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WBHOF New Members

The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame would like to welcome the following new members to its family:

Janet K. East
 Rose Marie Battaglia
 Odri Hastings
 Kia Jones
 Melissa O. Wiggins
 Eric & Hilary Anderson and family
 Audrey Valentine and family

Hours of Operation

Fall, Winter, & Spring Hours	
After Labor Day	
Monday	closed
Tuesday - Friday	11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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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

Introducing the Class of 2009

By Karen Tucker

When her phone rang on June 14th, Sonja Hogg thought for sure that Pat Summitt was calling to thank her for the birthday message she had left the day before.

As the two started talking, however, Hogg learned that the call was much more than just a thank you.

"She said, I am calling you to tell you that you have been selected for induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame," Hogg recalled. "I was really surprised. I hadn't even thought about it so it definitely caught me off guard."

Hogg admitted that once she hung up the phone and the news began to sink in, she got "a little misty-eyed."

"It is just a very special thing," Hogg said. "Basketball has been such an important part of my life, I feel very honored to be chosen for the Hall of Fame."

Hogg will join Jennifer Azzi, Cynthia Cooper-Dyke, Jennifer Gillom, Jill Hutchison and the late Ora Washington as the 11th group of inductees to be welcomed into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. They will be officially inducted on June 13, 2009 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The other Class of 2009 inductees, along with Washington's family, shared in Hogg's excitement.

"I have been inducted into a number of Hall of Fames, but this is different. This is like the Hall of Fame of Hall of Fames," Azzi said. "There are so many unbelievable people already in the Hall of Fame, so to be joining the likes of Ann Meyers, Nancy Lieberman, Pat Summitt and Tara VanDerveer, is incredible."

Cooper-Dyke said that she was "floored" by the news and never in a million years imagined that she would be considered for such a great honor.

In spite of their surprise, however, this group is very deserving of Hall of Fame status.

Azzi, Cooper-Dyke and Gillom boast a combined collegiate record of 318-61 at Stanford, USC and Ole Miss, respectively. Together, they have two Olympic Gold medals (Cooper-Dyke and Gillom in 1998, Azzi in 1996), three National Championships (USC 1983, 84 and Stanford 1990), four WNBA championships (Houston Comets 1997-2000), and a number of other milestones and honors.

The accomplishments of Washington, the fourth inductee in the player category, are a bit more difficult to track. Still, she is considered one of the finest black female basketball players in the pre-World War II era. In 18 years with the Philadelphia Tribunes, Washington only lost six games, all of which were to men's teams. Washington passed away in 1971 and will be represented by her great nieces, Brenda Hogue and Karen Robain.

"I am so very proud to learn that Aunt Ora is being honored," Robain said. "We are very excited to attend and represent Ora Washington's living relatives."

The two coaches of the Class of 2009, Hogg and Hutchison,

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Jennifer
Azzi

Cynthia
Cooper-Dyke

Jennifer
Gillom



Jill
Hutchison

Sonja
Hogg

Ora
Washington

Countdown to Tip-Off



The countdown to the
2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic has begun!

On November 16, the 2008-09 women's collegiate basketball season will kick off with this year's event at LSU.

Notre Dame vs. LSU at 1:30 pm (CST) on ESPN2
Pittsburgh vs. Texas A&M at 4 pm (CST) on ESPN2

Be sure to mark the date on your calendar to share in the excitement of a new season.

For more information, please contact the WBHOF at (865) 633-9000. For game tickets, contact LSU at (225) 578-2184 or www.lsusports.net.

A Letter From Our VP

Dear Friends of the Hall,

On behalf of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, I am proud to report that we have successfully celebrated our 10th Annual Induction and welcomed Patty Broderick, Lin Laursen, Debbie Ryan, Jill Rankin Schneider, Suzie McConnell-Serio and Michele Timms into the WBHOF family. What a wonderful weekend we had in Knoxville!

From Friday's private tour of the museum, media session and welcome dinner to Saturday's autograph session, gala reception, auction and ceremony, it was a memorable weekend for all.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors, our Sponsors and all who attended -- we could not have done it without you!

I am excited to report that during our annual Board of Directors' meeting, the board voted in two new members -- Jill Pizzotti of Nike and Pam Eel of State Farm. I know they both will be great additions to our Board.

As we begin our year-long 10th Anniversary Celebration, we have a number of fantastic events planned:

- Future Hall of Famer Clinic (Aug. 4-7)
- Boomsday Celebration (Aug. 31)
- 2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic (Nov. 16)
- and a number of Time-Out Camps, Education Programs and Corporate Events.

Please help us spread the word about these great events and stay tuned for many more happenings at the WBHOF as the 2008-09 women's basketball season gets underway.

Now that we have celebrated our first 10 years, we are looking forward to the next decade and hope that you will come visit us in Knoxville soon!

Best wishes,



Dana Hart,
Vice-President/General Manager

Inside the WNBA

By Karen Kase,
WNBA

The WNBA has enjoyed a fantastic season to date, with phenomenal on-court performances highlighting the league's 12th year. Heading one of the strongest rookie classes ever, the LA Sparks' Candace Parker has swiftly



On left (L to R): Los Angeles Sparks teammates Lisa Leslie and Candace Parker
On right: The open sky smiles down on an historic foul shot in Arthur Ashe Stadium

photos courtesy of the WNBA

emerged as a top-notch talent. With over two-thirds of the season behind her, she ranks among league leaders and is nearly averaging a double-double. In May, Parker was named the inaugural Hann-G 'Go beyond' Rookie of the Month. In June, she became the second woman to ever dunk in a professional basketball game and the first to

continued from cover

also have lengthy resumes. Combined, they were on the sidelines over 40 years and tallied over 800 wins. Hogg built the Louisiana Tech program from the ground up and Hutchison was the first president of the WBCA.

"The WBHOF Board is again excited about the Class of 2009," said Jack North, President of the WBHOF Board of Directors. "They represent a broad cross section of individuals, all who've made a great mark in the women's game and will add to the illustrious roster of past inductees."

The Class of 2009 was selected for induction during the Board of Directors annual meeting in Knoxville on June 14, 2008. They were officially announced during the July 13th WNBA game on ABC between the Washington Mystics and the Connecticut Sun. They will be introduced at the 2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic at LSU on Nov. 16.

"Since it is difficult to get all six members or representatives in Louisiana for the State Farm Tip-Off Classic, Sonja Hogg was the obvious choice because of her connection to Louisiana," WBHOF Vice-President/General Manager Dana Hart said. "We are excited for her to represent the class and we are looking forward to making plans for the 2009 Induction in Knoxville in June."

dunk in back-to-back games. The Minnesota Lynx's Candice Wiggins, the No. 3 draft pick, was named Rookie of the Month for June.

On the other end of the experience spectrum, Lisa Leslie and Tina Thompson, two of the WNBA's original players, recently reached historic milestones. Leslie collected her 3,000th-career rebound on June 26 and became the only player in league history to reach the milestone. On June 6, Thompson joined Leslie as the only players to score 5,000 career WNBA points.

On July 19, the Indiana Fever and New York Liberty made history when they played a game at Arthur Ashe Stadium, making their contest the first professional basketball game to be held outdoors. The Fever defeated the Liberty, 71-55 behind 20 points from Katie Douglas and 15 from Tamika Catchings.

As the season nears the Olympic break (July 28-August 27), playoff races have tightened in each conference. San Antonio leads Seattle by a half-game in the Western Conference, while four teams are separated by a mere one game for the fourth playoff spot. In the Eastern Conference, Connecticut and New York trail first-place Detroit by two and three games, respectively.

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WBCA Board Adds Three In 2008

By Summer McKesson,
WBCA

Sherri Coale, President of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and Oklahoma head coach, announced the appointment and the election results for the WBCA Board of Directors. Three new members were added and ten existing members were reappointed or re-elected for second terms to make up the 29-member board of coaches and professionals.

Joining the board in 2008 is Jennifer Rizzotti, University of Hartford (Division I/East); Carol Owens, Northern Illinois University



WBCA President
Sherri Coale

(Division I/Mideast) and Coquese Washington, Pennsylvania State University (Division I/At Large).

"I am so pleased to have such a wonderful group of fellow coaches and administrators around me during my second year in office," said Coale. "Everyone brings their own unique perspective and experience to the table which will certainly enhance the Board. I have no doubt the WBCA will continue to grow and do great things on the court and in the community in the year to come."

Inductee's Corner An interview with Joan Crawford

By Karen Tucker

Q. (Tucker) What did it mean to you to be inducted into the WBHOF in its inaugural induction class in 1999?

A. (Crawford) Words cannot describe what a great feeling and honor it is to be one of the first to be inducted into the WBHOF along with so many, great players and coaches.

Q. (Tucker) How did it feel to come back to Knoxville for the 10th Anniversary Induction?

A. (Crawford) Wonderful, (the WBHOF staff) and volunteers really did a wonderful job on putting the 10th Anniversary Events on. Everything was just great. It was the best feeling to be back again among so many great people and to meet the wonderful new inductees.

Q. (Tucker) When you think back on your career, what are some of your most memorable experiences?

A. (Crawford) Doing something I enjoy doing, being able to meet so many wonderful people,

not just players -- but fans, meeting your littlest fans. Playing in the 1957 World Tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and beating the USSR team to win the World Tournament, playing in two Pan-American games and winning the gold...If it hadn't been for basketball, I would never have been able to visit all of the wonderful places that basketball entitled me to. I know we left behind many memories every place we played. And

what a wonderful feeling to show other countries -- Americans can all get along together.

Q. (Tucker) If you weren't a basketball player, what careers would you have liked to pursue?

A. (Crawford) I really do not know. I never thought about it because I was doing what I loved to do most.

Q. (Tucker) Prediction to win the gold medal in Beijing in women's basketball?

A. (Crawford) USA to win the gold.

Q. (Tucker) Talk about some of the relationships you built through women's basketball. How have they shaped your life?

A. (Crawford) I met so many wonderful people who have become very good friends of mine, not only in the USA, but other countries who I keep in touch with. Many of them have made an impact on my life, a difference in my life.

Q. (Tucker) If you could pick four other players to take the court with, who would they be?

A. (Crawford) Nera White, Tina Thompson, Ann Meyers, Nancy Lieberman

Q. (Tucker) Which coach would you want on the sidelines?

A. (Crawford) Coach John Head (1999)

Q. (Tucker) As a player, what was your favorite part of the game?

A. (Crawford) Defense, roving, rebounding, offense, winning and just having fun with my teammates. Also, to know we are doing something for the fans to enjoy and be part of.



Joan Crawford (1999) waves during Induction 2008

2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic

By Karen Tucker

The 2008-09 women's collegiate basketball season will be tipped off in style as the WBHOF teams up with State Farm, InterSport and ESPN to host the 2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic on November 16. This year's Tip-Off Classic will feature Notre Dame against



Van Chancellor (2001)

LSU at 1:30 pm (CST) and the University of Pittsburgh versus Texas A&M at 4 pm (CST). Both games will be played at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at LSU and televised live on ESPN2.

"We are very excited to be in the State Farm Tip-Off Classic, but even more excited to be hosting the event on our home floor," LSU head coach and Class of 2001 Inductee Van Chancellor said. "This is one of the premier events of the season, and we are honored to be a part of it. There are three great institutions that will be joining us. We look forward to starting the season in the (State Farm) Tip-Off Classic."

The 2008 State Farm Tip-Off Classic marks the 16th year of the event, which has become synonymous with the start of the collegiate women's basketball season. Once again, this year's match-ups feature some of the best players, coaches and programs in the country. Notre Dame and Pittsburgh both made it to the Sweet Sixteen in the 2007-08 NCAA Tournament and finished ranked 13th and 16th, respectively. Texas A&M finished 8th after its appearance in the Elite 8 and LSU landed in the No.4 spot after making its fifth consecutive Final Four appearance.

"We will have a really young team, and we will be going up against a tremendous Notre Dame squad," said Chancellor. "I want our team to be exposed to three talented programs and see the level of play they bring to the table. This event will provide that opportunity."

Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, and Texas A&M will all be making their first appearance in the State Farm Tip-Off Classic. LSU will be making its third appearance, having won in 2004 and 2005.

At halftime of both games, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame's Class of 2009 will be represented by Sonja Hogg. When the Class of 2009 is officially inducted in Knoxville, Tennessee on June 13, the list of individuals who have been recognized as WBHOF inductees will increase to 109.