

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual SportsCare-Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches  
Hall of Fame Awards Banquet**

May 1, 2004  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BATON ROUGE --- Two of Louisiana's all-time great collegiate basketball players were honored tonight at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual SportsCare-Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Awards Banquet held in Baton Rouge.

Inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame were Nicholls State University's Reggie Jackson and Northwestern State University's Vernon Wilson.

The other major honoree was legendary former De La Salle and St. Aloysius High School coach Johnny Altobello, who won the LABC's prestigious Mr. Louisiana Basketball award. This award is given annually to someone who has made a significant, long-term contribution to the game of basketball at any level in the State of Louisiana.

Also recognized at the banquet were Louisiana's major college, small college, junior college and high school basketball players and coaches of the year, along with the top pro player from the state.

Jackson was a four-time first team All-Southland Conference selection and four-time All-Louisiana selection at Nicholls St. from 1991-95. He was named the SLC and Louisiana Player of the Year in 1995, leading the Colonels to the SLC championship and its first NCAA Division I Tournament berth. He finished his career as the second leading scorer and the leading rebounder in Nicholls St. history with 2,124 points for a 19.3 average and 1,271 rebounds for an 11.6 average, becoming one of only 75 players in NCAA Division I history to score 2,000 points and pull down 1,000 rebounds.

Jackson averaged 21.6 points and 10.8 rebounds as a senior, 18.6 points and 12.0 rebounds (7th in the nation) as a junior, 20.5 points and 12.5 rebounds (3rd in the nation) as a sophomore, and 16.4 points and 11.1 rebounds as a freshman.

Wilson was a first team NAIA All-American at Northwestern St. in 1973. He was also a two-time All-Louisiana selection and was the Gulf States Conference Rookie of the Year in 1971. He finished his three-year career as the fifth leading scorer in Northwestern St. history, with 1,548 points for a 20.6 average. He led Northwestern St. in scoring all three years, averaging 19.9 points in 1973, 21.7 points in 1972, and 20.3 points in 1971.

Altobello was, far and away, the most successful high school basketball coach in New Orleans history. When he retired from high school coaching in 1970, after a career that spanned 24 years, his teams at St. Aloysius (1946-52) and De La Salle (1952-70) had won a total of eight state and 16 city championships in Louisiana's largest classification. His amazing career record of 589-92 (86.5% winning percentage) included three perfect seasons.

The LABC also presented the Pete Maravich Memorial Award, honoring Louisiana's Major College Player of the Year, to Centenary senior point guard Andrew Wisniewski. This season he was a first team All-Mid-Continent Conference, NABC All-District and All-Louisiana selection. He finished in the top seven in the MCC in scoring (21.9), field goal percentage (51.2%), three-point field goal percentage (41.8%), three-point field goals made (2.36), free throw percentage (78.6%), assists (4.32) and steals (1.61).

Coach Billy Kennedy of Southeastern La. was presented the Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award as Louisiana's Major College Coach of the Year. This year he led Southeastern La. to a 20-9 record – its best season since 1973 – and a share of the Southland Conference championship, after being picked in a preseason poll of conference coaches to finish sixth. He was also named the SLC's Coach of the Year and the NABC District Coach of the Year.

The Bob Pettit Award, which is given to Louisiana's Professional Player of the Year, was presented to six-time winner Shaquille O'Neal. This year the former LSU All-American and current Los Angeles Lakers superstar was named first team All-NBA for the sixth time. He averaged 21.5 points (9th in the NBA), 11.5 rebounds and 2.48 blocks (6th in the NBA) and shot 58.4% from the field (1st in the NBA) in leading the Lakers to the NBA Pacific Division title with a 56-26 record. He was also the MVP of the 2004 NBA All-Star Game, scoring 24 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

#### **2004 LABC Award Winners:**

*Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame Inductees:* Reggie Jackson, Nicholls St.; Vernon Wilson, Northwestern St.

*Mr. Louisiana Basketball:* Johnny Altobello, De La Salle High School/St. Aloysius High School

*Bob Pettit Award for the Louisiana Professional Player of the Year:* Shaquille O'Neal, LSU/Los Angeles Lakers

*Pete Maravich Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Player of the Year:* Andrew Wisniewski, Centenary

*Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Coach of the Year:* Billy Kennedy, Southeastern La.

*Louisiana Small College Co-Players of the Year:* Roberto Ferriar, Southern-New Orleans and Fredericko Payne, LSU-Shreveport

*Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year:* Chad McDowell, LSU-Shreveport

*Louisiana Junior College Player of the Year:* Turmaine Rice, Southern-Shreveport

*Louisiana Junior College Coach of the Year:* David Francis, Southern-Shreveport

*Louisiana High School Players of the Year:*

*Class AAAAA:* Martin Zeno, Sulphur

*Class AAAA:* John Ford, Peabody

*Class AAA:* Tyrone Hamilton, Booker T. Washington

*Class AA:* Glen Davis, University

*Class A:* Matthew Barrow, Southern Lab

*Class B:* Ryan Gipson, Dubach

*Class C:* Lionel Mosby, Jr., Excelsior Christian

*Louisiana High School Coaches of the Year:*

*Class AAAAA:* Clint LeBato, Sulphur

*Class AAAA:* Rick LeBato, Northside

*Class AAA:* Milton Rohm, Teurlings

*Class AA:* Ari Fisher, University

*Class A:* Michael Normand, Logansport

*Class B:* Danny Fletcher, Pitkin

*Class C:* Steve Wharton, Plainview