

35th Annual Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Awards Banquet

May 2, 2009
Embassy Suites Hotel
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BATON ROUGE --- Two former Tulane star players, along with a legendary former high school coach and state legislator, were the major honorees at tonight's 35th Annual Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Awards Banquet.

Inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame were former star player Phil Hicks and John "Hot Rod" Williams, both of Tulane.

The other major honoree was former Haughton High coach and long-time Louisiana legislator from Bossier Parish, Billy Montgomery, 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 honored 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.

Hicks was an honorable mention All-American, first team All-Metro Conference selection and three-time first team All-Louisiana choice while at Tulane in the 1970s. He finished his career as the leading scorer and second leading rebounder in Tulane history, averaging 21 points and almost 12 rebounds per game over 3 seasons.

Hicks averaged a conference-leading 20.6 points, along with 10.8 rebounds, as a senior; 22.7 points and 12.4 rebounds as a junior; and 20.0 points and 12.8 rebounds as a sophomore. He went on to be drafted by the Houston Rockets in the second round of the 1976 NBA Draft and played professional basketball in the NBA and Europe for 11 seasons.

Williams was a three-time honorable mention All-American and a three-time first team All-Metro Conference and All-Louisiana selection during his career at Tulane in the 1980s. He was also the Metro Conference Player of the Year in 1984 and the Louisiana Newcomer of the Year in 1982. He finished his career as the second leading scorer and fourth leading rebounder in Tulane history, with over 1,800 points and 800 rebounds.

Williams averaged 17.8 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.29 blocked shots as a senior; 19.4 points, 7.9 rebounds and 1.25 blocked shots as a junior; 12.4 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.19 blocked shots as a sophomore; and 14.8 points, 7.2 rebounds and 2.00 blocked shots as a freshman. He led Tulane to two consecutive NIT appearances, reaching the quarterfinals in 1982. After college he was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round of the 1985 NBA Draft, where he won All-Rookie honors and went on to play 13 seasons in the league.

Montgomery coached at Haughton for 9 years and Lafayette High for one year, compiling a 305-68 career record. His teams won two state championships, had one state runner-up finish, made five Top 20 appearances and averaged over 30 wins per season. He was a two-time state coach of the year and eight-time district coach of the year.

Montgomery went on to serve as principal and assistant principal at Haughton for a total of 18 years and was inducted into the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1991. He later served as a State Representative in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1988 to 2008.

The LABC also presented the Pete Maravich Memorial Award, honoring Louisiana's Major College Player of the Year, to senior guard Marcus Thornton of LSU. This season Thornton was an honorable mention AP All-American and the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, while averaging 21.1 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.2 three-pointers. He had seven 30-point games and finished the season with 19 consecutive double figure scoring games in leading LSU to the SEC championship and the NCAA Tournament.

Coach Trent Johnson of LSU received the Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award as Louisiana's Major College Coach of the Year. In his first year he led the Tigers to the Southeastern Conference championship, a Top 20 national ranking and the second round of the NCAA Tournament with a 27-8 record (the third most wins in school history). He was also named the SEC Coach of the Year and an NABC and USBWA District Coach of the Year, along with being a finalist for several national coach of the year awards.

The Bob Pettit Award, which is given to Louisiana's Professional Player of the Year, was presented to Paul Millsap for the second straight year. In his third year in the NBA, the former Louisiana Tech star averaged 13.5 points and 8.6 rebounds, and shot 53.4% from the field (10th in the NBA), in helping lead the Utah Jazz to the NBA playoffs. Millsap had 29 double-double games and single game highs of 32 points, 17 rebounds, 7 assists, 5 steals and 5 blocks.

Ryan Brock of Loyola received the Louisiana Small College Player of the Year award after being named an honorable mention NAIA All-American and an All-Gulf Coast Athletic Conference and All-Louisiana selection, while averaging a GCAC-leading 19.9 points per game. Coach Mike Giorlando of Loyola, who was named the Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year, directed the Wolfpack to its first national Top 25 ranking, a second place regular season finish in the GCAC and a 19-11 overall record (the school's most wins since 1948), after being picked in the preseason to finish 7th in the GCAC.

Whitworth Treasure and Coach David Francis of Southern-Shreveport were honored as the Louisiana Junior College Player and Coach of the Year, respectively. Treasure, a sophomore guard, averaged 24.2 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.8 assists. Coach Francis led the Port City Jags to the Miss-Lou Conference championship and the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament with a 19-10 record.

2009 LABC Honorees:

Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame Inductees: Phil Hicks, Tulane; John “Hot Rod” Williams, Tulane

Mr. Louisiana Basketball: Billy Montgomery, Haughton High School

Bob Pettit Award for the Louisiana Professional Player of the Year: Paul Millsap, Utah Jazz

Pete Maravich Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Player of the Year: Marcus Thornton, LSU

Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Coach of the Year: Trent Johnson, LSU

Louisiana Small College Player of the Year: Ryan Brock, Loyola

Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year: Mike Giorlando, Loyola

Louisiana Junior College Player of the Year: Whitworth Treasure, Southern-Shreveport

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

Louisiana High School Players of the Year:

Class AAAAA: Nick Haywood, Ouachita

Class AAAA: Brian Williams, Glen Oaks

Class AAA: Gary Stewart, Vidalia

Class AA: Antonious Markray, Springhill

Class A: Eddie Ludwig, Metairie Park Country Day

Class B: Joevoskie Mitchell, Zwolle

Class C: Cedric Jenkins, Reserve Christian

Louisiana High School Coaches of the Year:

Class AAAAA: Brian Lumar, Hahnville

Class AAAA: Jeremiah Williams, Bossier

Class AAA: Robert Sanders, Vidalia

Class AA: Darrin Dyess, Many

Class A: David Bryant, Plain Dealing

Class B: Mike Charrier, Simpson

Class C: Timmy Byrd, Reserve Christian