



Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 242-4750

Minutes
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Committee Meeting
April 19, 2022

The Nomination Committee of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (“TNSHOF”) met this day at 2:00 PM CT for a meeting with a physical location at 312 Rosa L Parks Ave, 13th Fl., Nashville, TN 37243 and hosted via WebEx with available call-in numbers. Notice being given seven (7) days prior on the TNSHOF website and Facebook page. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM CT by Massaro. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dane Bradshaw
Harold Graeter
Kenny Hawkins
Chris Massaro
Candice Storey Lee¹
Art Sparks

MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

GUESTS PRESENT

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator
Alicia C. B. Widrig, Department of Tourist Development, General Counsel & Board Attorney
Brad Willis, TNSHoF, Executive Director

Lisa Campbell, Speaking on behalf of Nominee John Ingram
Speakers on behalf of Nominee- 1958 Oakridge Football Team: Earl Nall, Jerry Harris and Larry Richards

AGENDA

Welcome, Massaro

Welcome and Call to Order. A favorite meeting as we continue to do the important work of the Hall of Fame. Thank you and appreciate your time and discussion.

¹ Lee notified Willis of a prior engagement which would result in tardiness. Lee arrived for the meeting at 2:15 PM CT and was scheduled to leave the meeting at 3:30 PM CT.

Housekeeping

- Guests were recognized and instructed they would be given an opportunity to address the Committee.
- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 8-44-108(a)(d), the determination of necessity for conducting the TNSHOF meeting electronically was read into the record and rendered as essential to continue the business of the Board, in order to select Honorees for presentation to the full Board.
- Approved the April 20, 2021 Minutes of the Nomination Committee TNSHOF without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion, by Graeter with second by Massaro. No discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenny Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Candice Storey Lee	
Art Sparks	Yes

- Willis, Confidentiality. This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend. If you are on the meeting would request that until the nominees and inductees are rolled out that the results be kept confidential.

New Business/Discussion Items, Willis

1 & 2. Nomination Criteria/Process and Discussion of Definition of “Sport” For Purposes of Induction, Willis, Before discussing the following points referred to the Nomination Committee from the full board and regional subcommittees: a) Enlargement of Number of Annual Class; b) Configuration of At-Large Nominees, i) More or less Automatics per Region and ii) Should any Region have more automatics than another; c) Utilization of Unused At-Large Nominees/Alternates; and d) Posthumous Honors.

- Motion, Massaro, Table new business items 1 and 2 for discussion during a Nomination Committee in which those are the only discussion items. Second by Sparks. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenny Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Candice Storey Lee	
Art Sparks	Yes

Motion carries.

3. Discussion of Process of Honorees, Willis, Thank-you all for being on the call, this is one of the more difficult tasks to take a list like the one provided and to narrow it down. As you go through the categories you should discuss candidates and set those aside for additional discussion until ready to vote. The individuals recommended to be honored will go to the Board on May 5, 2021 for approval. A big thank you to Tony Stinnett with MTSU for putting together the bios for the athletes and teams of the year, it is invaluable information for the committee. Willis, turn over to Massaro as he is Committee Chair. Massaro, will take nine (9) categories in

order as it appears on the Agenda unless due to time constraints a member needs to leave and then can take items out of order.

4. Discussion of Honoree Categories, Massaro

- Tennessean of the Year
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - John Ingram
 - Public Comment
 - Lisa Campbell, presented information on John Ingram to the Board for consideration for the Tennessean of the Year Honor. Campbell emphasized Ingram's behavior as a true sportsman and presented the Board with three (3) paragraphs highlighting the basis for the nomination.
 - Willis, Thank you to Campbell for encapsulating Ingram's commitment to Vanderbilt and what is now visibly at the forefront in his ownership of the Nashville SC.
 - Discussion
 - Massaro, Before moving into Discussion would like to invite the other Guests to speak and will return.
 - Massaro, Received one (1) nomination for this category and the list is not mean to be all inclusive are there any other nominees for that honor?
 - Massaro, hearing none, would accept a Motion for Ingram to me named Tennessean of the Year, by Lee with second from Graeter. Motion held until remaining categories finalized.
- David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Title IX Group
 - Oak Ridge 1958 Football Team
 - Thomas Wilson, Baseball Team Owner & Administrator
 - Public Comment
 - Earl Nall, Nall offered a five (5) minute synopsis covering the following attributes: 1) National Champions; 2) Played in most note-worthy game in TN history; 3) Post Season Accomplishments and 4) Teams participation in Integration in the South
 - Jerry Harris, Email provided on March 7 contains his sentiments and Nall put an exclamation point on it.
 - Larry Richards, May well be biased as he was a member of the team. But, the team as a whole had so much character on the field and in the classroom. Been an honor to compete with them and they are all still friends to this day.
 - Massaro, Thank you to Nall, Harris and Richards, will now return to discussions of Tennessean of the Year.
 - Discussion (Held unexpectedly during the Pat Summit Lifetime Achievement Award Discussion).
 - Motion, Committee members request the Board recognize a compilation of female trailblazers and pioneers from the state of TN, including but not limited to: Pat Summit, Marynell Meadors, Bettye Giles, Betty Wiseman, Nera White, Joan Cronan, June Stewart, Diane Cummins Turnham, and Teresa Lawrence Phillips.
- Pat Summit Lifetime Achievement Award

- Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Dean Hayes, TN State Head Track & Field Coach
 - Charlie Bayless, Happy Valley High School Basketball Coach
 - Jerry “The King” Lawler, Professional Wrestling/Entertainer
 - Thomas Wilson, Baseball Team Owner and Administrator
- Discussion
 - Hawkins, Spoke about Bayless, he unfortunately passed away a couple of Months ago. Nation’s longest serving high school basketball coach when he retired, had coached for sixty (60) years having 964 wins.
 - Massaro, Dean Hayes, Coach Hayes served as MTSU’s Track & Field coach for fifty-seven (57) years. He unfortunately passed away unexpectedly this past January. He had many honors and left his fingerprints all over the institution for his social component of integrating MTSU with the first African American athletes and he was the first advisor for African American fraternities. MTSU will be hosting a celebration of Life on June 4, and this honor would dove tail.
 - Willis, Lawler’s consideration was forwarded from the West TN Regional Subcommittee based upon the nomination from Mayor Jacobs of Knoxville. The subcommittee also wished for the Nomination committee to consider whether professional wrestling was a sport.
 - Massaro, Consider Thomas Wilson, Negro League Team Owner and League Administrator.
 - Massaro, Looking at the next award (David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award) it is the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. Though Wilson fits the History Achievement Award could receive either Summit or Williams. Agree with Hawkins that had a long discussion last year and need to find a way to honor him.
 - Lee, David Williams was a huge Title IX proponent and it resonates with the 50th anniversary, would be a miss if do not weave the connection.
 - Massaro, Will return to discussion following athlete discussions.
 - Massaro, Worked with Hayes for eighteen (18) of Coach Hayes fifty-seven (57) years. Wore the Coach mantel well and what he has done on and off the field.
 - Hawkins, Will take Bayless off the table today, but would like to talk more about him next year.
 - Sparks, Would like to vote for Hayes today, but would like to see next year for the 58’ Oakridge team to receive Lifetime Achievement and Wilson to receive Historical Achievement. Committee requests to have this specifically noted to ensure the topics discussion next year.
 - No further discussion, consensus on Hayes.
- Professional Team of the Year
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Memphis Grizzlies
 - Nashville Predators
 - Nashville SC
 - Tennessee Titans
 - Discussion

- Bradshaw, It is not just the end result but how you endear yourself to the community should also be considered. Grizzlies have captured the imaginations of the community and Morant has been a big help with that.
 - Sparks, The Titans did an outstanding job this year during a season plagued with injuries and a short roster. Can't argue with the Grizzlies but Titans did an excellent job coming together.
 - Hawkins, Last season Titan's had to do without Henry and earned Coach and Executive of the Year.
 - Massaro, Appears the consensus will be on the Grizzlies.
- Professional Athlete of the Year
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Monica Abbot, Team USA Softball
 - Erika Brown, Team USA Swimming
 - Kevin Byard, Tennessee Titans
 - Roman Josi, Defenseman, Nashville Predators
 - Ja Morant, Point Guard, Memphis Grizzlies
 - Hany Mkhatar, Nashville SC
 - Candance Parker, Chicago Sky
 - Discussion
 - Massaro, Is the banquet opened with the National Anthem? Consider opening with the Anthem and acknowledging all of the Olympians thereafter. Will need to consider whether honor Tennessee Olympians or Olympians who may live here such as a college student but represented another country. Will ask Stinnett to compile a list and prepared before the May 5, 2022, full Board meeting.
 - Massaro, Agree to split into male and female with Parker receiving the consensus. Continue discussion on Male Professional Athlete of the Year.
 - Graeter, Morant is a first time All-Star and considering his impact on the team and across the league.
 - Massaro, Consensus is moving toward Morant.
- Amateur Team of the Year, Female
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Belmont Women's Basketball
 - Memphis Soccer
 - Tennessee Softball
 - Tennessee Swimming & Diving
 - Tennessee Women's Basketball
 - Tennessee Soccer
 - Tennessee Southern Women's Soccer
 - Vanderbilt Women's Bowling
 - Discussion
 - Graeter, Tennessee Southern Women's Soccer won their National Championship.
 - Committee members offer no further discussion.
- Amateur Athlete of the Year, Female
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Adisa Amang, Tennessee Southern Soccer

- Mabel Cummins, Vanderbilt Women's Bowling
 - Peyton DePriest, Middle Tennessee Soccer
 - Rachel Heck, Stanford Golf
 - Jordan Horston, Tennessee Women's Basketball
 - Tyra Johnson, Cumberland University Women's Basketball
 - Ashley Rogers, Tennessee Softball
 - Jaida Thomas, Tennessee Soccer
 - Alex Walsh, Team USA Swimming
 - Ellen Walshe, Tennessee Swimming
 - Destinee Wells, Belmont Women's Basketball
 - Jaelencia Williams, Union University Women's Basketball
 - Discussion
 - Graeter, Heck dominated all of her high school career and now in college and she continues to excel. Heck was the NCAA champion of the year.
 - Committee members offer no further discussion.
- Amateur Team of the Year, Male.
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - East Tennessee State Football
 - Oakland High School Football
 - Memphis Men's Basketball
 - Tennessee Baseball
 - Tennessee Men's Basketball
 - Tennessee Swimming & Diving
 - Tennessee Tennis
 - Vanderbilt Baseball
 - Vanderbilt Men's Golf
 - UT-Martin Football
 - Discussion
 - Hawkins, Consider ETSU what the team was able to do and a National ranking.
 - Massaro, Oakland HS reached it's pinnacle with a 15-0 season.
 - Massaro, Notes growing consensus for East Tennessee State Football.
- Amateur Athlete of the Year, Male
 - Candidate Presentation, Massaro
 - Calvin Austin, III, Memphis Football
 - Kennedy Chandler, Tennessee Basketball
 - Kigen Chemadi, Middle Tennessee Track & Field
 - Jordan Crooks, Tennessee Swimming
 - Chad Dallas, Tennessee Baseball
 - Jalen Duren, Memphis Men's Basketball
 - Pat Harper & Adam Walton, Tennessee Tennis
 - Quay Holmes, East Tennessee State Football
 - Hendon Hooker, Tennessee Football
 - Keon Howard, UT Martin Football
 - Jack Leiter, Vanderbilt Baseball
 - Devonsha Maxwell, Chattanooga
 - Scotty Pippen Jr., Vanderbilt Basketball
 - Discussion

- Hawkins, Stay with East TN tone, Quay Holmes was one of three (3) finalists for the Walter Peyton award. He was a big part of why his team was as successful as they were.
- Massaro, Leiter, he was critical to the team all season.
- Graeter, Three (3) individuals won NCAA championships but lean toward Leiter.
- Massaro, No further discussion, committee leaning toward Leiter.

Motion, Committee selects the following for presentation to the full Board for their approval:

- Tennessean of the Year, John Ingram
- Pat Summit Lifetime Achievement Award, Dean Hayes, Middle Tennessee State Head Track & Field Coach
- David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award, Title IX Group, as stated above but also to include any otherwise identified women.
- Pro Sports Team of the Year, Memphis Grizzlies
- Male Professional Athlete of the Year, Ja Morant
- Female Professional Athlete of the Year, Candace Parker
- Female Amateur Team of the Year, Tennessee Southern Women’s Soccer
- Female Amateur Athlete of the Year, Rachel Heck
- Male Amateur Team of the Year, East Tennessee State Football
- Male Amateur Athlete of the Year, Jack Leiter

Motion by Massaro with second from Hawkins. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenny Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Candice Storey Lee	
Art Sparks	Yes

- Motion Carries.

5. Next Steps for Full Board Approval, Willis, For clarification sake, the Nomination Committee’s Honorees will be placed on the full Board Agenda to approve and/or discuss.

Board Meeting, Thursday May 5 at 10 AM CT, Willis

Closing Remarks,

- Willis, Thank you all for your time.
- Massaro, Thank-you to the committee members, it was a great dialogue.

As was nothing further, Massaro motioned for adjournment with second by Graeter. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenny Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Candice Storey Lee	
Art Sparks	Yes

Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM CT.

Approved:

Date

Alicia C. B. Widrig
Attorney for the TNSHOF, acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development

2021-22 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame nominations

John Ingram – Candidate For Tennessean of the Year

John Ingram is a Vanderbilt sports fanatic that many would agree has positively influenced the athletic program at the university more than any other booster in its history. Mr. Ingram's dedication to men's and women's sports at Vanderbilt is unrivaled but has come from a respectful distance. His role has been more of a steward, identifying needs and being willing to roll up his sleeves to help make them a reality. Over the past thirty years, John has helped multiple athletic directors achieve their visions and create an SEC program that consistently shapes student athletes that not only compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics and beyond, but also become some of the finest members of society. It is this commitment to fostering good citizens through athletics that has led John's unwavering support for Vanderbilt athletics and our city and state have undoubtedly benefitted from his leadership.

In late 2016, John Ingram began the journey to bring another major league sport to the state of Tennessee. Major League Soccer was in the midst of expansion efforts and Tennessee was not at the top of their list. John would soon show Major League Soccer that the state was not to be missed. In December of 2017, Nashville, TN was awarded the 24th Major League Soccer franchise. The following year, a stadium package was approved through Metro government in Nashville that allowed the construction of a new stadium at the Fairgrounds. This stadium will be paid for by Mr. Ingram and investors and will not place any burden on taxpayers. Now known as GEODIS Park, the stadium construction phase provided more than 6,000 jobs. Set to begin the operational phase on May 1, the new home to Tennessee's Major League Soccer club is the largest soccer specific stadium in the US and Canada and is estimated to create \$77.7 million in annual income, 1,886 jobs, and \$15.1 million in annual tax revenues once fully operational. In addition to the stadium itself, Ingram has led a group of investors developing the 10 acres around the stadium that will bring numerous community benefits including affordable housing.

John Ingram has had a life long love of horses and has competed at the highest level nationally in many disciplines of the equestrian world, most predominantly in polo and show jumping. In the last ten years, as an older amateur rider, John has focused on show hunters and consistently ranks in the top 3 internationally. He has been named leading amateur rider at the World Champion Hunter Rider competition governed by the United States Equestrian Federation which is held in Wellington FL a record 6 times in the last 7 years. John was named 2021 World Champion Hunter Rider Association Amateur Sportsman of the Year. Most recently in February of this year, John and his horse Koala won the coveted WCHR Hunter Classic presented by the United States Hunter Jumper Association.

In addition to these three paragraphs about John, I would like to add a little-known effort he is now currently undertaking. He has kicked off a campaign with a 10 million dollar gift to Vanderbilt to support student athletes to apply what they have learned through sports to leadership in their own lives and the community. This is going to be a 300 million dollar campaign to support the total student athlete, both scholarship athletes and intramural type athletes.

Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award:

Dean Hayes, Middle Tennessee State Head Track & Field Coach – Dean Hayes served as Middle Tennessee State’s legendary track and field coach for 57 years. Hayes, 84, passed in January 22 after a heralded hall of fame career. Hayes guided Middle Tennessee to 59 conference championships in three different leagues during his tenure (29 OVC championships, 19 Sun Belt championships, 11 Conference USA Championships). He led Middle Tennessee to 21 NCAA Top 25 finishes, and 52 of his student-athletes earned a total of 125 All-America awards. Five of his athletics won a total of six national championships and several of them went on to compete internationally in the Olympic Games, World University Games, World Championships, Goodwill Games, Pan-American Games and African Championships. Hayes’ peers named him conference coach of the year a total of 35 times (16 OVC, 15 Sun Belt, 4 C-USA). He is enshrined into seven Halls of Fame (Blue Raider Hall of Fame 1982, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame 1994, Illinois Sports Hall of Fame 1993, Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame 2005, USTFCCA Hall of Fame 2008, Lake Forest College Hall of Fame 2009, Naperville Hall of Fame 2019). Hayes’ experience was not limited to the collegiate level. He also coached numerous international teams whether sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee, USA Track & Field, or an international federation. He was a coach for the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea in 1988 and he also acted as a referee at the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.

Charlie Bayless, Happy Valley High School Basketball Coach--Bayless, was the nation's longest-serving high school basketball coach when he retired at the end of the 2012 season. The 97-year-old Bayless, whose 60 seasons as a head coach and 59 years at Happy Valley are national records. Over his career, his teams have amassed 964 wins, including nine state tournament appearances and the school's second state championship in 1974. As a player, Bayless was a guard on Happy Valley's 1941 state runner-up team. He later served in the Army in World War II as a military policeman in France and played basketball at East Tennessee State. He started his coaching career as an assistant at Happy Valley for the 1950-51 season before taking over as head coach at Jonesborough High School in 1952. He moved back to his alma mater one year later and has been there ever since. For a period in the 1950s, Bayless also served as Happy Valley's football and baseball coach. From 1953-60, he compiled a record of 30-25-4 as a head football coach, including a league record of 27-19-4.

Jerry “The King” Lawler-Professional Wrestler/Entertainer—Full bio included in earlier PDF

Thomas Wilson-Baseball Team Owner and Administrator—Full bio included in earlier PDF

David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award:

Title IX Group-Title IX was signed into law on June 23, 1972. Many women went through a lot of things to be able to play themselves, but also for women to have opportunities in the future. Some of those pioneers in the state of Tennessee were Pat Summitt, University of Tennessee; Marynell Meadors, Tennessee Tech; Bettye Giles, UT-Martin; Betty Wiseman, Belmont; Nera White, Nashville School of Business; Joan Cronan, University of Tennessee; June Stewart, Vanderbilt; Diane Cummins Turnham, Middle Tennessee State; and Teresa Lawrence Phillips, Tennessee State.

Oak Ridge 1958 Football Team—Full information included in earlier PDF

Thomas Wilson-Baseball Team Owner and Administrator—Full bio included in earlier PDF

Pro Sports Team of the Year:

Memphis Grizzlies – The Grizzlies posted a 56-26 record and earned the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference entering the 2021-22 NBA Playoffs. The Grizzlies won the Southwest Division in 2021-22, marking the first time the franchise has won a division championship. The 56 wins are tied for the most in franchise history, equaling the 2012-13 squad.

Nashville Predators – (As of 4/12), the Nashville Predators are 41-26-5 and stand in fourth place in the Central Division. With 87 points, they are currently the sixth overall seed for the 2022 NHL Playoffs.

Nashville SC – The Nashville Soccer Club finished third in the Major League Soccer Eastern Division and seventh overall seed (of 14 playoff teams) in 2021. Nashville defeated Orlando City SC 3-1 in the first round of the MLS Playoffs before falling to Philadelphia Union 2-0 on PKs in the conference semifinals.

Tennessee Titans – The Tennessee Titans posted a 12-5 mark and won the AFC South title for the second straight year, marking the first time since 1960-62 that the franchise would win their division in back-to-back seasons. They earned the AFC's #1 seed in the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

Professional Athlete of the Year:

Monica Abbott, P, Team USA Softball – Former Tennessee Volunteer softball standout Monica Abbott helped lead Team USA to the silver medal in the Summer Olympics. Abbott was a dominant force with a tournament-best 0.00 ERA, 31 strikeouts, three wins and two saves for Team USA. Abbott totaled 20.1 innings pitched and limited batters to a .106 average on the Olympic stage.

Erika Brown, Team USA, swimmer – Former Tennessee swimmer Erika Brown won two medals during the Olympic games, bringing home the silver in the medley relay and bronze in the freestyle relay.

Kevin Byard, S, Tennessee Titans– Kevin Byard was named First Team All-Pro for the second time in his career in 2021. He was named first team All-Pro by four different media outlets (Pro Football Writers, Associated Press, Pro Football Focus and Sporting News). Byard was named to the NFL Pro Bowl for the second time after a spectacular season in which he collected five interceptions (fourth most in the NFL) and tallied 88 total tackles (57 solo) in helping lead Tennessee to the 2021 AFC South and the No. 1 seed in the AFC Playoffs. He also forced two fumbles and recovered one. Byard also scored two defensive touchdowns, one on an interception return and one on a fumble return.

Roman Josi, Defenceman, Nashville Predators – (As of 4/12), Roman Josi is turning in a spectacular season on the ice with 19 goals and 68 assists for 87 points. He has two game-winning goals. Josi is among NHL leaders for assists (2nd, 68) and points (10th, 87).

Ja Morant, PG, Memphis Grizzlies – One of the top point guards in the NBA, Ja Morant's third year in the league has been his best as a member of the Grizzlies. The franchise's No. 1 draft pick in 2019, and the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, Morant is averaging 27.4 points 6.7 assists and 4.4 rebounds to go with a 34.4 percent shooting clip from 3-point range. Morant was named to the 2022 NBA All-Star Game for the first time in his career and was a starter for the West. He is Top 20 in the NBA for assists with 384. He set the franchise record for points in a regular season game with 52 vs. San Antonio Feb. 28, 2022. He has scored 30-plus 25 times, including 40 points or more six times.

Hany Mukhtar, MF, Nashville SC – Hany Mukhtar was named to the MLS Best XI in 2021, which is an annual acknowledgment of the best 11 players in Major League Soccer. Mukhtar totaled 16 goals in 2021, which was tied for fifth in the MLS and just three off the lead. His 12 assists tied for fourth in the MLS. Mukhtar scored the first hat trick in Nashville SC history over Chicago Fire FC July 17, 2021. This was the fastest hat trick from the start of a game in MLS history. Mukhtar scored in the 10th, 13th and 16th minutes.

Candace Parker, F, Chicago Sky – Candace Parker was named to the W25, consisting of the 25 players considered by a panel of media and pioneering women’s basketball figures to have been the best and most influential in the league’s 25 seasons. Parker joined the Chicago Sky in 2021. The regular season ended with Parker and the Sky earning the No. 6 seed in the playoffs. They won two single elimination games, followed by an upset of Connecticut in the semifinals, before beating the Phoenix Mercury to win the 2021 WNBA Finals. Parker averaged 16.6 points and 8.6 rebounds per game on the way to her second World Championship.

Female Amateur Team of the Year:

Belmont Women's Basketball – Belmont put together a 23-8 record (16-2 in the OVC) and won the OVC Tournament Championship. The No. 12 seed Bruins scored their second consecutive upset in the NCAA Tournament when they knocked off No. 5 seed Oregon, 73-70, in double OT, before losing a 70-67 heartbreaker in the second round. They became just the sixth OVC team ever to win a NCAA Tournament game. Belmont became only the second program in history to win NCAA Tournament games in consecutive seasons as a No. 12 seed or lower.

Memphis Soccer – Memphis posted a 14-5-2 record and was ranked as high as 15th nationally in 2021. The Tigers reached the championship of the American Athletic Conference Tournament before falling to top-seeded South Florida (3-0 on PKs). Memphis reached the NCAA Tournament where it defeated LSU, 3-0, in the first round before falling to No. 1 seed Duke, 1-0, in the second round.

Tennessee Softball - Tennessee softball posted a 42-15 record in 2021 and reached the semifinals of the SEC Tournament before dropping a narrow 6-5 decision to eventual SEC Champion Alabama. The Vols advanced to the NCAA Regional.

Tennessee Swimming & Diving – Tennessee won the 2022 SEC Swimming and Diving Championship. The Vols finished 10th at the NCAA Championships.

Tennessee Women's Basketball – The Lady Vols posted a 25-9 record (11-5 in the SEC) and reached the Sweet 16 of the Women's NCAA Tournament before falling to Louisville. It marked the team's first Sweet 16 since 2015-16. The 25 wins were the most since 2017-18, as were the 11 SEC wins. Tennessee was ranked as high as No. 4 in the AP Poll, its highest ranking since 2015-16. The Lady Vols defeated five ranked teams and won the South Point Thanksgiving Shootout.

Tennessee Soccer – Tennessee soccer turned in a record-setting year on its way to the NCAA Round of 16 in the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. The Vols posted a 20-3-0 record to finish as UT's winningest team in program history. They claimed the SEC East Division title and UT's first SEC Tournament Championship since 2008 when they defeated top-seeded Arkansas, 3-0. Tennessee became the first SEC team to record 20 wins since Texas A&M in 2014.

Tennessee Southern Women's Soccer – Tennessee Southern captured the NAIA National Championship and was ranked No. 1 in the final NAIA Top 25 national poll. Tennessee Southern defeated previously undefeated and No. 1 seed William Carey (Miss.) in the NAIA National Championship game. Tennessee Southern won the title 5-4 in PKs after the teams were tied 3-3 at the end of regulation. Tennessee Southern posted a 23-1 overall record and won the Mid-

South Conference Championship on its way to the National Championship.

Vanderbilt Women's Bowling – The Commodores won the Southland Bowling League championship for the second straight year. It marks the first time in program history that Vanderbilt has won back-to-back conference championships. Vanderbilt was the No. 3 seed in the Lansing Regional. The Commodores won the Lansing Regional to advance to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament this weekend (April 15-16).

Female Amateur Athlete of the Year:

Adisa Amang, Forward, Tennessee Southern Soccer – Amang was named NAIA Women’s Soccer first-team All-American and Most Outstanding Offensive Player at the NAIA National Championships for Tennessee Southern. Amang totaled 26 goals, 24 assists and 76 total points for Tennessee Southern. Her 24 assists were second nationally, as were her 76 points.

Mabel Cummins, Vanderbilt Women’s Bowling –Cummins was MVP of the Southland Bowling League Championship, NTCA Second Team All-Region and made the All-Tournament team at the Columbia 300 Music City Classic.

Peyton DePriest, F, Middle Tennessee Soccer – DePriest had a tremendous senior season with Middle Tennessee Soccer. DePriest was the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year and CoSIDA Academic All-American. She broke the Conference USA career records for goals (58) and points (127) during the 2021 season. DePriest led Conference USA for goals scored (12), goals per game (0.63), points (28), points per game (1.47), shots (79), shots per game (4.16) and shots on goal (40). DePriest tied for first in C-USA for the most multi-point games with five.

Rachel Heck, Stanford Golf—Heck is a native of Memphis, and a graduate of St. Agnes Academy in Memphis. She is a five-time AJGA All American, two-time USA Today High School Golfer of the Year, a four-time individual state champion, and winner of many events through the course of her prep career. Now, as a sophomore at Stanford, she is already tied for third most victories in school history. Her accomplishments in 2021 include NCAA Individual Champion, Ping/WGCA Player of the Year, Pac-12 Golfer of the Year, Ping/WGCA Freshman of the Year, Pac-12 Newcomer of the Year, WGCA First Team All-American, All Pac-12 First Team, and Pac-12 Academic Honor Roll.

Jordan Horston, Tennessee Women’s Basketball – Horston was an AP and WBCA All-America Honorable Mention recipient and was named All-SEC First Team by both the league’s coaches and USA Today Sports. Horston made the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award Top 10 List. She led the Lady Vols in averages for scoring (16.2), rebounding (9.4), assists (4.0) and steals (1.4).

Tyra Johnson, Cumberland University Women’s Basketball – Johnson was named Mid-South Conference Player of the Year and earned NAIA Second Team All-American honors. Johnson scored 507 points in 29 games. She averaged 17.5 points, 3.6 rebounds and 1.7 assists. She scored double figures in 24 of 29 games played, including 13 games with 20-plus points and two with 30-plus. Johnson ended the season as just the second player in school history to score 500-plus points in a single season.

Ashley Rogers, Tennessee Softball – Rogers posted a 26-10 record with 25 complete games, eight shutouts and three saves. Finished the season as the SEC leader in ERA (1.32), opposing batting average (.132) and innings pitched (217.1). Rogers ranked fifth in the NCAA in strikeouts (296) and seventh in wins (26), sitting second in the SEC in both categories. Her 3.19 hits

allowed per seven innings led the SEC and ranked third in the country.

Jaida Thomas, Forward, Tennessee Soccer – Thomas was named second-team All-American by the United Soccer Coaches. Thomas led the team in goals, scoring 13, while adding five assists. She was especially dominant in Tennessee's run to an SEC Tournament Championship, tallying five goals and an assist over three games to become the first Volunteer to ever record two braces in the SEC Tournament in a career.

Alex Walsh, Team USA, Swimming – Nashville native Alexandra Walsh won the silver medal in the women's 200-meter individual medley with a time of 2:08.65 at the Summer Olympics in Japan. Walsh was neck-and-neck with Japan's Yui Ohashi in the final stretch, but Ohashi edged out Walsh by a fraction of a second with a time of 2:08.52. Walsh swims for the University of Virginia and was named ACC Women's Rookie of the Year after taking home two 2021 NCAA Championships in the 200m IM and 800m free relay. She also holds several All-America, ACC Champion and All-ACC titles. Walsh attended Harpeth Hall High School in Nashville.

Ellen Walshe, Tennessee Swimming – Ellen Walshe captured the Commissioner's Trophy at the 2022 SEC Swimming & Diving Championships. The Commissioner's Trophy is awarded to the student-athlete who scores the most individual points at the championships. Walshe was also named the SEC Swimmers of the Meet. Walshe earned two podium finishes at the NCAA Championships, capturing eighth in the 400 IM and the 100 fly. She racked up three All-America honors.

Destinee Wells, Belmont Women's Basketball – Wells was First-Team All-Ohio Valley Conference and one of the top backcourt players in the nation. OVC Tournament MVP. Wells was second in the OVC and among the Top 100 nationally in scoring (16.7), while ranking in the Top 65 nationally for both total assists (140) and assists per game (4.5). Wells scored double figures in all but two games, including 11 with 20-plus points.

Jaelencia Williams, Union University Women's Basketball – Williams was named WBCA and D2CCA All-American, the GSC Player of the Year, GSC First-Team All-Conference, GSC Tournament Most Outstanding Player, GSC All-Tournament, NCAA D2CCA Region Player of the Year, and NCAA D2 South Region All-Tournament. Williams nearly averaged a double-double with 16.1 points and 9.2 rebounds per game. She also added 81 assists, 74 blocked shots and she shot 60 percent from the field.

Male Amateur Team of the Year:

East Tennessee State Football – East Tennessee State put together a remarkable year in which it posted an 11-2 overall record and reached the quarterfinals of the FCS Playoffs before falling to second-seeded North Dakota State. The Bucs won the Southern Conference, marking their fifth conference championship in program history.

Oakland HS Football – Oakland posted a 15-0 record and steamrolled to the Class 6A state championship with a 43-26 win against Summit in the title game, running its winning streak to 30 straight. . The No. 1 Patriots outscored their five opponents 217-66 in the playoffs and scored 40-plus points in four of five playoffs wins. For the season, Oakland averaged 41.4 points per game, while allowing 15.1.

Memphis Men's Basketball – Memphis posted a 22-11 record. After starting the season 9-8, Memphis won 13 of its last 16. The Tigers defeated four ranked teams during the season, including two Top 10 teams, which was their most ranked wins since 2013-14. Reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2013-14, where it defeated Boise State in the first round before falling to No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga, 82-78, in a second-round classic. The Tigers won 13 American Athletic Conference games, its most since joining the conference prior to the 2013-14 season.

Tennessee Baseball – The Vols posted a 50-18 record in 2021 and reached the College World Series for the first time since 2005. It was just the fifth College World Series appearance for Tennessee. The record-setting season saw the Vols win the SEC Eastern Division title and mark their fifth trip to the College World Series in program history. The Vols reached 50 wins for just the third time in program history and won the SEC East for the first time since 1997. (As of 4/12) Tennessee is 31-2 and ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Tennessee Basketball – Tennessee compiled a 27-8 record, defeating four Top 10 opponents and spent the entire campaign ranked in the AP Top 25 – ascending to a high of No. 5 in the postseason poll. Tennessee won the SEC Tournament championship for the first time in 43 years. The Vols finished second in the SEC standings with a 14-4 league record. Tennessee reached the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight year, where it reached the second round before losing to Michigan.

Tennessee Swimming & Diving – Tennessee captured its highest finish at the SEC Swimming & Diving Championships since 2001 when it vaulted to second at the 2022 SEC meet.

Tennessee Tennis – Tennessee posted a 28-4 overall record and won the SEC Championship for the first time since 2010. The Vols reached the semifinal round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to No. 2 Baylor. The 28 dual wins are the most in a single season for Tennessee. Tennessee secured 19 wins over ranked opponents, including 15 over a team in the Top 25 and three over teams in the Top 5.

Vanderbilt Baseball – Vanderbilt posted a 49-18 record and finished national runner-up in 2021. The Commodores reached the championship round of the College World Series before falling to Mississippi State in the best two-of-three series. Vanderbilt swept through the Regional (3-0) and Super Regional (2-0) on its way to the CWS. The Commodores won two elimination games to reach the best two-of-three winner-take-all series vs. Mississippi State.

Vanderbilt men's golf – Vanderbilt won the SEC Championship and had a remarkable postseason run that saw it march all the way to the National Championships before falling to Oklahoma State in the quarterfinals of match play. The Commodores defeated Tennessee, Alabama, and Arkansas in match play to win the SEC. They followed the SEC title with a win in the NCAA Regional to advance to the NCAA Championships. There, they made the 15-team cut in stroke play to advance to match play.

UT-Martin Football – Won the Ohio Valley Conference and made the NCAA Division I FCS Playoffs for the second time in school history. The Skyhawks finished the season 10-3 and boasted a 5-1 mark in conference play. They ranked as high as eighth nationally in the AFCA FCS Coaches Top 25. UT-Martin defeated a pair of nationally-ranked opponents and boasted a nine-game win streak during one stretch. UT-Martin defeated Missouri State in the first round of the playoffs before falling to Montana State in the second round.

Male Amateur Athlete of the Year:

Calvin Austin III, WR, Memphis football – Austin was one of just three players unanimously named First-Team All-American Athletic Conference. Austin led the conference in receiving yards per game (95.8) and finished second in the AAC in receiving yards (1,149) and fourth in receptions per game (6.2). He totaled 74 receptions for 1,149 yards and eight touchdowns. His 1,149 receiving yards rank fifth on the Memphis single-season list, while his eight touchdowns tied for 11th. He also posted two of the Top 5 single-game receiving yards performances in school history in 2021. His 239 yards at Arkansas State rank second all-time, while his 200 at Tulsa rank fifth.

Kennedy Chandler, PG, Tennessee Basketball – One of the top freshman performers in college basketball, Chandler led the Vols in scoring (13.9 ppg), assists (4.7) and steals (2.2). His 74 steals were the most by any Division I freshman and the most ever by a UT freshman, also ranking second on Tennessee's all-time, single-season list. He was responsible for 34 percent of Tennessee's points. His list of postseason honors includes SEC Tournament MVP, All-SEC second team, SEC All-Freshman Team and USBWA All-District IV Team.

Kigen Chemadi, Middle Tennessee Track & Field – Kigen Chemadi capped an illustrious career with an NCAA Championship in the men's 3000-meter steeplechase at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Chemadi ran an 8:28.20 to capture the title and set a new outdoor school record in the 3000m steeplechase. It was Middle Tennessee's first national title in the event and just the second overall in meet history.

Jordan Crooks, Tennessee Swimming – Crooks earned All-America recognition in five events at the NCAA Championships (50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay, 400 free relay and 400 medley relay). He posted the fastest time ever by a freshman in both the 50 free and the 100 free at the NCAA Championships. He was named 2022 All-SEC First Team and 2022 SEC All-Freshman Team after his breakout rookie campaign. He set Tennessee records for the 50 free, 100 free and 100 fly.

Chad Dallas, P, Tennessee Baseball – Dallas was named ABCA Second-Team All-American and NCBWA Third-Team All-American after helping Tennessee reach the College World Series. Dallas posted an impressive 11-2 record over 17 starts. His 11 wins were the most by a Tennessee pitcher since 2005 and rank tied for sixth in program history for a single season. The 11 wins were also tied for sixth most in the nation. He also recorded 122 strikeouts, which is sixth on UT's single-season list.

Jalen Duren, Memphis Men's Basketball – Duren was named unanimous American Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year and first-team All-AAC. Duren led the Tigers in scoring (12.0) and rebounding (8.1). He was the AAC's leading rebounder and shot blocker (2.2). His 61 blocked shots were the third most by a freshman in program history.

Pat Harper & Adam Walton, Tennessee Tennis – The Aussie duo of Pat Harper and Adam Walton teamed to win the 2021 NCAA Doubles National Championship. The duo closed the year on a 12-match win streak, winning 17 of their final 18 sets of the season. The tandem finished the year 31-7 as a pair and 19-6 in dual play.

Quay Holmes, RB, East Tennessee State football – Holmes was named to a record eight All-American honors following his outstanding season for East Tennessee State. The running back's All-American honors include: Associated Press, Walter Camp, Phil Steele, AFCA/FCS Coaches, Athlons Sports, Stats Perform, FCS ADA, Hero Sports. Holmes, the Southern Conference Player of the Year, finished the season with an East Tennessee State record 1,553 yards rushing to go with 17 touchdowns. He capped the season with 1,884 all-purpose yards.

Hendon Hooker, QB, Tennessee Football – Hendon became Tennessee's first Davey O'Brien Award semifinalist since 2006. He broke Tennessee single-season records for completion percentage (68.0) and passing efficiency (181.41). Hendon ranked No. 1 in the SEC and No. 3 nationally in passing efficiency. He accounted for 3,561 yards of total offense and 36 touchdowns. Hendon completed 206-of-303 passes for 2,945 yards and 31 touchdowns, adding 616 yards rushing on 166 carries and five rushing TDs. On the single-season UT lists, Hendon ranked third all-time in touchdown passes, third in QB rushing yards, 10th in passing yards, fourth in total offense and third in consecutive games with a TD pass. He led the nation in 70-plus yard TD passes (4).

Keon Howard, QB, UT Martin Football – Keon Howard led UT-Martin to its second Ohio Valley Conference title and second NCAA Division I Playoff in school history. Howard was named the 2021 OVC Offensive Player of the Year and accounted for 2,285 yards of total offense and 25 touchdowns. He completed 59.7 percent of his passes for 1,811 yards and 15 touchdowns and carried the ball 95 times for 474 yards and 10 scores.

Jack Leiter, P, Vanderbilt Baseball – Jack Leiter was one of five consensus first-team All-Americans nationally. He named a first-team All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball and National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA). He was also the SEC Newcomer of the Year. He was selected by the Texas Rangers with the second overall pick of the 2021 MLB Draft. He was named All-Tournament at the College World Series. Leiter ended the 2021 season having started 18 games, in which he compiled an 11-4 record, a 2.13 ERA, and 179 strikeouts over 100 innings. He was named the Baseball America 2021 Freshman of the Year.

Devonnsha Maxwell, Defensive Lineman, Chattanooga – Maxwell was one of the top interior defensive linemen in FCS football and earned First-Team All-American honors. He had 11 sacks and 14.5 tackles for loss, ranking among the national leaders in both categories. Set the school record with five sacks against an ETSU offensive line that had given up just four through six games at the time. Maxwell became the first Chattanooga football player to earn All-America in back-to-back seasons since 2015-16.

Scotty Pippen Jr., PG, Vanderbilt Basketball – Pippen led the SEC in scoring with 20.4 points per game and connected on 198 free throws. Pippen was the first SEC player to average 20 points per game in back-to-back seasons since LSU's Ronnie Henderson in 1995 and 1996. Pippen scored 30 or more points five times. He set a Vanderbilt record with 736 points during 2021-22.

Adam Walton, Tennessee Men's Tennis – Walton teamed with Pat Harper to win the 2021 NCAA Doubles National Championship. Walton held an 8-0 overall record during the NCAA Team Championships to earn All-NCAA Tournament honors at both No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles.

Charlie Bayless
High School Basketball

Nominated in 2020 by Kenny Hawkins

Charlie Bayless, was the nation's longest-serving high school basketball coach when he retired at the end of the 2012 season. The 97-year-old Bayless, whose 60 seasons as a head coach and 59 years at Happy Valley are national records. Over his career, his teams have amassed 964 wins, including nine state tournament appearances and the school's second state championship in 1974. As a player, Bayless was a guard on Happy Valley's 1941 state runner-up team. He later served in the Army in World War II as a military policeman in France and played basketball at East Tennessee State. He started his coaching career as an assistant at Happy Valley for the 1950-51 season before taking over as head coach at Jonesborough High School in 1952. He moved back to his alma mater one year later and has been there ever since. For a period in the 1950s, Bayless also served as Happy Valley's football and baseball coach. From 1953-60, he compiled a record of 30-25-4 as a head football coach, including a league record of 27-19-4.

Haworee
Committee



Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Jerry Lawler

ADDRESS 415 St. Nick Dr.

CITY Memphis STATE TN ZIP 38117

PHONE 901-210-8520 ALTERNATE PHONE _____

SPORT Pro Wrestling

CAPACITY OF INVOLVEMENT Wrestler, Commentator, Promoter, Owner
(player, coach, official, administrator)

NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

NAME Glenn Jacobs

ADDRESS 400 Main St. STE 615

CITY Knoxville STATE TN ZIP 37902

PHONE 865-215-2005 ALTERNATE PHONE 865-209-5724

Please include a three-hundred word biographical narrative.

Forward all information to:
The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
Attn: Brad Willis
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Contact tnsports@bellsouth.net with any questions.

Jerry "The King" Lawler, a life-long Tennessean and a graduate of Treadway High School in Memphis, is one of the most recognizable names in professional wrestling.

Since his debut in the squared circle in 1970, Lawler's contributions to the industry have included not only his work as a wrestler and a commentator—where he teamed up with Jim "J.R." Ross to form the most well-known commentary duo ever—but as a company owner and promotor. Along the way, he has competed in the National Wrestling Alliance, Continental Wrestling Association, the American Wrestling Association, World Class Championship Wrestling, United States Wrestling Association, New Japan Pro-Wrestling, and World Wrestling Entertainment.

Not only has Lawler won too many championships to count, he has been awarded Pro Wrestling Illustrated's Most Hated Wrestler of the Year (twice), PWI's Most Inspirational Wrestler of the Year (twice), the Wrestling Observer Newsletter's Best Commentator of the Year (twice), and the WON's Feud of the Year (three times).

In the ring, Lawler's rivalries are legendary and include some of the biggest stars in the history of professional wrestling: Jackie Fargo, "Superstar" Billy Graham, the Fabulous Freebirds, Randy Savage, Tommy Rich, Austin Idol, Curt Henning, Kerry von Erich, Terry Funk, Jimmy Valiant, Jeff Jarrett, Bill Dundee, and Bret "Hitman" Hart. However, it was his 1982 storyline with comedian Andy Kaufman—and an appearance on Late Night with David Letterman—that propelled Lawler to super-stardom and international fame.

Lawler is also a musician, actor, author, an outstanding artist, and owner of King Jerry Lawler's Memphis BBQ Company in Cordova.

He is a member of the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum.

Lawler was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2007.



Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Oak Ridge High School 1958 National High School Football Winner for
Significant Historical Achievement Award

ADDRESS 1450 Oak Ridge Turnpike

CITY Oak Ridge

STATE TN

ZIP 37830

PHONE (865) 250-7324

ALTERNATE PHONE None

SPORT High School Football

CAPACITY OF INVOLVEMENT Player, Coach, Administrator
(player, coach, official, administrator)

NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

NAME Earl Nall

ADDRESS PO Box 14

CITY Kingston

STATE TN

ZIP 37763

PHONE (865) 250-7324

ALTERNATE PHONE None

Please include a three-hundred word biographical narrative.

Forward all information to:
The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
501 Broadway Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Contact Lynn Powell Toy with any questions at 615.202.3996 or tnsports@bellsouth.net

Please consider the 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team as a candidate for the **Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Historical Team Achievement Award**.

The fact that this team reached the national pinnacle of success nationally is but a small part of their historical significance. This team brought attention to school integration, bringing the state of Tennessee high school football to national prominence, awakening the state and nation to the city of Oak Ridge being much more than the place where the atomic bomb was built, and the far reaching national achievements of the players on the team.

The 1958 team was declared **national champions** by the only organization that rated teams from 1925 to 1980. They were the first Tennessee team ever to win the award. The massive media attention given to the team enabled media and public to learn that Oak Ridge was the **first public school in the South to be integrated (1955)**. Their basketball and track teams were integrated.

Football in the South learned about high school football as 7 members of that team were recruited to SEC schools and others to other major universities. Major college coaches learned about high school football in Oak Ridge and the state of Tennessee.

Businesses and the public learned that Oak Ridge was progressive and thus began the migration of national companies to the city.

Players on the team achieved much nationally from chairing the committee that formed the Internet, to research doctors, nationally known architects, military leaders, pilots, engineers, university professors and other educators.

The 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team ignited a **perfect storm of national attention** given to high school football, integration, awareness of the city of Oak Ridge, and national contributions in many professions.

Thank you for your consideration of the 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team for this award.

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame

Candidate:

Historical Team Achievement Award - Oak Ridge High School 1958 Football

Please consider the Oak Ridge High School 1958 Football team for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame - "**Historical Team Achievement Award**" category.

The Oak Ridge high school 1958 football team had an extraordinary season in 1958. One that involved more than just a good football team but brought recognition to the state of Tennessee in more areas than football:

Qualifications for Historical Team Achievement Award

- The 1958 team brought national attention to high school football in Tennessee as the Wildcats were the first Tennessee high school football team to be named national champions
- The team was undefeated and won the mythical state of Tennessee championship
- Their last game of the season with Chattanooga Central is considered one of a handful of the greatest high school football games of all time in Tennessee.
- The 1958 season was played in the beginning of integration in the South - with Oak Ridge being the first public school in the South to be integrated and having African-Americans on some of their sports teams.
- Contributions of members from the 1958 team were far reaching in fields of architecture, politics, technology, the medical field, military and education.

Each one of the above statements could qualify Oak Ridge as a viable candidate for the Historical Team Achievement Award. When all statements are collectively considered the historical team achievements of the 1958 team were unsurpassed.

**The 1958 team brought national attention to high school football in Tennessee as the
Wildcats were named national champions**

The 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team was historical as they were named the first Tennessee team to be national champions by the only sports publication that provided national high school ratings between 1927 and 1981, when the **USA Today** started rating teams nationally.

The publication was the **National Sports News Service**. Because of the recognition, many major college coaches began to learn about the strength of Tennessee high school football teams resulting in Tennessee becoming a fertile recruiting state for top college programs. Since Oak Ridge was crowned national champions, two additional Tennessee teams have been named national champions - Tennessee High of Bristol and Chattanooga Baylor, both in the early 1970s.



FAUST MAY SET TREND

(BY AP/WIDEWORLD) I could hardly Faust be missing a pack for high school coaches. "I certainly hope so," he told Arizona Republic sports director Verne Bosman in a recent interview. "I think there are a lot of great high school coaches available who really do a fine job."

Faust will appear as the guest speaker at the Arizona Republic's annual all-star banquet in June, honoring the top high school sports stars from the past 111 seasons. The exclusive interview with Faust was unique. College and high school coaches for head with him.

When Notre Dame played from Faust the deep skills of coach in coaching him, it may have earned a lot of respect from coach to coach. But the former Louisville Modler football coach is finding it a unique situation.

At Notre, Faust demonstrated Paul Brown's own assistant coach high school at Modler. The Tiger has won such state football championships, and at least seven national football titles, picked annually by the National Sports News Service.

When the Faust letter was mailed to Notre, it was understood quickly that Faust would be the head of Notre's football staff. A few months later he took the job. He was in charge of Notre's football staff. He was in charge of Notre's football staff. He was in charge of Notre's football staff.

The last difference between the two was in age. Faust is a college graduate. He was only in his 20s at the time Notre signed him. But for the past few years, coaching has been a career. I think Coach Brown

when he got to Notre. There, nobody in the country would have noticed him.

Dedicated high school coaches dream of reaching the college level, but only a lucky few ever make it. And they

do not. The athletic Catholic school in the southeast north of Cincinnati is a legend. When Modler coached Myrtlewood Washington 50, he won the championship in the past 11 years. He was the Crusader's top straight runner and 700 yds in the past 11 years. The Ohio powerhouse was again awarded the national high school championship by the NSNS. It's then fourth year in the past five years (see chart). The Crusader's 18-year-old star was named in 1947. Faust was the only head coach Modler ever had. His accomplishments will rank right along with the football dynasty built by Paul Brown at Massillon, Joe V. Bingham at Miami Senior High, Bud Calk at Fargo, Stanley N.D. Wright Sr. at Valdosta, Ga., and R.R. (Robby) Robinson at Phenix Union, N.C. to name a few.

At Notre, Faust will face not only a reduction in staff, but also a possible drop in pay at South Bend. At Modler, Faust had 18 assistant coaches, but at the college level the limit is eight. Although Faust earned less than \$20,000 a year previously as Modler's athletic director and football coach, he is much in demand as a professional speaker before athletic groups.

He was awarded a new \$1 million complex at Modler that houses a gym, track, tennis courts, swimming tank, wrestling room, hand room and classroom. It is also used for football and football practice during inclement weather. The Crusader have no football stadium. They play their home games at University of Cincinnati's 15,000-seat Nippert Stadium, where they averaged 20,000 in attendance last season. Next fall Modler will be guided by Ted Bagdasarian, a former assistant, and the pressure will again rule with the Crusader. An early preparation post

Past National Prep Champs

Compiled by National Sports News Service, Phoenix, AZ

1958	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1957	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1956	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1955	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1954	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1953	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1952	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1951	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1950	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1949	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1948	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1947	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1946	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1945	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1944	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1943	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1942	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1941	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1940	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1939	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1938	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1937	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1936	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1935	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1934	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1933	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1932	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1931	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1930	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1929	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1928	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1927	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1926	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1925	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1924	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1923	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1922	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1921	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1920	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1919	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1918	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1917	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1916	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1915	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1914	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1913	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1912	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1911	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1910	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1909	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1908	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1907	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1906	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1905	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1904	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1903	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1902	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1901	University of Notre Dame, Ind.
1900	University of Notre Dame, Ind.

cannot even step directly into head shoes. They work their way up through the ranks. Faust hopes to set a trend. "I know several high school coaches right now who would do a good job of

1958 OAK RIDGE TENNESSEE



The team was undefeated and won the mythical state of Tennessee championship

The 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team was historical as they were one of a few teams in the history of the state that went undefeated and were unanimously state champions in every poll and computer ratings. The team went undefeated and was so dominant that they had the highest computer rating ever from the Tennessean Action Ratings (118.3) that no team ever came close to matching. They outscored their opponents 438-26 and their schedule strength was the toughest in the state.

Oak Ridge ran from the single wing - an offense that opposing coaches would say *"there is no faking in the single-wing, the defense knows where the ball is at all times, but you just couldn't get to it"*. Indeed, the back field of Oak Ridge won back to back state track 440-relay races at the TSSAA state track and field championships.

Sixteen members of the 47-man football team played college ball. Six seniors from this team were awarded college football scholarships to SEC schools and another to BYU. Probably safe to say that feat has been unequaled in Tennessee high school football history.

The backfield of the team not only starred in basketball, baseball and track, but were members of the national honor society, senior superlatives and class officers.

Their last game of the season with Chattanooga Central is considered one of a handful of the greatest high school football games of all time in Tennessee

The 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team was historical as their final game of the season matched the top two teams in the state. Chattanooga Central coached by Hall of Fame coach E.B. Etter was a meeting of two undefeated teams.

There was state-wide coverage of the game. Radio stations from Cookeville to Johnson City to Chattanooga shared the live feed of the game and even pre-empted the local schools that they generally carried on Friday night. There were six SEC coaches in attendance and an estimated attendance of 14,000 fans. Vanderbilt professor Dr. E.E. Litkenhous, well known for his high school football ratings came over from Nashville to see the game. The game was televised and shown on Knoxville area television stations the next day. The Knoxville News Sentinel and Knoxville Journal both dedicated their entire Saturday sports sections to coverage of the game. The Saturday edition of the Nashville Tennessean had story on the front page of their sports section about the game.

The University of Tennessee got involved by loaning Oak Ridge their tarp for Oak Ridge to use to cover the field in case of rain during the week. Everyone wanted a dry field.

Even the mayors of both cities got involved. Oak Ridge mayor A.K. Bissell sent a telegram to Chattanooga mayor P.R. Oigiaty saying that *"in the unlikely event that Chattanooga should win. I should like for you to participate with me in presenting our goal posts to a representative of Central. However, due to our limited budget we will be unable to furnish their transportation from the field to Chattanooga"*.

Bowden Wyatt, head coach at the University of Tennessee said that Oak Ridge was the *"best high school team he'd ever seen since World War II"*.

View of the crowd at the game



Another view of the crowd. Note coach **Paul Bear Bryant** in the middle of the photo. It was his first year at Alabama and he drove up from Atlanta for the game as his team was playing Georgia Tech Saturday afternoon.



Oak Ridge prevailed in the game 14-6. They had two touchdowns called back and outgained Central by over 200 yards offense.

The 1958 season was played in the beginning of integration in the South - with Oak Ridge being the first public school in the South to be integrated and having African-Americans on some of their sports teams.

The 1958 Oak Ridge high school football team was historical as significant events related to school integration was headline news across the nation. In the middle of the 1958 Oak Ridge football season on October, 5, Clinton high school was bombed by persons opposed to the school being integrated. The city of Oak Ridge had a vacant school and invited the Clinton students to meet there until a new school could be built. Two days later the Clinton students were bused to the school where the Oak Ridge high school band welcomed them by playing the

Clinton alma mater. The person welcoming the 870 Clinton students was **Mike Brady, president of the Oak Ridge student body and captain of the football team.** Brady told the students, *"We regret the circumstances under which you come here, but we welcome you"*.

The national spotlight on integration was directly on Clinton, Tennessee, but just six miles away sat Oak Ridge High School which was the first public school in the South to be integrated beginning in the fall of 1955. In sports, Oak Ridge already had two African American's participating in basketball and track. It should be noted that during the early years after integration, many Oak Ridge opponents refused to play them if a black player participated in the game.

So two schools six miles apart in east Tennessee were a hotbed for news coverage in the fall of 1958. Media was flocking to the area to cover the Clinton situation and the accomplishments of an integrated school's nationally ranked high school football team.

While covering the high school football team, sports writers asked how the Oak Ridge schools could have been integrated peaceably while Clinton had had so much trouble. They were told that Oak Ridge had prepared for integration right after the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision by letting teachers discuss the issue with their students. Teachers would ask their students how they should welcome the 45 new students and why integration was the right thing to do. Students were told of the financial waste involved in keeping two separate high schools. Students were told to express their views - negative or not -- but nobody was to criticize anyone else's opinion or tell any other one that their opinion was more *"correct"* than others.

Archie Lee one of the first African-Americans said in an interview later in his life that the integration at Oak Ridge transitioned so smoothly because it was so well-planned and community supported - thus no obvious acts of disruption to catch media attention.

The success of Oak Ridge football and learning that that school was already integrated diverted some of the focus on integration nation-wide and provided a positive take on all the negativity that had been generated in Clinton.

Contributions of members from the 1958 team were far reaching

The Oak Ridge High School 1958 football team was historical mostly because of the success and accomplishments of the players after high school. Many went on to obtain post university degrees and became well known in academic and other professional areas.

There were 47 players on the team. They attended 30+ - Colleges/Universities. Sixteen played football in college. Eleven seniors on the team were awarded college football scholarships. Seven seniors from the team won major college football scholarships to what is now Division 1 schools and six seniors from this team signed with SEC schools, this was back when the SEC only had ten members.

A partial list of what the members of the team did post high school: Nuclear Engineer, Mining Engineer, Masters Healthcare, University Professor, Petroleum Engineer, architect, Air Force Flight Instructor, Teacher, Electrical Engineer, Banker, School System Director, Preacher, Navy Pilot, Commercial Business Manager, Worked at NASA, Worked at Nuclear facilities in Oak Ridge, High school teacher, Air Force Pilot, Accountant, College Administrator, Commercial pilot, Flight instructor, Attorney, Computer shop owner, Chief Petty Officer, Mechanical Engineer, Oceanographer, Retail Manager, Machinist, Apple Orchard Owner

Some of the highlights from the 1958 team members were:

Paul Huray -- Paul chaired the committee appointed by Al Gore that **created the Internet**:

FCCSET COMMITTEE ON COMPUTER RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS

Paul Huray (Chair)
Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBCOMMITTEES

Science and Engineering Computing

David B. Nelson (Chair)
Department of Energy

James Burrows
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Melvyn Clement
National Science Foundation

Harlow Freitag
Supercomputing Research Center

Clarence Geise
Strategic Defense Initiative Office

Randolph Graves
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Thomas Kitchens
Department of Energy

Norman H. Kreitzman
Department of Energy

Joseph V. Mazzell, Jr.
National Institutes of Health

C. E. Oliver
Air Force Weapons Lab

John P. Riganati
Supercomputing Research Center

Paul B. Schneek
Supercomputing Research Center

K. Speierman
National Security Agency

Paul H. Smith
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Stephen L. Squires
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Computer Research and Development

Jacob T. Schwartz (Chair)
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Donald Austin
Department of Energy

James Burrows
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Bernard Chern
National Science Foundation

Peter Freeman
National Science Foundation

Lee Holcomb
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Charles Holland
Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Robert E. Kahn
Computer Science Technology Board

Daniel R. Masys
National Institutes of Health

Robert Polvado
Central Intelligence Agency

David Sadoff
Department of State

William L. Scherlis
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

K. Speierman
National Security Agency

Stephen L. Squires
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Andre Vantilborg

Computer Networking, Infrastructure and Digital Communications

William A. Wulf (Chair)
National Science Foundation

Peter Alterman
Health and Human Services

F. Ronald Bailey
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Charles Brownstein
National Science Foundation

James Burrows
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Daniel Hitchcock
Department of Energy

Arnold Pratt
National Institutes of Health

J. Mark Pullen
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Rudi F. Saenger
Naval Research Laboratory

Anthony Villazoni
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Stephen Wulf
National Science Foundation

More detail from members of the team:

- PhD Rice University Consulting Geologist and Professor, University of Kansas.
- Worked in the space program in Huntsville, Alabama and later as Nuclear Engineer with Lockheed Martin in Dawsonville, Georgia

- Engineering degree from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy. Worked for US Steel in Alabama.
- Professor of architectural theory and design at Georgia Tech. A consultant with a consortium of architects and planners for the design of a new capital city of Abuji in Nigeria
- Electrical engineer with IBM in Houston Texas for 44 years
- Taught and coached at the high school and college level.
- 40 years as a school administrator and director of schools in Indiana and Kentucky
- Teacher of ROTC cadets at the University of Tennessee.
- Work for 32 years with Cincinnati Milacron and GE Aircraft Engines in computer processing.
- Administrator at Wright State University
- Attorney with the law firm of Smith, Currie & Hancock for 29 years.
- Attorney for 45 years for the Army Corps of Engineers and Ellis Environmental in Gainesville, Fla.
- Worked at NASA, Lockheed Aircraft, and FMC Corporation.
- Shipyard worker for 35 years at North Florida Shipyard
- Received at least 83 awards, wrote 3 books, 120 articles, gave 350 invited and 26 keynote talks, chaired the Federal Internet Committee and gave 10 US Congressional testimonies. Served in the White House Science Office under President Reagan and served a second term during President Clinton's administration. B.S. and PhD University of Tennessee; Post Doc - Physics University of North Carolina; Post Doc - Higher Ed. Management Harvard
- Preacher and Police officer for 26 years in Atlanta
- Career JC Penny store manager for many years.
- Founded H-S Whitson Construction Co.
- PhD from the University of Tennessee in Industrial/Organizational Psychology . Had a successful career for 31 years at Procter & Gamble Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Degree in Business management and worked for Toshiba
- Worked at Nuclear Facilities in Oak Ridge, TN as machinist
- Worked in Petroleum and Chemical industry then purchased and operated a resort in Branson, Missouri and started his own construction company.
- Graduated from the University of Mississippi. Masters in Healthcare Administration from Washington University in St. Louis.
- Graduated from University of Tennessee. Owns Circle K Orchard in Beldenville, WS.
- High school teacher in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Oceanographer with NOAA
- Graduated from Air Force Academy. Career Air Force Pilot and flight instructor
- Career in Industrial Management with Heavy Duty Truck Manufacturing: Ford, Peterbilt, Volvo & Autocar Corp's. Retired as Vice President
- Career in Design Business
- General pediatrician in Memphis and North Mississippi in a large practice with 35 pediatricians and 7 offices.
- Office manager for large medical practice
- President and Vice-President of Beta Alpha Psi, a professional accounting fraternity, and recipient of the NTSU Beta Pi Chapter Athletic Scholarship. Taught accounting at Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and military personnel at several bases for the Military Air Command.

July 15, 2019

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
% Lynn Powell
501 Broadway Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Enclosed is an application for the **2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame** class for the **Historical Team Achievement Award** for the 1958 Oak Ridge High School football team.

I have enclosed two copies of the application.

I would like to request that I be able to come to the selection committee's meeting to give a very short presentation of details of this historical team and also to be present if any committee member wants to ask any questions they may have.

I can be contacted either at (865) 250-7324, email earlnall@gmail.com or at my home: 114 Cedar Greens Drive, Kingston, TN 37763

Thank you



Earl Nall

1962 graduate of Oak Ridge high school and 15-year Director of Technology at TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association)

Brad Willis

From: JERRY HARRIS <jl.harris@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:58 PM
To: tnsports@bellsouth.net; Brad Willis
Cc: cartersn@etsu.edu; khawkins@wjhl.com; earlnall@gmail.com
Subject: Significant Historical Achievement Award

To: Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board Members

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (TSHofF) has a category called the David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award. Both individuals and teams can be recognized but selected Honorees are limited to no more than one each year. To date there have only been three teams honored to my knowledge: The University of the South 1899 football team (2016); the 1955 Vanderbilt football team (2015); and the Tennessee State University basketball teams (2014). It is past due for another.

There is a current nomination pending to recognize the 1958 Oak Ridge High School football team. I implore upon the voting members of the TSHofF to again review the qualifications of this team since I feel confident that an affirmative vote is well deserving. Let me very briefly summarize why this team was nominated:

The 1958 Oak Ridge Wildcats high school football team:

1. Went undefeated.
2. Was both the highest scoring team in the state and allowed the fewest points of any team in the state. Per Scholastic Magazine, the 1958 team lead the entire nation in offense.
3. Had the highest power rating in the history of the E. E. Litkenhous rating system. The Litkenhous ratings preceded the AP, UPI and other team rating systems and until the current TSSAA playoff system was developed, was the premier authority in determining the relative strength of high school football teams within a state. Dr. Litkenhous was the highly respected head of the Chemistry Department at Vanderbilt University and his Litkenhous ratings were carried weekly by most major newspapers in Tennessee. Twelve other states also utilized his ratings system for teams in their states.
4. Had 11 seniors awarded college football scholarships. Seven players went to what is now Division 1 schools. Six of the 7 went to SEC schools and the other turned down multiple SEC offers to sign with Brigham Young. Keep in mind, this is 11 scholarships awarded to players from *one* class! Has any other class in the history of Tennessee high school football matched this achievement?
5. Became the first high school in Tennessee to be recognized as the mythical national champions in writing by an unbiased source or national publication.
7. Qualifies per TSHofF guidance for special consideration: Reference the TSHofF website, Section D, Honorees (category for the David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award). Nominations, Section D.5 states: "Special consideration will be given to teams in the Amateur and Professional categories that have won a National or league championship."

As a historical footnote, in the fall of 1955, Oak Ridge became first public high school in Tennessee and the southeastern United States to integrate. The senior class of the 1958-1959 school year was the first class to be fully integrated for their entire four year high school career and minorities were eligible to participate in all school activities including sports

during this period, The only limitations were due to those many other schools in the mid to later 1950s who refused to play an Oak Ridge sports team that had a black participant.

I should also note that the academic and post-high school and college achievements of this entire class of football players is even more impressive than their on-the-field success. While this is a story for another day, I will provide just one of many examples: Although Al Gore did not "invent" the internet (that has changed all of our lives), he did sponsor the committee that made it possible. The person selected to lead and chair that committee, Dr. Paul Huray, was a former member of the 1958 Oak Ridge football team.

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame voting members, the nomination has been pending now for nearly three years and time is running out, not only on the five year active nomination period but also the lives of the remaining living team members who are now mostly in their 80s. This group is well deserving of the honor. I urge you to vote the 1958 Oak Ridge Wildcat football team as the 2022 Honoree for the David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry L. Harris
114 Heritage Drive
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Nomination
Committee



Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Thomas Wilson

ADDRESS N/A (Deceased)

CITY Nashville STATE TN ZIP _____

PHONE N/A ALTERNATE PHONE _____

SPORT Baseball

CAPACITY OF INVOLVEMENT Baseball Team Owner and
(player, coach, official, administrator) Baseball League Administrator

NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

NAME Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton

ADDRESS 103 RIVER Dr.

CITY Old Hickory STATE TN ZIP 37138

PHONE 615-487-1174 ALTERNATE PHONE 615-357-0957

Please include a three-hundred word biographical narrative.

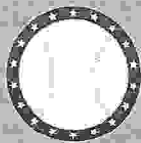
Forward all information to:
The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
501 Broadway Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Contact tnsports@bellsouth.net with any questions.



THOMAS T. WILSON
1883-1947

Negro League Team Owner
& League Administrator



Candidate for the
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame 2022

NASHVILLE
ELITE
GIANTS



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

He was the owner of the Nashville/Baltimore Elite Giants Baseball Team. It was one of the longest running Negro League Baseball organizations in the country, 1920-1950.

In 1928, he built Tom Wilson Baseball Park, the only Black-own stadium in the South.

He served as President of the Negro Southern League, 1929 & 1936.

He help fund the first East West All-Stars Game, 1933.

He served as President of the Negro National League, 1936-1946.

He provided leadership for the California Winter League.

He was a pioneer in the growth of the Negro Leagues locally in Nashville, Tn., regionally with the Negro Southern League, and on the national level as the President of the Negro National League between the years of 1920-1947.

Mr. Wilson had a direct impact on the baseball careers of the following players:

- National Baseball Hall of Famer, Norman Stearnes
- Mexican Baseball Hall of Famer, Burnis Wright
- Tennessee Sports Hall of Famer, Henry Kimbro
- National Baseball Hall of Famer, Roy Campanella
- Tennessee Sports Hall of Famer, James Gilliam
- Joseph Black, and many more

BASEBALL PORTFOLIO
OF
MR. THOMAS WILSON
(1883-1947)

Professional Baseball Team Owner
and Baseball League Officer

Submitted in support of the nomination of Mr.
Thomas Wilson to the Tennessee Sports Hall of
Fame

TABLE OF CONTENT

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form Mr. Thomas Wilson.....	1
INTRODUCTION:	
Thomas Wilson Biography.....	3
LETTERS OF SUPPORT:	
Mr. Doug Scopel.....	5
Mr. Ronnie Greer.....	6
Mr. Larry Lester.....	7
Mr. Skip Nipper.....	8
Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton.....	9
ARTICLES OF REFERENCE:	
Tom Wilson's Park Historical Marker.....	11
Elite Giants Need Two To Be Dixie Champion.....	12
Nashville Giants in First Night Game.....	13
1933-1962: The Business Meeting of Negro League Baseball.....	14
A TRIBUTE:	
Championship Teams.....	16
Prominent Players.....	17
E. S. Rose Park Diamond Plaque.....	18



INTRODUCTION

THOMAS WILSON BIOGRAPHY

A Prominent Businessman, Baseball Pioneer, and National League Leader

Born: 1883, Atlanta, GA

Died: 1947, Nashville, TN



Mr. Wilson moved to Nashville with his parents where they attended Meharry Medical College becoming doctors. With a passion for baseball, Wilson's vision of promoting black baseball in Nashville heighten when he met Rube Foster (Father of Negro League Baseball & National Baseball Hall of Famer) in 1914 when his Chicago Giants played the Nashville Capital City League team in 1914.

He developed the Nashville Elite Giants into Negro League baseball history by evolving the team into the more famous Negro League team, Baltimore Elite Giants.

During his leadership he helped jump start several baseball greats career starting with Nashville's **Norman "Turkey" Stearns** (National Baseball Hall of Famer, 2000), Nashville's **James "Junior" Gilliam** (National League's Rookie of the Year, 1953), Milan's **Burris "Wild Bill" Wright** (Mexico Baseball Hall of Fame, 1972), and Nashville's **Henry Kimbro** (Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame) (Kimbro-Hamilton, 2015).

Highlights of His Historical Career:

He was one of the founding members of the **Negro Southern League, 1920** (Plott, 2015).

In 1929, he built the only southern black owned baseball stadium in the country (Lanctot, 2004).

The Tom Wilson Park was given a Historical Landmark Plaque by the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2003.

Served as **President of the Negro Southern League, 1929 & 1936** (Plott, 2015)

Served as **President of the Negro National League (1938-1946)** (Lanctot, 2004)

Proposed the idea of and helped financed the first **East-West All-Star Game** at Comiskey Park, 1933 (Mills, 2019).

He increased player salaries as league president Lanctot, 2004).

He is credited with making the Negro National League a 2 million dollar enterprise by 1945 during his tenure as President of the NNL (Mills, 2019).

During the 1930s he was one of the leaders of the **California Winter League** (McNeil, 2002).

THOMAS WILSON BIOGRAPHY

Named the 6th out of the **Top 10 Most Influential People in Nashville's Baseball History** by Skip Nipper (Author and Baseball Historian)



LETTERS OF
SUPPORT

N

May 27, 2020

Tennessee Sports Hall Of Fame
Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express the Nashville Sounds' support of the recommendation/nomination of Tom Wilson to be included in a future Tennessee Sports Hall Of Fame induction class.

Baseball in Nashville, especially among the minority communities, would not be what it is today without Mr. Wilson's many important contributions. And without his ambition, Nashville's Negro League history would not be anything near as robust as it is.

His foundation of the Elite Giants and their home ballpark, Wilson Park, was instrumental in the growth of America's national pastime in not only Middle Tennessee but throughout the South.

The Nashville Sounds honor Mr. Wilson's individual contributions as well as the great history of the Elite Giants through signage and messaging here at First Horizon Park to preserve and carry forward his legacy.

We hope to see Mr. Wilson soon honored to take his rightful place alongside the many significantly and impactful persons who serve as members of the Tennessee Sports Hall Of Fame.

Sincerely,



Doug Scopel
Vice President of Operations, Nashville Sounds





Mr. Ronnie E. Greer, Sr.
W. O. Smith Music School Events Manager
Former Metro Councilman of 17th District, 1999--2007
Nashville, Tn. 37204

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Committee
501 Broadway Ave.
Nashville, Tn. 37203

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Mr. Tom Wilson for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Wilson was the owner of Nashville's entry into the Negro Baseball League, the Nashville Elites. To ensure that his team had a place to play, Mr. Wilson built the first black-owned stadium in the South here in Nashville. The team eventually moved its operations to Baltimore Md. where they became the Baltimore Elite Giants and had noticeable success.

Mr. Wilson has been recognized by the Tennessee Historical Society for his contributions and I feel that it would be fitting that he be included in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. He was a force in the sports arena on the local and national level when it came to the historic Negro Baseball League.

Thank for your consideration,

Mr. Ronnie Greer, Sr.

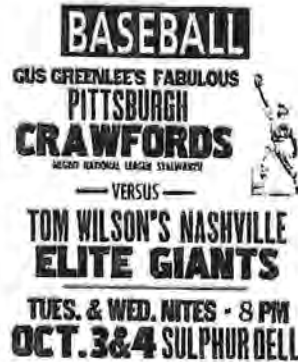
Ronnie E. Greer Sr.

From the desk of *Larry Lester*

42

11 June 2020

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
Attn: Hall of Fame Selection Committee
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203



Dear Selection Committee

Larry Lester, a co-founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, chairman of the Society for American Baseball Research's (SABR) Negro Leagues Committee and CEO of NoirTech Research, Inc., ask me to write on his behalf, why I, **Thomas T. "Smiley" Wilson**, should be considered for induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

Although I was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1890, at an early age our family moved to Nashville, TN. My parents Dr. J.T. Wilson and Dr. Carry Wilson studied medicine at Meharry Medical College, the leading southern Negro medical school of its day. Coming from an affluent family, I was afforded the opportunity to pursue many entrepreneurial interests.

I was owner of the **Paradise Ballroom** and chairman of the board for the **Pride of Tennessee Elks Lodge No. 1102**. In 1913, I organized the **Nashville Elite Giants**, later a member of the Negro Southern League in 1920. Due to a declining economy in 1929, I was forced to my club to Columbus, OH (1929-34), then to Washington, DC (1936-37) and finally to Baltimore in 1938. As an owner, I had the privilege of managing several future National Baseball Hall of Famers; **Roy Campanella, Leon Day, Biz Mackey, Willie Wells, Ray Dandridge** and **Turkey Stearnes**, along with Wild Bill Wright, who should be in Cooperstown.

While in Nashville, I built **Wilson Park** in the Trimble Bottom section, one of the first Black-owned ballparks in the nation. The activities at Wilson Park soon became so widespread that the White spectators outnumbered the Black spectators. Even the **Nashville Vols** of the Southern Association used my park for spring training, because my park was a larger venue and didn't have the tendency to flood during the raining season.

Did I mention I was President of the **Negro National League**, a position I held for nearly a decade, until 1946, when Branch Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Dodger contract. Later, at the age of 57, I became ill and succumbed to heart failure at my country home near Nashville in May of 1947.

Thank you for reading about my career in sports and I hope you feel I am worthy to join fellow TSHOF colleagues Wild Bill Wright, Junior Gilliam, Norman "Turkey" Stearnes and Henry Kimbro into the **Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame**.

I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas T. Wilson".

Thomas T. Wilson.

NoirTech Research, Inc.

P.O. Box 380146 -- Kansas City, MO 64138

816.589.7940

www.LarryLester42.com - NTresearch@comcast.net

"We are drowning in Information but starving for Knowledge."

SKIP NIPPER

23 4th Ave.

Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

262downright@gmail.com

May 19, 2020

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
Honoree Committee
Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

To Whom It May Concern,

In consideration of Tom T. Wilson's nomination as an inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, I wholeheartedly endorse his selection.

A baseball man, but also a successful entrepreneur, Wilson purchased the Nashville Standard Giants, renamed them Elite (pronounced Ee-light) Giants, and built his own park for them to play in. He moved his team from Nashville to Cleveland, Columbus, and Washington, D.C. before eventually landing in Baltimore where the team found success.

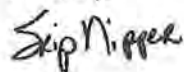
Those teams gave us Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame members Norman "Turkey" Stearnes and Henry Kimbro. National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees Biz Mackey, Satchel Paige, and Willie Wells, along with Stearnes, played for Wilson.

He formed local teams, the Black Vols and Cubs, as affiliates to feed players into his team in Baltimore. Those local teams gave us Jim "Junior" Gilliam and Clinton "Butch" McCord, both members of the TSHOF.

Although he moved his team to various cities, he maintained his residence and office in Nashville. As president of the Negro Southern League and Negro National League, his influence on all Negro League teams reached across the United States until his death in 1947.

Few can match Wilson's ambition, vision, and fortitude, and I hope he can take his place in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Skip Nipper
Baseball Historian

*Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton
103 River Dr.
Old Hickory, Tn. 37138*

June 18, 2020

Tennessee Sport Hall of Fame
501 Broadway
Nashville, Tn. 37138

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to recommend and support the nomination of Mr. Thomas Wilson to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. He was a visionary ahead of his time during his era. Here is a man that changed Nashville's history by promoting sporting and entertainment events that included every community. As a successful businessman, he lifted the economic level of the African American community that is evident today. The city of Nashville was also lifted on a national level as he nurtured the success of the Elite Giants baseball organization.

I myself have an indirect connection to this great man because he recruited my father, Henry Kimbro, to play for him with the Nashville Elite Giants baseball team that later became the Baltimore Elite Giants. He changed my dad's social and economic position in life through baseball. The most important contribution was being a successful African American entrepreneur.

My father became a successful businessman because of Thomas Wilson. He sent four out of five of his children to college due in part to his social-economic status. Mr. Wilson also gave numerous opportunities for local talent to rise and shine. Men like Mr. Norman "Turkey" Stearns, the only native Tennessean to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame benefited from his vision.

In my book called Daddy's Scrapbook: Henry Kimbro of the Negro League, a daughter's perspective, I summarized Mr. Wilson by saying, "when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, many were prepared to realize the opportunity due to the efforts of men like Tom Wilson who, with others, helped to build the bridge that made that dream possible."

Please give Mr. Thomas Wilson every consideration to take his place in Tennessee sport's history by being inducted into Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.



Thank you for your time,
Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton



ARTICLES OF
REFERENCE



Nashville in Davidson County, Tennessee — *The American South (East South Central)*

Tom Wilson Park / Thomas T. Wilson 1929-1946 / 1883-1947

Inscription.

Tom Wilson Park 1929-1946

Formerly located near this site was Tom Wilson Park. It opened in 1929 and was home to the Nashville Elite Giants baseball team of the Southern Negro League. Owned by Thomas T. Wilson, the facility was one of two African-American owned professional ballparks. Wilson Park also hosted spring training sessions for the Nashville Vols, a minor league team of the Southern Association. Spring training games brought such baseball greats as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Roy Campanella to the park. In 1946, Tom Wilson resigned and discontinued all ball activities at Wilson Park.

Continued



By Don Morfe, April 18, 2014

1. Tom Wilson Park side of marker

Thomas T. Wilson 1883-1947

Thomas T. Wilson, a businessman, sportsman, and founder of the Nashville Elite Giants, began his baseball association with the Nashville Maroons in 1909. He organized the Nashville Elite Giants in 1921. Besides being an owner, Wilson served as secretary and president of the Negro Southern League and vice chair, treasurer, and president of the Negro National League. After quitting baseball and ceasing ball activities at the park, he opened the Paradise Ballroom on the same site. Entertainers included Lionel Hampton, Cab Calloway and Sarah Vaughn.

Erected 2003 by Tennessee Historical Commission. (Marker Number **3A 198**.)

Topics and series. This historical marker is listed in these topic lists: [Entertainment](#) • [Sports](#). In addition, it is included in the [Tennessee Historical Commission](#) series list.

Location. 36° 8.717' N, 86° 45.855' W. Marker is in Nashville, Tennessee, in Davidson County. Marker is on 2nd Avenue South (US 41A) north of Hart Street, on the right when traveling north. [Touch for map](#). Marker is at or near this postal address: 1200 2nd Avenue S, Nashville TN 37210, United States of America. [Touch for directions](#).

Other nearby markers. At least 8 other markers are within walking distance of this marker. [St. Patrick Catholic Church](#) (within shouting distance of this marker); [Hubbard House](#) (about 700 feet away, measured in a direct line); [First Steam Locomotive](#) (approx. 0.2 miles away); [James Carroll Napier](#) (approx. 0.3 miles away); [May Hosiery Mills](#) (approx. 0.3 miles away); [Major Henry M. Rutledge](#) (approx. 0.3 miles away); [Felix K. Zollicoffer](#) (approx. 0.3 miles away); [William Driver](#) (approx. 0.3 miles away). [Touch for a list and map](#) of all markers in Nashville.

ELITE GIANTS NEED TWO TO BE DIXIE CHAMPIONS

The Nashville Elite Giants play the Chicago American Giants in the second play-off for championship Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in Sulphur Dell. The Elites won 2 out of 3 in Chicago and have only 2 more to win to be Negro Southern league champions. The Elites with the addition of Dukes, Porter and Bankhead have made threats of winning the series and the negro world series.

Clipped By:



harriso

Mon, May 25, 2020

NASHVILLE ELITE GIANTS IN FIRST NIGHT GAME

Kansas City Monarchs to Be Opponents.

The baseball fans of Nashville as well as the idly curious will have a chance to see what night baseball is like when Nashville Elite Giants meets the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the most famous negro teams. Wednesday night at 8 o'clock out in Wilson Park. The Monarchs, owned by J. Leslie Wilkinson of Kansas City, Mo., are pioneers in his field, having created a mild sensation in baseball circles all over the country with their undertaking.

Clipped By:



harrio
Mon, May 25, 2020

1933-1962: The Business Meetings of Negro League Baseball

By Doron Goldman

Editor's note: This article, originally published in [_\(/sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-whos-first-replacement-players-world-war-ii\)](https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-whos-first-replacement-players-world-war-ii) "Baseball's Business: The Winter Meetings, 1958-2016" [\(/sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-baseballs-business-winter-meetings-1958-2016\)](https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-baseballs-business-winter-meetings-1958-2016) (SABR, 2017), was honored as a 2018 McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award [\(/sabr.org/latest/corbett-goldman-win-2018-mcfarland-sabr-baseball-research-awards\)](https://sabr.org/latest/corbett-goldman-win-2018-mcfarland-sabr-baseball-research-awards) winner.



Negro League baseball magnates meet at the Hotel Teresa on June 20, 1946, in New York City. The owners had all attended the Joe Louis boxing bout the night before. The meeting was to plan the second-half schedule for the 1946 season. Left to right: Syd Pollock (Indianapolis Clowns), Tom Wilson (Baltimore Elite Giants), Tom Baird (Kansas city Monarchs), W.S. Martin (Memphis Red Sox), J.B. Martin (NAL President and Chicago American Giants), Ernest Wright (Cleveland Buckeyes), Fay Young (Chicago Defender writer), Wilbur Hayes (Buckeyes), and Tom Hayes Jr. (Birmingham Black Barons). (National Baseball Hall of Fame Library)

By Doron Goldman



A TRIBUTE

**NASHVILLE
ELITE
GIANTS**



TOM WILSON'S ELITE GIANTS CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

THE NEGRO SOUTHERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1921 Nashville Elite Giants

1922 Nashville Elite Giants

1929 Nashville Elite Giants

1932 Nashville Elite Giants

**Source: The Negro Southern League, A Baseball History 1920-1951
(2015)**

THE NATIONAL NEGRO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1939 Baltimore Elite Giants

1949 Baltimore Elite Giants

**Source: The Baltimore Elite Giants
Sport and Society in the Age of Negro League Baseball (2009)**

NASHVILLE ELITE GIANTS

TOM WILSON'S ELITE GIANTS ROLE CALL OF PROMINENT PLAYERS WHO STARTED IN HIS ORGANIZATION

- 1. NORMAN "TURKEY" STEARNES from Nashville, Tn. (Nashville Elite Giants)
Mr. Stearnes is the only native Tennessean in the National Baseball Hall of Fame (2000)**
- 2. BRUCE PETWAY from Nashville, Tn. (Nashville Elite Giants)
Mr. Petway was a semi-finalist for the National Baseball Hall of Fame (2006)**
- 3. HENRY KIMBRO from Nashville, Tn. (Nashville Elite Giants)
Mr. Kimbro was a candidate for the National Baseball Hall of Fame (2006)**
- 4. ROY CAMPANELLA from Philadelphia, Pa. (Washington Elite Giants)
Mr. Campanella was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame (1969)**
- 5. JAMES "JUNIOR" GILLIAM from Nashville, Tn. (Baltimore Elite Giants)
National League Rookie of the Year (1953)**
- 6. JOSEPH "JOE" BLACK from Plainfield, NJ (Baltimore Elite Giants)
Mr. Black was the first African American pitcher to win a world series game (1952)**



In honor of the
100th ANNIVERSARY
OF NEGRO LEAGUE
BASEBALL,

this plaque recognizes Nashvillians who
were players or team owners during the
Negro League era.

JAMES ABERNATHY
Left Fielder, 1945-1948

DAN BLACK
Catcher, 1950

WILLIAM "SOO" BRIDGEFORTH
Team Owner, Nashville Elites, 1951-1954

SIDNEY BUNCH, JR.
Center Fielder, 1954

ELLIOTT COLEMAN
Pitcher, 1954-55

WESLEY "DOC" DENNIS
First Baseman, 1942-1948

ED "LEFTY" DERRICK
Pitcher, 1945-1949

JAMES "JUNIOR" GILLIAM
Second & Third Baseman, 1946-1950

HENRY KIMBRO
Center Fielder, 1937-1953

ED MARTIN
Pitcher, 1951-1952

CLINT "BUTCH" McCORD
First Baseman, 1947-1950

BRUCE PETWAY
Catcher, 1906-1925

NORMAN "TURKEY" STEARNES
Center Fielder, 1923-1942

TAYLOR SMITH
Pitcher, 1948-1953

TOM WILSON
Team Owner, Baltimore Elites, 1921-1947

JIM ZAPP
Left Fielder, 1942-1954

May these great men inspire young people across
Nashville to pursue their dreams of playing
professional baseball.

DEDICATED
FEBRUARY 29, 2020



July 2, 2021

Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
501 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Dr. Kimbro-Hamilton:

Recently heard that there is an effort to induct Nashville/Columbus/Washington/Baltimore Elite owner, Tom Wilson, into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. This is an effort that I would like to strongly support. When in Nashville during recent times and doing some consulting work for the Music City Baseball group, read and learned a great deal about Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson's vision and leadership led the Nashville Elite Giants through some difficult times, and eventually the solvency of the franchise. In addition to being an owner and team officer, he held numerous positions in the Negro Southern League and Negro National League. He is also credited as a primary force behind organizing the first East-West All Star Game in 1933.

This leadership helped start the City of Nashville's love of the game of baseball and started the cities involvement in the sport. The contributions from Mr. Wilson definitely have earned him a position in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Hopefully, he will be able to take his deserved place in the Hall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Dombrowski
President, Baseball Operations
The Phillies





August 23, 2021

Brad Willis, Philip Fulmer
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Brad and Philip,

In 2005 the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum in Baltimore opened a second sports attraction, Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards, to house its burgeoning collection. Sports Legends proved to be a defacto state sports museum, with exhibits on Baltimore's Orioles, Ravens and Colts, the Maryland Terrapins, the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame, and local athletes like Michael Phelps, Cal Ripken, Junior and Sugar Ray Leonard.

One of Sports Legends most impactful and crowd-pleasing exhibitions was a gallery devoted to local Negro League baseball, specifically Baltimore's Elite Giants, a team that won championships in 1939 and 1949 with stars like Roy Campanella, Junior Gilliam, Leon Day and Henry Kimbro.

It has come to my attention that there is an ongoing effort to have the Elites' owner, "Smiling" Tom Wilson, inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. I fully support his nomination. In addition to molding the Elites into one of the Negro Leagues more famous franchises, Tom Wilson's endless promotion of Black baseball led to his serving as a founding member of the Negro Southern League in 1920 and the construction of Tom Wilson Park in 1929, the only southern Black-owned baseball stadium in America.

Additionally, Tom served as President of the Negro National League (1938-1946) and conceived and financed the first East-West All-Star Game at Comiskey Park in 1933. Baseball historian Skip Nipper named Tom Wilson the 6th out of the top 10 most influential people in Nashville's baseball history in his 2015 book, "Baseball in Nashville."

Thanks to Tom Wilson, Baltimoreans continue to celebrate the legendary and historic accomplishments of his Elite Giants, the last chapter of his impactful life as a baseball entrepreneur and executive. Here's hoping the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame will commemorate the first chapter of Tom's baseball legacy in Nashville by inducting him into the Hall of Fame.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Gibbons
Chairman Emeritus/Historian
Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum