

40th Annual Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Awards Banquet

May 3, 2014
Embassy Suites Hotel
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BATON ROUGE --- A 1970s era star from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a highly successful coach at the University of New Orleans and a long-time Baton Rouge area high school coach were the major honorees at Saturday's 40th Annual Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Awards Banquet.

Inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame were University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Roy Ebron and University of New Orleans' Tim Floyd.

The other major honoree was East Ascension High School coach Kenny Almond, who received the LABC's 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.

Ebron played for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (then known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana) from 1970 to 1973, where he was an honorable mention All-American in 1972 and a two-time first team All-Southland Conference selection. He finished his three-year career as the fourth leading scorer and leading rebounder in Ragin Cajun history, with career averages of 19.3 points and 12.2 rebounds, which included six games of 20 or more rebounds. He also had a 57.9% career field goal percentage.

Ebron averaged 19.5 points and 12.3 rebounds in 1973; 23.0 points, 14.2 rebounds and shot 61.0% from the field (ranking 7th in the nation) in 1972; and 15.6 points and 10.2 rebounds in 1971. He helped lead UL-Lafayette to two straight regional semifinal finishes in the NCAA Division I Tournament and a third place finish in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Floyd coached at the University of New Orleans from 1988 to 1994, where he won 126 games and lost only 59, for a 68% career winning percentage. He was a two-time conference Coach of the Year and Louisiana Coach of the Year, leading the Privateers to four conference regular season championships and one conference tournament championship.

Floyd's UNO teams made two NCAA Tournament appearances and three NIT appearances, advancing to the NIT quarterfinals in 1990 and the second round in 1994. He posted four 20-win seasons, including seasons of 26-4, 23-8, 21-11, 20-10 and 19-11.

During his 38 seasons of coaching high school basketball in the Baton Rouge area at East Ascension, Woodlawn, Lee and Central, Almond has compiled an 876-388 record and earned three state championships along with four state runner-up finishes and 14 district championships. His career win total ranks 7th nationally among all active high school coaches.

Almond has been a three-time state high school coach of the year and his 2003 Woodlawn squad finished the season 39-0 and ranked sixth in the nation. His last two Woodlawn teams won 56 consecutive games to set a record in the state's largest classification. In 2012 he was inducted into the Louisiana High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The LABC also presented the Pete Maravich Memorial Award, honoring Louisiana's Major College Player of the Year, to junior guard Elfrid Payton of UL-Lafayette. This season Payton was a CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major All-American and a first team All-Sun Belt Conference and All-Louisiana selection. He was also the CollegeInsider.com National Defensive Player of the Year and the SBC Defensive Player of the Year. He averaged 19.2 points and 6.0 rebounds, while leading the SBC in assists (5.94 avg.) and steals (2.29 avg.) . He scored in double figures in 32 of 35 games and had single game highs of 34 points, 13 rebounds, 11 assists and 6 steals.

Coach Michael White of Louisiana Tech received the Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award as Louisiana's Major College Coach of the Year. In his third season, he led the Bulldogs to the Conference USA regular season championship, to the finals of the C-USA Tournament and to the quarterfinals of the NIT with a 29-8 record. The 29 wins tied for the most in school history.

The Bob Pettit Award, which is given to Louisiana's Professional Player of the Year, was presented to forward Paul Millsap of the Atlanta Hawks. In his eighth year in the NBA, the former Louisiana Tech star averaged 17.9 points and 8.5 rebounds. Millsap had 30 double-double games and had single game highs of 34 points, 17 rebounds, 10 assists and 6 steals. He was also selected for the NBA All-Star Game for the first time.

Senior guard Jonathan Blount of Centenary received the Louisiana Small College Player of the Year award after being named an honorable mention DIII News All-American, a first team All-Louisiana selection and the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Co-Player of the Year, while averaging an SCAC-record 24.4 points and setting a school single game scoring record of 53 points.

Coach Dannton Jackson of Xavier, who was named the Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year, guided the Gold Rush to a No. 12 ranking in the final regular season national poll, to the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference regular season championship and to the NAIA National Tournament with a 23-9 record, despite having to replace five senior starters. Jackson was the GCAC Coach of the Year for a league-record third consecutive year and became the school's career leader in coaching victories in December.

Mark Gray and Coach David Francis of Southern-Shreveport were honored as the Louisiana Junior College Player and Coach of the Year, respectively. Gray, a sophomore center, averaged 14 points, 10 rebounds and 4 assists. Francis led the Port City Jags to the Miss-Lou Conference championship and to the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament with a 20-7 record. This was Francis' 10th conference championship in 14 seasons.

2014 LABC Honorees:

Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame Inductees: Roy Ebron, UL-Lafayette; Tim Floyd, New Orleans

Mr. Louisiana Basketball: Kenny Almond, Baton Rouge

Bob Pettit Award for the Louisiana Professional Player of the Year: Paul Millsap, Atlanta Hawks

Pete Maravich Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Player of the Year: Elfrid Payton, UL-Lafayette

Tommy Joe Eagles Memorial Award for the Louisiana Major College Coach of the Year: Michael White, Louisiana Tech

Louisiana Small College Player of the Year: Jonathan Blount, Centenary

Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year: Dannton Jackson, Xavier

Louisiana Junior College Player of the Year: Mark Gray, Southern-Shreveport

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

Louisiana High School Players of the Year:

Class AAAAA: Greg White-Pittman, Holy Cross

Class AAAA: Tyree Griffin, Landry-Walker

Class AAA: Reginal Johnson, Jr., Richwood

Class AA: Malik Crowfield, Riverside

Class A: Johnathan Stove, Christian Life

Class B: Brennan Maddox, Fairview

Class C: Javier Roper, New Living Word

Louisiana High School Coaches of the Year:

Class AAAAA: Micah Coleman, Natchitoches Central

Class AAAA: Brian Gibson, Landry-Walker

Class AAA: Joe Spencer, University

Class AA: Joshua Hancock, Lakeview

Class A: Byron Starks, Lafayette Christian

Class B: Ron Stark, Fairview

Class C: Curtis Shavers, Sicily Island