



★ From young to old, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame has events for everyone! The 6th annual **Jump, Jive, & Jammies Girl Scout sleepover** was held at the WBHOF on January 20 with 196 girls participating. The day started with a trip to see the Lady Vols take on Vanderbilt. Following the game, the group returned to the WBHOF for pizza, all-night games on the ballcourts, movies, a disco, and rounds of campfire songs. At 7:00 am, the girls packed up to go home for some much-needed sleep. On February 24, the WBHOF will host the **Covenant Senior Services** group with a picnic lunch, pep rally, seminar and trip to see the Lady Vols take on Mississippi State. Our guest roster already tops 300!

★ Effective immediately, the email addresses for all Women's Basketball Hall of Fame staff has changed from knoxville.org to wbhof.com. Please update all address books so that we may keep in touch!

Hours of Operation

Winter Hours
 Labor Day - April 30
 Tuesday- Friday 11 am - 5 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
 Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm
 Monday Closed

Closed New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

 A Hoop Full of Information at www.wbhof.com 

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HONOR THE PAST

★ CELEBRATE THE PRESENT ★ PROMOTE THE FUTURE

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the official newsletter of the women's basketball hall of fame

Class of 2008 Perfect Example of Past, Present, & Future

By Karen Tucker

WBHOF In 1999 when the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame opened its doors in Knoxville, TN it was with the intention to "Honor the Past, Celebrate the Past and Promote the Future."

Now, as the WBHOF looks forward to celebrating the Induction of the 10th Anniversary Class this June, that mission statement resounds loud and clear.

"This class is the epitome of what is on the front of the building," said 2008 Inductee Patty Broderick, referring to the Hall's mission statement. "We've been a part of the past, we're involved in the present and there's several of us that still have such a hand in the future of women's basketball. It's really kind of a neat thing. (The Board of Directors) selected a group of women who are exactly what the Hall of Fame is all about."

On June 14, that group of women will be added to the the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame 's already prestigious group of inductees and women's basketball pioneers. The class of 2008 consists of longtime official Patty Broderick, Central Arizona coach Lin L. Laursen, Virginia coach Debbie Ryan, former Wayland and Tennessee All-American Jill Rankin Schneider, former Penn State and Olympic star Suzie McConnell-Serio and former Australian point guard Michele Timms.

"I think Patty is exactly right, this class speaks directly to the mission statement (of the WBHOF) because it's all about the growth of the game," said WBHOF Board member and women's basketball commentator Debbie Antonelli. "Anybody that is in the game at this level has a shared passion for the development and future growth and all these ladies represent that in the way that they have been able to span the test of time in their own respective jobs."



Patty Broderick & Bill Wall (Class of 2004) share a table at the 2007 Tip-Off Classic Banquet.



Debbie Ryan celebrates her 600th win.



Margaret Sexton Gleaves
 (1920-2007)


photo courtesy of the WBHOF

In Memory of Margaret Sexton Gleaves

On December 31, 2007, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame lost a dear friend and pioneer of the game of women's basketball in Margaret Sexton Gleaves.

Sexton Gleaves, 87, was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002 for her many accomplishments. She is a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2008.

A legendary player in the 1930's-40's, Sexton Gleaves was an eight-time AAU All-American guard (Bellevue High School, 1938; Nashville Business College, 1939 and 1940; Vultee Aircraft, 1944 and 1945; Cooks Gold Blumes, 1946-1949). She was named the 1948 MVP for the National AAU Tournament. In total, she played on five national championship teams.


She also started and coached the Holy Rosary Academy's Basketball team (1965-1969), was a member of the Pennington Bend Home Demonstration Club, University of Tennessee's President's Club, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Donelson-Hermitage YMCA Board of Directors, Davidson County Bureau Board and Jellystone Campground Board of Directors. 

Countdown to Induction

The countdown to 2008 has come and gone and now the WBHOF is beginning its own countdown to the 2008 Induction and 10th Anniversary celebration!

The Hall's 10th Anniversary class -- Patty Broderick, Lin L. Laursen, Jill Rankin Schneider, Suzie McConnell-Serio, Debbie Ryan and Michele Timms -- will be officially inducted on June 14th in Knoxville, Tennessee.

With just six months to go, please be sure to block out the date now so that you can be a part of women's basketball history.

For more information, please contact the WBHOF at (865) 633-9000. 

 January

February

March

April

May

June 14,
200810th Anniversary
Celebration

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While the Class of 2008 is being honored for their past and how they helped shape the way the game of women's basketball is played today. Still, the concept of becoming a Hall of Famer is difficult to grasp.

"I don't think Suzie McConnell, because of her age, would want to be called a pioneer right now, but technically she is," Antonelli said.

Daedra Charles-Furlow, a 2007 Inductee and assistant coach at Auburn, experienced a similar feeling during her Induction.

"I t was incredible because this is something you think about when you're 50-60 years old and you're not playing anymore," Charles-Furlow said. "It made me feel really fortunate because I am still young and I am just starting a new phase in my life in terms of coaching, so it really couldn't have come at a better time. I guess it just really made me remember what type of player I was and the impact that I made on women's basketball and the impact that I'm making now."

When it comes to the Class of 2008, that impact will go on for years to come.

Broderick, who has 30 years of officiating experience at every level and officiated the 1988 Olympics as just the second female to do so, is currently the coordinator of the Women's Basketball Officiating Consortium.

Laursen, who has coached Central Arizona College to three NJCAA National Championships while setting the record for most NJCAA wins in her 33 years, jokes about whether or not she'll ever retire.



Suzie McConnell-Serio coaching the WNBA Minnesota Lynx (2003 & 2004).

photo courtesy of the WBHOF



Coach Lin L. Laursen celebrates her 2005 NJCAA National Championship.

photo courtesy of the WBCA



Fran Garmon (Class of 2000) & Jill Rankin Schneider share a table at the 2007 Tip-Off Classic Banquet.

photo courtesy of the WBHOF

"I don't know if I'll ever retire," Laursen said. "That rhymes with expire."

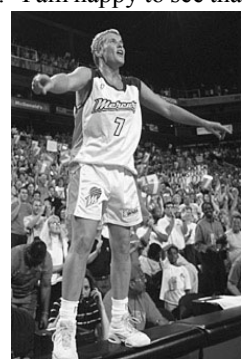
Ryan is starting her 31st season at the helm of the Virginia women's basketball program, which has appeared in 21 NCAA tournaments and advanced to three straight Final Four berths.

After Rankin Schneider made history by being one of the few players ever to receive All-America honors at two universities, she quickly moved into coaching and is currently in her 10th season with the Monterey High school girls' basketball team in Lubbock Texas.

Timms, who is a three-time Olympian and played on the Australian National Team for 14 years in addition to her five seasons with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, has recently become a development coach for the NBL Club team, South Dragons, becoming just the second woman to be a part of the NBL club's coaching staff.

And then there is McConnell-Serio. After a standout career at Penn State, she won two Olympic medals, played three seasons with the WNBA, coached at the high school level, coached in the WNBA and has now started her first season as head coach of the Duquesne women's basketball team.

"You know right there, her love for the game never stopped, she was just at different phases in her life," Charles-Furlow said of McConnell-Serio. "I am happy to see that these six women are able to follow their dreams and that they still have a passion for it. I think once you lose that passion then it's time for you to step down, but while it's still inside of you, and you can still give, you should."



Michele Timms celebrates with the Phoenix Mercury fans.

photo courtesy of NBA photos

WBCA Partners with the V Foundation



Coach Kay Yow

photo courtesy of the WBHOF

By Summer McKesson
WBCA

The WBCA, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, recently announced the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund. This is the first time in its 26-year history that the WBCA has instituted a health initiative, with the Fund serving as the newest women's initiative launched at The V Foundation.

North Carolina State University head coach, Kay Yow, established the Fund in partnership with The V Foundation as a 501 c(3) charitable organization committed to being a part of finding an answer in the fight against cancer through raising money for scientific research, assisting the underserved and unifying people for a common cause.

Yow is a past president and founding member of the WBCA, and serves as a leader and a galvanizing voice for the Association. Yow, who was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987, and is currently battling the disease for the third time.

For more information or to donate now, visit www.wbca.org.



A Hoop Full of Information at www.wbhof.com



WNBA: Destination Atlanta

By Peter Axtman
WNBA

The 2007-08 WNBA offseason has been an exciting time for the league in terms of franchise news. Since the Phoenix Mercury won the 2007 WNBA Championship, the league has welcomed both an expansion franchise as well as a new ownership group for an existing WNBA team.

On Oct. 17, 2007, WNBA President Donna Orender announced that the city of Atlanta was awarded a WNBA expansion team for the 2008 season. The new team will be called the Atlanta Dream, and will be owned and operated by Atlanta businessman J. Ronald Terwilliger, chairman and chief executive officer of Trammell Crow Residential. The Dream, which will select fourth in the 2008 WNBA Draft, also named Marynell Meadors head coach and general manager.

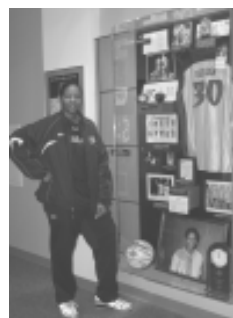


J. Ronald Terwilliger and Marynell Meadors announce the WNBA expansion team in Atlanta.

photo courtesy of NBA photos

For information and to purchase season tickets for Atlanta's inaugural season, fans can call (404) 604-2626 or e-mail atlantatickets@wnba.com.

Inductee's Corner



Charles-Furlow poses in front of her case in the WBHOF's Hall of Honor.

photo courtesy of the WBHOF

Q (Tucker): It's been seven months since your induction into the WBHOF. How do you remember it?

A (Charles-Furlow): When I walked into the Hall of Fame (January

10th with Auburn), it just brought back so many memories. It's still very surreal to me; I could never imagine in a million years that I would be in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. To be able to share that with my kids here at Auburn it was awesome, it was wonderful.

Q (Tucker): How has your life changed now that you're a Hall of Famer?

A (Charles-Furlow): I always tell people, I'm Daedra, that's me. I think I just continue to be real and honest -- that's the way I've always been. I believe when I talk to the kids, not just because of the Hall of Fame title, but they believe me because I've been there, I've done that. I don't think people treat me any differently.

Q (Tucker): If you had to pick now -- 2008 Final Four teams?

A (Charles-Furlow): Tennessee, Maryland, UConn, Rutgers

Q (Tucker): If you weren't a basketball player, what would you be?

A (Charles-Furlow): Working with children, I love kids.

Q (Tucker): Growing up as a basketball player, who did you look up to? Player? Coach?

A (Charles-Furlow): My mom has always been my role model as a woman, as a person who perseveres through adversity. From an athletic standpoint, my female athlete that I grew up watching was Cheryl Miller. I idolized her; that is when I really knew that this is the game that I want to play. And, of course, Magic Johnson.

Q (Tucker): Other sports interests?

A (Charles-Furlow): I like golf. I like watching Tiger Woods. I like tennis, and I like the Williams sisters, Andy Roddick, Roger Federer.

Q (Tucker): Favorite NBA team?

"I always tell people, I'm Daedra, that's me. I think I just continue to be real and honest -- that's the way I've always been."

-Daedra Charles-Furlow

Out west, Orender announced on Jan. 8, 2008 that a select group of area businesswomen and civic leaders secured an exclusive option to purchase the Seattle Storm. The group consists of Anne Levinson, Ginny Gilder, Lisa Brummel and Dawn Trudeau.

"We are pleased to be able to step forward to ensure that Seattle will be the Storm's home," said Levinson, who led the negotiations and is part of the new ownership group, Force 10 Hoops, L.L.C. "This is something we wanted to be able to do for Storm fans and the community. I want to thank Clay Bennett for working with us on this."

The Storm becomes the seventh WNBA team to be independently owned, joining Atlanta, the Connecticut Sun, Washington Mystics, Chicago Sky, Los Angeles Sparks and Houston Comets.



A (Charles-Furlow): Detroit Pistons, because I like their grind, they play hard, they don't play around.

Q (Tucker): Favorite WBNA team?

A (Charles-Furlow): Los Angeles. I like what coach Cooper brings as a coach and he knows how to bring it out of his players.

10TH ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA

As the countdown to the WBHOF's 10th Anniversary begins, take a second to test your knowledge of how it all began.

Go to www.wbhof.com for answers.

★ Prior to being built in Knoxville, there were plans of putting the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame elsewhere. What city and state was originally considered?

★ What ESPN personality served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the Inaugural Induction and Grand Opening in 1999?

★ To make up for lost time, 25 contributors to the game of women's basketball were inducted in the Induction and 24 the second. How many are currently inducted each year?