

## RANDY WHITE

*Note: This is the **third** in a series of four articles on this year's inductees into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the LABC's 2003 Mr. Louisiana Basketball award recipient. The 2003 inductees are Marlbert Pradd of Dillard, Jerry Reynolds of LSU and Randy White of Louisiana Tech. Mr. Louisiana Basketball for 2003 is Scotty Robertson of Louisiana Tech.*

### RANDY WHITE'S CAREER WAS HALL OF FAME WORTHY

By: O.K. Davis  
Executive Sports Editor  
*The Ruston Daily Leader*  
Written for the LABC

RUSTON --- When he was in high school, Randy White played basketball simply for the fun of it.

Dismiss any notions of riding the sport to an eventual career in the collegiate or professional ranks.

"I was just one of the guys out there enjoying the game for what it was," he said. "I hadn't given it a single thought to continue it on into college and certainly not the pros."

As it turned out, though, that's exactly what happened.

After an All-State career at Shreveport's Huntington High School, White went on to become Mr. Everything at Louisiana Tech University and then enjoying a 12-year career in the professional ranks, the latter split between the NBA and the European circuit.

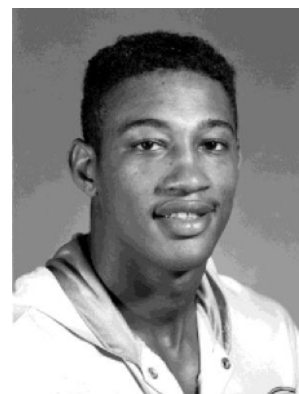
For his attributes on the court, the 6-8 Shreveport product is being recognized as a 2003 inductee into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame. He will be joining NAIA All-American Marlbert Pradd of Dillard and All-SEC guard Jerry Reynolds of LSU as this year's inductees.

"I was really surprised when I was notified for the honor," White said. "Talk about a tremendous honor which I'm really grateful for, but this means so much when you think about all of the great players that have come out of Louisiana.

"To be included in that group, I am very appreciative and humbled."

And maybe a little too modest.

White, for sure, deserves the accolades.



From 1985-89, he was among the nation's top collegiate players, being selected as an honorable mention All-American and American South Conference Player of the Year in the latter year after having been tagged as the state's top collegian the previous season.

A two-time first team All-ASC and All-Louisiana pick and twice-selected ASC postseason tournament MVP, White finished out his Bulldogs' career as the program's third all-time leading scorer (1,947 points for a 15.3 average) and fourth leading rebounder (1,048 rebounds for an 8.3 average).

In back-to-back seasons, he was the rebounding pacesetter for Tech and the ASC.

"Randy had such a good work ethic," remembered current NBA star P.J. Brown, who was a teammate of White's at Tech in 1989. "He meant a lot to me as a young player because of that kind of attitude. I took it as an example to also work hard and be the best player I could be.

"He had the desire, dedication and passion to become a good player."

White was also buoyed by the inspiration and intensity supplied by the late Tommy Joe Eagles, a member of the Bulldogs' staff at the time.

"I could write a book on what coach Eagles meant to me," he said. "I just can't say enough about him and what he meant to me in my life as an athlete and person."

"Just when I thought I didn't want to play to my fullest abilities or reach my potential, he would be there urging me on. Sometimes, he got on to me so much that I didn't think I could stand it much longer. But I knew he was doing it for my good, to help me out later on. I didn't want to disappoint him, so I kept working to be the very best player I could be. Without him, there's no way I would be experiencing this type of honor or even have been able to realize the thrill of playing professionally."

White went from a 12.6 scoring and 6.5 rebounding average in 1987 as a sophomore, to marks of 18.6 points and 11.6 rebounds (5<sup>th</sup> in the nation) the following season. As a junior, he also had a 63.8% field goal percentage, which ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Then, as a senior in 1989, he averaged 21.2 points and 10.5 boards per contest and shot 60.0% from the field.

"What really pushed Randy in his basketball career was the presence of Tommy Joe," said Jerry Loyd, who was head coach for the 'Dogs from 1989-94. "The impact that Tommy Joe made on Randy's career was immeasurable."

"It was one of those passionate relationships where each had a tremendous amount of respect for each other, yet probably wondered whether either one of them would last through it. But Randy had so much respect for Tommy Joe that he wasn't about to let him down. And he didn't."

Asked to single out one of White's better game in college, Brown quickly mentioned a thrilling 111-109 victory over LSU in Baton Rouge in the 1988-1989 season.

"Randy was a monster in that game," said the veteran forward of 10 NBA campaigns. "He had something like 35 points and 15 rebounds, just a tremendous overall performance."

White was the eighth player chosen in the 1989 NBA Draft, being selected by the Dallas Mavericks.

He spent five years in the league, playing in 281 games and averaging 7.4 points and 4.9 rebounds.

After his NBA stay, he began competing on the European pro scene in 1994 and split time over a seven-year period in six different countries.

A former special assistant with the Mavericks' front office and now a consultant for Reese Explorations of Dallas, White still has a deep love for the game.

"I definitely miss it," he admits. "I love being around the game. At some point, I would love to get back in it, possibly as a coach." Until then, White can enjoy the recognition resulting from his induction into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame, which is located in LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches (LABC). The Hall of Fame was created in 1975 to honor former great basketball players and coaches from Louisiana colleges. You can learn more about the LABC and the Hall of Fame by visiting their website at [www.labball.com](http://www.labball.com).

The Hall of Fame induction ceremonies will be held in conjunction with the LABC's 29th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon. The awards luncheon, sponsored by SportsCare, will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge at noon on July 24.

In addition to the induction of the new Hall of Fame members, the luncheon will include recognition of Louisiana's major college, small college, junior college and high school players and coaches of the year, the top pro player from the state, and the presentation of the prestigious Mr. Louisiana Basketball award to former Louisiana Tech and NBA coach Scotty Robertson.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 and can be obtained by contacting the LABC at [labball@gmail.com](mailto:labball@gmail.com). The Embassy Suites Hotel is located at 4914 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge (exit 158 off Interstate 10).

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