeared on every ballot.

“People want to do business with me because they trust me,” she said. “They want to be part of the sunshine and the aspirations.”

That trust stems from a promise Harris made to herself years ago. She noticed how many people in her business and professional relationships lied. Why did that happen?

She gave an example of a past experience.

“You were in a relationship where you didn’t want the consequences of the truth,” she explained. “I made a decision that if I have to be in a situation where I feel I have to lie, [then] that’s not the situation that I want to be in. I’m not going to do that. I announced to my friends and family that I was never going to lie to them again.”

The decision was a game-changer.

“It’s made more people more aware of their level of truth and honesty and why they do it,” she said. “I can have conversations and relationships, and I know there’s no B.S. in it — well, not from my side anyway...”

Aside from her work to get Austin that WNBA franchise, she is the co-founder of Dallas-based The Athletic Club, which builds and operates multisport indoor and outdoor facilities. Harris is looking to turn her business and branding work with athletes into a company. The name is fitting: Athletes Who Mean Business.

This phase of her life is about building a legacy. So, what will Fran Harris do next? She doesn’t know. And that’s fine. Uncertainty is a fatal shortcoming on a basketball court. That doesn’t apply everywhere. There’s time to find answers.

“We’re so afraid of what that looks like from the outside, what people are going to think about you or say about you if you display human vulnerability,” Harris said. “That’s not something that’s a built-in part of the creed of being an athlete. I don’t know what I’ll be doing, but I’m excited about the adventure.”



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WNBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND 2023

LEGENDARY PLAYERS AND COACHES PROUDLY REPRESENTED THE NBRPA IN LAS VEGAS

by ERIN LAW

On the heels of the NBRPA's annual Legends Summer Getaway and NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, Legends and basketball fans alike kept the hoops hype alive for WNBA All-Star, hosted by the defending WNBA Champion Las Vegas Aces.

On Friday July 14th, the NBRPA tipped off the weekend by inviting WNBA Legends Ticha Penicheiro, Monique Currie and Chasity Melvin, plus multimedia journalist Ari

Chambers, to record a special episode of the Legends Podcast — WNBA All-Star edition. The conversation was in-depth and wide-ranging, from the history and growth of the league to some of their most memorable playing days stories, and of course, the impact of Legends on today's game. (Watch the full episode on the NBA Alumni YouTube channel or listen by searching "Legends Studios" wherever you get your podcasts.)

Later that day, NBRPA members and WNBA fans gathered to watch the KIA WNBA Skills Challenge and the Starry 3-Point Contest. The Las Vegas Aces' duo of Chelsea Gray and Kelsey Plum won the Skills Challenge, beating teams made up of tandems from Atlanta, Dallas and New York.

In the finals of the 3-Point Contest, New York's Sabrina Ionescu topped Sami Whitcomb and Arike Ogunbowale with a near-perfect 37





out of 40 points. Ionescu made 23 of 25 shots, including 20 in a row at one point, posting the highest score ever in the event by either an NBA or WNBA player. WNBA Legends sat courtside to enjoy both events, mingling with WNBA Commissioner Cathy Englebert and fellow WNBA and NBA Legends in attendance.

The following morning, before the WNBA All-Star Game, the NBRPA brought together the WNBA family for the Legends Alumni Brunch hosted by Rushia Brown and Sylvia Crawley, in partnership with Tall Girls United. WNBA Legends caught up over breakfast and mimosas, then passed a microphone around the room so each woman could share an update on their personal lives, business ventures, and more. The intimate and emotional brunch culminated with business cards being exchanged, hugs being given, and a group outing to the All-Star Game.

The 2023 AT&T WNBA All-Star Game tipped off on Saturday, July 15 at 5:30pm PT at Michelob ULTRA Arena. A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces and Breanna Stewart of the New York Liberty were selected as captains for the All-Star game for the second consecutive year.

WNBA Legends Becky Hammon, head coach of the Las Vegas Aces, and Stephanie White, head coach of the Connecticut Sun, qualified to be the two head coaches for the 2023 All-Star Game after guiding their teams to the top two spots in the league standings as of that date.

Team Stewart defeated Team Wilson (143-127) and Jewell Loyd was crowned the All-Star MVP after an All-Star record 31-point performance with an All-Star record ten three-pointers made.

WNBA Legends Ashley Battle, Sylvia Fowles, Seimone Augustus, Sheryl Swoopes and Sue Bird sat together courtside during the game, forming an iconic Mount Rushmore of WNBA royalty that had fans and media clamoring for photo ops. NBA greats including Dwyane Wade, Tracy McGrady, Kevin Durant, and Anthony Davis also showed their support in the crowd.

The NBRPA hosted an exclusive suite for WNBA Legends and current players to enjoy premium hospitality before and during the game, bringing together multiple generations of the league's finest to enjoy the WNBA All-Star game as a tightknit sisterhood.

Following the game, the NBRPA presented the WNBA All-Star Legends Players Party, hosted by Ari Chambers, at Libertine Social in Mandalay Bay. Chambers conducted lively interviews with WNBA Legends in attendance, as well as notable sports figures and influencers. There's no better way to close out WNBA



All-Star than with a private gathering of the WNBA family, and this year's party definitely raised the bar for years to come.

WNBA All-Star Weekend is an annual celebration of basketball like none other, bringing together the basketball world and displaying the growth and strength of the WNBA past, present and future. We look forward to another memorable WNBA All-Star in 2024 — hosted by the 2007, 2009 and 2014 WNBA Champions, the Phoenix Mercury!



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.

Ongoing Legends Care initiatives include the Legends HBCU Scholarship, Full Court Press, and Legends Home Courts. Past initiatives have included international goodwill missions, Thanksgiving Community Assist turkey donation drives, BACK2BACK school backpack drives, and Legends Girl Chats between WNBA Legends and middle school & high school girls.

To learn more about Legends Care or donate to support these initiatives, visit legendsofbasketball.com/LegendsCare



LEGENDS CARE:



NBA CARES X NBA AFRICA COMMUNITY OUTREACH



4-time WNBA Champion Sheryl Swoopes and 2011 NBA Champion Ian Mahinmi partnered with NBA Cares and NBA Africa to tip off the 19th edition of the Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Africa camp in Johannesburg, South Africa. The delegation, including NBA Africa CEO Victor Williams and NBA Africa Head of Strategy and Operations George Land, visited Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital and donated medical and rehabilitation equipment for the Burns Unit. This outreach is a powerful continuation of efforts to grow the game of basketball around the world and inspire communities through the power of basketball.



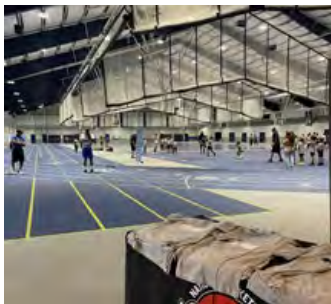


LEGENDS CARE FULL COURT PRESS CLEVELAND

The NBRPA and its Cleveland Chapter teamed up to bring basketball fun and life skills lessons to youth from the Cleveland Recreation Centers on Saturday, June 24th at Case Western University (Veale Recreational Facility). Led by Cleveland Chapter President & NBA Legend Jim Chones, NBA Legend Lawrence Boston, Jr., NBA Drill Clinician Frank Lopez, WNBA Legends Janice Braxton and Bonnie Dove, and Harlem Globetrotter Legends Greg Bell and Derrick Polk, local youth participated in a wide array of basketball instruction including proper passing and shooting techniques, defensive drills and the value of teamwork. Additionally, the youth were treated to in-depth conversations with NBRPA Legends on the importance of respect, mentorship and leadership.

During the event, participants were treated to special gifts from longtime NBRPA partners including Jr. NBA/NBRPA t-shirts, Mitchell & Ness hats, and Panini NBA Trading Cards.

For more information about the Full Court Press program, or to get involved, visit www.legendsofbasketball.com/fullcourtpress.





LEGENDS CARE



FULL COURT PRESS

LOS ANGELES

The NBRPA and its Los Angeles Chapter teamed up to bring basketball, fun and life skills lessons to youth at Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school for Native Americans, on Saturday, September 9th (9010 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, CA 95203) for the 3rd consecutive year. Led by Los Angeles Chapter President & ABA Legend Rick Darnell, NBA & Lakers Legend AC Green, NBA Legends Duane Cooper, Darwin Cook, Louis Nelson, and Juquin Hawkins, and WNBA Legend Linda Fröhlich, local youth participated in a wide array of basketball instruction including proper passing and shooting techniques, defensive drills and the value of effort.

Additionally, the students were treated to school/dorm supplies and apparel, as well as free lunch from local food trucks, onsite for the event, donated by the LA Chapter Members. NBA All-Star AC Green, proud to represent both Choctaw and Cherokee heritage, emphasized the value of the opportunity that Sherman Indian High School provides. The All-Native high school serves more than 200 students from 76 Native American tribes who apply to attend from across the country.

For more information about the Full Court Press program, or to get involved, visit www.legendsofbasketball.com/fullcourtpress.





Legends HBCU SCHOLARS

CLASS OF 2023-2024



MIMI HARRIS
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY



VANESSA JOHNSON
EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE



MAYA BRUNT
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PINE BLUFF



MICHAEL CLARK
HOWARD UNIVERSITY



AZARIA HOWARD
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

NBRPA ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 CLASS OF LEGENDS HBCU SCHOLARS

The NBRPA is proud to introduce the 2023-2024 recipients of the Legends HBCU Scholarships, making them the third class of Legends Scholars.

“These five exceptional students were selected from hundreds of HBCU student applicants due to their commitment to academic excellence and their positive impact in the world,” said Scott Rochelle, NBRPA President & CEO. “We are excited to introduce the 2023-24 Legends Scholars – our third class overall – and welcome them into our Legends family, where we will support them during their collegiate career and beyond.”

The five Legends Scholars will receive a \$10,000 academic scholarship from the NBRPA for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition to addressing the financial needs of Legends Scholars, the comprehensive scholarship program will assist Legends Scholars in the areas of career preparation and development, job placement and mentoring both during and after their undergraduate years.

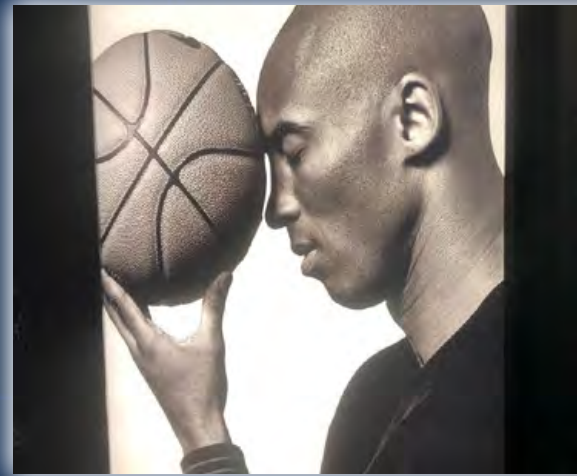
The Legends HBCU Scholarship and Legends Scholars program were created in 2020 under the NBRPA’s Legends Care initiative to honor the rich history of HBCUs and their alums while moving the legacy forward by supporting current HBCU undergraduates.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEGENDS HBCU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, VISIT LEGENDSOFBASKETBALL.COM/HBCU.



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NEW
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EXCITEMENT

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LAS VEGAS



ESPN

DECEMBER 2, 2023

CBS SPORTS NETWORK

**MGM GRAND
GARDEN ARENA**

axs



VS



VS





LEGENDS OF BASKETBALL

LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL

DECEMBER 2, 2023 – LAS VEGAS, NV

The rich history of basketball, and all its Legends, begins in the college basketball realm. What better way to showcase top tier talent than at the National Basketball Retired Players Association's (NBRPA) Legends of Basketball Las Vegas Invitational.

This winter, the NBRPA is bringing the heat to the Las Vegas strip. The Legends of Basketball Invitational, a college basketball doubleheader in what promises to be an exhilarating evening, will feature a preseason top-25 matchup between Gonzaga and USC. To get things started, Washington and Colorado State will open the Invitational at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on December 2.

From Legends of the game, including Quincy Pondexter coaching the Huskies on the sidelines, to the next generation of Legends such as USC forward DJ Rodman, son of Legend Dennis Rodman, the Invitational will not only showcase some star-studded talent from all four schools but will also feature some of our Legends that will be in attendance as well.

USC alums including Brian Scalabrine (1998-2001) and Adrian Strong (1995-1999), and Washington alum Detlef Schrempf (1981-1985), are excited to help

promote this event as they will vouch for their fans to show up and show out at the MGM Grand Arena. Adam Morrison (2003-2006), a Gonzaga alum, will also be in attendance as he will be calling the game for Gonzaga Sports Radio.

"The NBRPA is thrilled to build on and expand our partnership with Intersport to present the Legends of Basketball Las Vegas Invitational," said NBRPA President & CEO Scott Rochelle. "The combination of deep NBRPA ties to the participating college basketball programs, a tremendous location in Las Vegas and a world-class venue in the MGM Grand Garden Arena, promises to make this event a must-watch for all college hoops fans. We look forward to showcasing the action and fanfare that these four renowned basketball programs are sure to bring."

In addition to the Legends of Basketball Invitational being must watch television, the event will also serve as a way to help highlight all the charitable work the NBRPA has to offer. Proceeds to this event will also help fund NIL opportunities and scholarships presented by the NBRPA. We look forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas for this spectacular slate of games we have to offer.

Learn more at www.legendsofbasketball.com/vegas



DECEMBER 30, 2023

**ROCKET Mortgage
FIELDHOUSE**



ON
FOX



LEGENDS OF BASKETBALL SHOWCASE

DECEMBER 30, 2023 – CLEVELAND, OH

College basketball is the breeding ground for future NBA Legends, where raw talent is honed, and dreams take root. That's why the National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA) is running it back and putting on its second consecutive Legends of Basketball Showcase.

In an event that was incredibly successful last year in Chicago at the United Center, the 2023 Showcase will feature a tripleheader on December 30 at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland. The tripleheader will be headlined by the Ohio State Buckeyes and the West Virginia Mountaineers.

The two games leading off the tripleheader will be the Ohio Bobcats taking on the Davidson Wildcats, followed by the Akron Zips facing off against the St. Bonaventure Bonnies.

The Legends of Basketball Showcase serves as a vital stepping stone for these young athletes on their journey to hopefully becoming Legends themselves, reminding us that the future of the game is in great hands.

There are also a few coaches steering the ship at this upcoming showcase. Two of West Virginia's assistant coaches, DerMarr Johnson and Da'Sean Butler were both drafted in the NBA. Johnson was the sixth overall pick by the Atlanta Hawks. Throughout his seven-year career, Johnson played 344 games for four NBA teams. Butler was a second-round pick (42nd overall) selected by the Miami Heat in the 2010 NBA Draft. Alex Ruoff, another assistant coach for the Mountaineers played for the Washington Wizards Summer League team in 2009 and the New Jersey Nets 2010 Summer League team.

Coming off such a riveting event last year, it's no wonder NBRPA President & CEO Scott Rochelle was amped up to bring back the Legends of Basketball Showcase.

Along with an action-packed day of college hoops, the event will feature membership initiatives, scholarship programs, and all the charitable work the NBRPA has to offer. We are once again eager to put on this event and looking forward to another great day in Cleveland, Ohio.

Learn more at www.legendsofbasketball.com/showcase



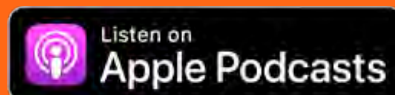
LegendsTM STUDIOS

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, or wherever you listen to podcasts to stay up-to-date with all exclusive Legends content.





NBRPA INTRODUCES

MIXTAPE MONDAYS



Follow @NBAalumi on Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Threads and YouTube and be the first to see the newest #LegendsMixtapes every Monday.

On Monday, September 18, the NBRPA debuted a brand-new and highly anticipated content series across all @NBAalumni social media channels, remixing some of the best moves in NBA history as part of countdown to the start of the 2023-2024 NBA season.

Mixtape Mondays, also known as "Legends Mixtapes," reimagine old-school NBA highlights set to unexpected music from a different era, starting with a contemporary showcase of 6x NBA Champion Bob Cousy accompanied by M.O.P.'s "Ante Up." The Houdini of the Hardwood himself loved seeing the new interpretation of his ball-handling talent and said: "What a treat!"

In the first 24 hours after its release, the inaugural mixtape produced over half a million views on @NBAalumni social media. The series has also featured Isiah Thomas's legendary handles, "Pistol Pete" Maravich's smooth moves, "Nick the Quick" Van Exel's timeless highlights, and Larry Bird proving why he'll forever be called "Larry Legend." The Legends Mixtapes series has, to date, produced over 2 million views and hundreds of thousands of engagements, and counting.



TRILL'S TAKE:

TOP 10 MOST ANTICIPATED NBA DEBUTS

by **TRILL WITHERS**

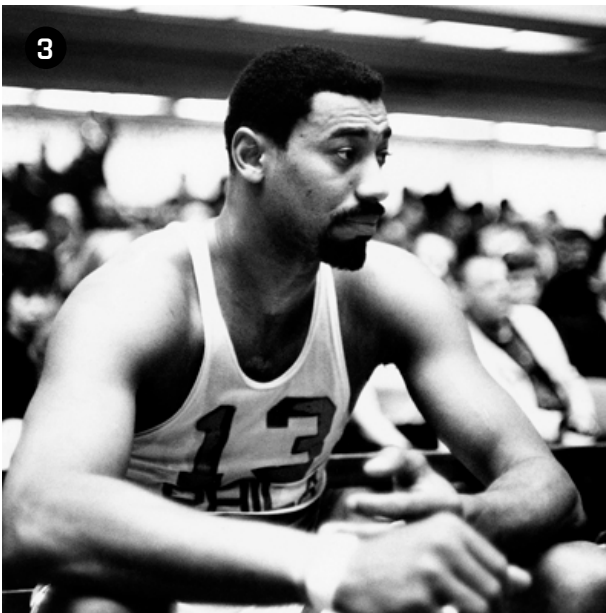
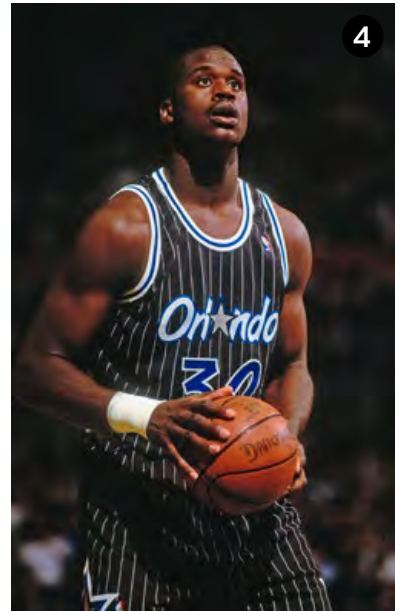
Fall is here, and thankfully it brings the start of a new NBA season with it. We have plenty to look forward to this upcoming year and if the hype around Summer League is any indicator, the debut of Victor Wembanyama will be a flashbulb moment for many. Let's take a look back at some of the most anticipated rookie debuts in NBA history.

TOP 10

TOP 10 MOST ANTICIPATED NBA DEBUTS

10. BLAKE GRIFFIN (2010)
9. RALPH SAMPSON (1983)
8. LARRY BIRD (1979)
7. PATRICK EWING (1985)
6. YAO MING (2002)
5. VICTOR WEMBANYAMA (2023)
4. SHAQUILLE O'NEAL (1992)
3. WILT CHAMBERLAIN (1959)
2. LEBRON JAMES (2003)
1. KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR (1969)









KINDNESS IS A HIGHWAY

FORMER HARLEM GLOBETROTTER AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER HERBERT "FLIGHT TIME" LANG

by AJ MCCORD

One of the longest highways in the United States is Interstate 40. Spanning more than 2,500 miles, it passes through eight states, from North Carolina to California. Weaving its way through cities, counties and landscapes that have very little in common except for the highway that connects them.

Midway between Memphis, Tennessee and Little Rock, Arkansas, Interstate 40 passes through a town with a population of just over 2,500 people. Originally founded as a railroad town in 1872, Brinkley, Arkansas, is known as a transportation and agricultural center, but for Herbert Lang, it's home. It's there he first learned the lesson that would serve as his own version of the interstate next to his town – connecting events in his life that didn't innately have much in common: a college basketball scholarship, nearly two decades as a Harlem Globetrotter and a career as a motivational speaker.

These things may seem as different as North Carolina is from California, but for Lang, they connected because of the one truth he learned early on the streets of Brinkley: kindness is free.

In a small town like Brinkley, most people know most people, and for Lang, two of those people he was lucky enough to call grandma.

On his mother's side was Mahaley, a woman of faith who brought Herb, from as early as five years old, around the small southeast towns with her to tent revivals.

"She didn't have a lot," Lang remembered. "But she was willing to be nice to people. She'd walk through my little small town and just check on people."

On his father's side was Mamie, who worked in a nursing home. Lang remembers walking from school to her work and seeing the joy she brought to the faces of those who didn't have many visitors simply by being kind.

"That was something that lit a fire in me, to see the joy and impact even just coming in and waving and speaking to some of the older people in the nursing home," Lang said. "That showed me at a young age the impact that you can have just by being nice. It kind of grew into me, and I grew into it. I had no other choice."

Lang eventually found his way to a basketball court, earning a scholarship to the Centenary College of Louisiana team in Shreveport. After finding his feet during his freshman and sophomore years, he was one of the top scorers in the Trans America Athletic Conference his junior year, averaging 19.6 points a game



"THAT WAS SOMEBODY WHO BELIEVED IN ME MORE THAN I BELIEVED IN MYSELF, LEADING ME DOWN THAT PATH. SOMETIMES WE DON'T EVEN SEE THE GIFT THAT OTHERS SEE IN US."

HERBERT LANG

through 27 games. As a preseason Conference Player of the Year heading into his senior year, there were a lot of eyes on Lang, and he was poised to take flight.

"I had a coaching change going into my senior year," Lang explained. "That kind of changed up the way that I had been used, but it was a blessing in disguise."

Lang was invited to the 1998 NCAA Dunk Contest and immediately owned the opportunity. With a high bounce, Lang set up a two-handed dunk that set the crowd on fire, their paper signs showing perfect 10s as he hyped them up. The next dunk he spotted up in the corner, feeding himself the ball just in front of the basket before running into a one-handed dunk that had the crowd erupting yet again.

"I was on ESPN with Dick Vitale calling out my name," Lang remembered with a smile. "That was something that gave me an

opportunity to put myself out there even more."

Lang took it up another level for his final dunk, approaching the basket at a full sprint before exploding into a dynamic 360 one-handed dunk, which sealed the deal for his victory. But it wasn't just his vertical that served as a hint of what was to come for Lang, but the way he played to the crowd after every dunk, engaging the audience to a frenzy.

That, after all, is a massive part of what makes a great Harlem Globetrotter.

With the National Basketball Association in a lockout and no opportunities to build on the momentum and attention he'd created at the dunk contest, Lang returned to school to finish his degree in health and physical education. After school, he began working as a personal trainer until his roommate, Allen Sihatrai, who had played soccer at Centenary, brought home the flyer that changed everything.

"He went to a Globetrotter game when I was working as a personal trainer after I graduated," Lang explained. "Between his experience there and knowing me, he felt like, at least with the dunk, that I could do that and I could learn the other things they were doing. He was excited to come home and give me the program with the 1-800 number he had gotten there."

While Sihatrai's prevailing emotion may have been excitement, Lang could not say he felt the same way.

"My first reaction was, 'Man, get that thing out of my face. I'm not going to play for the Globetrotters,'" Lang remembered with a laugh. "It's something that I never really imagined, but as the days began to pass, and it turned into a couple of weeks, I remembered watching the Globetrotters cartoons and watching them with my grandmother and then realizing that this was an opportunity, potentially, and it'd be silly





for me to pass it up. So, one day, I came home from work, I said, 'Hey, man, where's that pamphlet with that 1-800 number on it?'"

That moment, Lang explained, expanded his life philosophy of "kindness is free" to something equally empowering.

"That was somebody who believed in me more than I believed in myself, leading me down that path. Sometimes we don't even see the gift that others see in us."

It was a path that would define the next 18 years of Lang's life, but first, he had to make the team.

"The first couple of days it was probably like any other basketball training camp," said Lang of the 1999 Globetrotters camp he attended. "There were about 20 of us, and there were just drills, no tricks. [They wanted to see] can you play basketball? It was a real basketball training camp. And we had some really good basketball players that came in during that time, guys that did actually play in the NBA. But once they kind of weeded out the guys who they felt had the personality and the ability to potentially be a part of the team, they kept about eight of us. And then, they brought in 16 to 20 veterans. And they ended up keeping probably six of us from the eight that would be a part of the 24. That was the roster for that year."

"It was like a dream," said Lang of making that first team. "I was watching these guys who I had seen on television and seeing the things that they were able to do firsthand, live and in person, [I was also] feeling the pressure, almost thinking, 'I will not be able to do these things.' But I was lucky enough to be around a lot of guys who were helpful, a lot of guys who wanted to see me succeed. I was also smart enough to take a step back, observe, find my way and not just jump in day one, like I knew everything."

Jumping in may not have been Lang's style, but jumping, just generally, certainly was. His win at the NCAA Dunk Contest the year before had not escaped the notice of his new teammates or Manny Jackson, Globetrotters owner at the time. Almost as soon as he made the team, the race was on to figure out Lang's nickname. It was Jackson who cracked the code.

"He felt like, me having won the dunk contest and what he saw at training camp, that every time I jumped, I should be getting frequent-flyer miles. So, he started calling me 'Flight Time.'"

Herb "Flight Time" Lang stayed with the Globetrotters for 18 years, first as a player and then as a player-coach. Kindness, Lang says, is the highway that connects every moment of those years and the opportunities that came along with them. Opportunities as wide-reaching as meeting former President Barack Obama and spinning a basketball on the Pope's finger to as simple as seeing a smile on a child's face in Spain. Realizing the language of kindness is universal.

Lang may not be globetrotting the same way he did when he suited up for them during all those years, but his message of "kindness is free" is still one he's sharing around the world.

"Many people had taken a stand for me to be able to accomplish some of the things I've been able to accomplish," said Lang of what made his career possible. "I realized just because I wasn't globetrotting anymore doesn't mean I don't get to continue to build upon the experiences that I had. It was just now time for me to kind of branch out, you know, out of this experience, and also share with individuals on a different level the experiences that I had and how they get to accomplish a lot of the same things. And again, the kindness that was shown along the way."





LEGENDS CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

HOUSTON

Q&A WITH KEVIN LODER



As part of our regular Chapter Spotlight feature, in this issue we would like to acknowledge Kevin Loder of the NBRPA Houston Chapter on an incredible career milestone. On September 29, 2023, Kevin was honored by his alma mater, Alabama State University, and inducted into their Hall of Fame. We caught up with Kevin ahead of his induction, and spoke to him about this honor, his work with the Houston Chapter, the importance of supporting HBCUs, and his NBA career.

Q: What does this honor mean to you when you look back at the entirety of your career?

A: This is a great honor and I'm extremely excited for the event. Not only for me, but for that entire team. Our 1979-80 team went 32-2, was ranked #1 in the nation and ended up as the runner up in that season's NAIA Tournament. We had an amazing season that illuminated and affected the entire area, especially in a time where there was racial injustice and bigotry.

Q: You mentioned that this was a time of heavy racism. How exactly did the team prove to be a unifying force?

A: That team's success captured the attention of the local fans and national media and proved that sports can overcome social issues and become a great uniter. Unfortunately for us we lost to Cameron University out of Oklahoma, but it was still an incredible season for us. The team's success captured the media's attention and gave ASU a lot of positive publicity and eventually, because of our success, I became the first person of color to attend the famed Montgomery Quarterback Club.

Q: You've been an NBRPA member for some time now and were Vice President of the Houston Chapter. What can you tell us about the chapter's work?

A: At Alabama State, I majored in Marketing and minored in Management, so when I was done playing and joined the NBRPA, I saw this as an opportunity to utilize my education. I'm proud of the chapter's work in creating educational programs, including a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program in Houston in conjunction with NASA and Space Center Houston. This program allowed local students the chance at internships and employment opportunities with NASA.

Q: Let's talk about your pro career. You played three years with the Kings and Clippers - then from Kansas City and San Diego respectively. What are your fondest memories of playing professionally?

A: I have two – the first one is of when I was drafted in 1981. I went number 17 in the first round that year. You will never forget that. Second – was my first time playing in Philadelphia at the Spectrum vs. Dr. J. Julius was my idol. I hit the wing and I'm running through the middle, and Bobby Jones laid some wood on me – you didn't run free in those days – and then Darryl Dawkins threw me up against the basket and said, "Don't come through here no more rookie!" So yes, some very fond memories. I say that because I was up there, playing with Dr. J, and that was special.

Q: You are also an entrepreneur now, correct?

A: Yes, I am CEO and Founder of BTBB (Blessed to Be Blessed) which is a small business consulting group, that focuses on small businesses and provides services for everything from formation, to business planning, project managing and finance. Additionally, I'm also the Executive Director for AHA Education's non-profit arm. We've been able to develop a Drone Pilot Licensing program that prepares high school students for careers in the drone field and our organization also is instrumental in securing donations for Title 1 youth, which are low income and disadvantaged kids.

Q: As an HBCU graduate, what are your thoughts on the NBRPA creating a Legends Scholars program that benefits HBCU students yearly?

A: This is exciting and very deserving stuff. HBCUs have contributed so much, not just to sports but to academia as well. There are significant numbers of players in the basketball and football Halls of Fame. Your CEO, Scott Rochelle, is a Morehouse grad. I give kudos to the people at the NBRPA that made that decision to make a larger footprint for HBCU support.

Q: As a longtime NBRPA member, what advice do you have for those players that are considering joining the NBRPA?

A: There's a joke that says that as soon as a player signs a contract, they are immediately retired. The average career is around 3-4 years, so in actuality you end up being retired for over 40 years. The NBRPA provides decades of advice and testimony on how to make that transition as smooth as possible and it's a great opportunity to stay connected to a unique brotherhood and sisterhood.



LODER WAS SELECTED BY THE KANSAS CITY KINGS IN THE FIRST ROUND (17TH PICK OVERALL) OF THE 1981 NBA DRAFT AFTER STARRING FOR THE ALABAMA STATE BASKETBALL HORNETS. LODER WAS A TWO-TIME NAIA ALL-AMERICAN AND LED THE 1979-80 ALABAMA STATE'S BASKETBALL HORNETS TO A 32-2 RECORD AND THE NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.




LEGENDS CHAPTER
SPOTLIGHT
ATLANTA

To commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Atlanta Chapter of the NBRPA, led by Chapter President Dale Ellis, participated in the Gertrude House annual “Walk It Out” event in support of breast cancer survivors. In recognition of their continued support and promotion of causes that impact the health and well-being of their community, the NBRPA Atlanta Chapter received an official proclamation of honor from Rochelle Robinson, the Mayor of the City of Douglasville.





LEGEND SIGHTINGS

HALL OF FAME ENSHRINEMENT WEEKEND 2023

On August 11 and 12, basketball's immortals descended upon the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville, Connecticut and the birthplace of basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts. The weekend tipped off on Friday night with the NBRPA's annual Hall of Fame Players Party powered by Panini America at the Vista Lounge at the Mohegan Sun, bringing together Hall of Famers and celebrities of the basketball world to celebrate the new class of inductees. On Saturday evening, the Class of 2023, including NBA Legends Dwyane Wade, Pau Gasol, Dirk Nowitzki and Tony Parker, and WNBA Legend Becky Hammon, were officially enshrined as part of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Congratulations to the Class of 2023!





LEGEND SIGHTINGS

JERRY COLANGELO GOLF CLASSIC

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame held its 12th annual Jerry Colangelo Golf Classic on September 28 (reception) and 29 (golf tournament) at The Wigwam in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Hall of Fame Coach John Calipari (Class of 2015) served as host of the weekend, which honors Jerry Colangelo and his commitment to the growth of the game. This year's field once again brought out some of the biggest names in basketball, including Alonzo Mourning, Nancy Lieberman, Alex English, Ann Meyers Drysdale, Chris Mullin, Mitch Richmond, Shawn Marion, Sam Perkins, Johnny Davis, Cliff Levingston, and Brittney Griner.





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