

Minutes

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Committee Meeting

March 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dane Bradshaw

Harold Graeter

Kenneth Hawkins

Chris Massaro

Arts Sparks

Brad Lampley (Committee approved the nomination)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Candice Lee

GUESTS PRESENT

Brad Willis, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Executive Director

Mary Katelyn Price, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison

Earl Nall, Representative of the Nomination of the 1958 Oak Ridge Football Team

Jerry Harris, Representative of the Nomination of the 1958 Oak Ridge Football Team

AGENDA

Welcome, Massaro

Welcome and Call to Order at 10:08am CT.

Housekeeping

- Price, asked if any guests were on the call that may wish to be recognized. Earl Nall and Jerry Harris wished to be recognized to talk about nomination for the 1958 Oak Ridge Football team for Significant Historical Achievement.
- 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 October 13, 2022, 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 Hawkins. No discussion, move to roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Yes

Motion carries.

New Business/Discussion Items, Willis

1. Committee Members, Willis, with a six-member committee in the past the committee has run into tied votes. There has been an interest in adding another member to this committee. Discussion: Massaro, TSHF board member Brad Lampley is interested in joining the Nominations Committee. Lampley has been involved in the board and always provides great insights for when the board is deliberating on candidates particularly for Middle Tennessee region. Massaro motioned for the additional of Brad Lampley to Nomination Committee, seconded by Graeter. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Yes

Motion carries for the addition of Lampley to the Nominations Committee. Lampley's vote officially included in Committee business thereafter.

2. Legacy Award Discussion, Willis, Discusses the criteria of the Legacy Award, encourages discussion on changes to the criteria and recommendation for the award to move forward to the full board. The Legacy Award was brought forward by Bradshaw as a high school award focused on programs of a minimum three (3) years of sustained success spanning over twenty (20)- forty (40) years. Presents the group with the idea of bringing in college programs. Not a required yearly award, more of an award based on nominations we receive and the approval of this committee.
 - Discussion, Willis encourages discussion around the framework of the award
 - Bradshaw: The idea of the award originally came up as he was approaching his school reunion. Great reunion opportunity for high school programs and exposure to the Hall. More focused on the prep side but could also see it as an opportunity to recognize a college like Belmont University and Rick Byrd.
 - Willis: Notes that the TWSSAA Hall of Fame does not induct players. This award would not be seen an induction into the TSHF but an honoree award to spotlight a team or program.
 - Hawkins: Quest of whether the TSHF is inviting everyone on the team and those who can attend show up, or just a small group from the team?

- Bradshaw: doesn't necessarily think TSHF should put a limit on how many people can or cannot attend at this time. Options available to honor the group.
- Willis: TSHF consider how many people the Hall would cover costs for at the annual banquet. Typically, the Hall would offer the inductee and their immediate family attendance and then if they want a table and supplement the Hall can do that. This is something to consider when thinking of an overall team award.
- Bradshaw: TSHF does not need to offer the program anything. This would be a team award and should incentivize the people that really want to be at the banquet.
- Graeter: Like the concept as it is bringing in the high school community and the threshold of minimum three years and a 20-year threshold. We have the amateur college honoree awards and likes the original concept of the award of keeping it in the high school range.
 - Bradshaw: This brings more exposure of the Hall for the younger generation.
- Willis: Notes that if you pick more than three (3) years, that makes the award more about the program than a class. Ask if anyone would like to make a motion to send this award to the full board for approval.

- Motion, Bradshaw motions to move forward with proposing to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board adding a Legacy Award focusing on a high school athletics, with a second by Sparks. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Yes
Brad Lampley	Yes

Motion carries for the committee to present the Legacy Award to the Board for final approval.

3. Discussion of Process of Honorees, Willis discusses the parameters of the three (3) honoree awards. The three (3) categories discussed are: Tennessean of the Year, Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award and David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award.

- Discussion, Willis reads off description, award parameters and 2023 nominees to the group.
 - Tennessean of the Year is an honor given to an individual or an organization that has really brought positive attention to the state of Tennessee. Sometimes this award is given to someone associated in athletics, but it is also the rare award the Hall gives that is not always associated with athletics. For example, Dolly Parton, Kenny Chesney,

Barbara Mandrell, Tennessee Olympians, 101st Airborne, Governors, athletes, current present-day athletics, both professional and collegiate, all named to Tennessean of the Year.

- Two names presented for 2023 Tennessean of the Year: Coach Josh Heupel for what he did with the University of Tennessee Football team in 2022 and former Governor Haslam, who is now a minority owner, and soon to be majority owner of the Nashville Predators.
- The Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award is focused on athletics and an individual who has given their life to sports. Over the last few years, the award winners are people who have already been inducted to the Hall and have gone on to add more to their legacy. The award may recognize someone who may not necessarily make it through the induction process but warrants the spotlight and recognition. Previous honorees include Deane Hayes, Jerry Robertson, Coach Woody Hunt, Coach Rick Byrd, etc.
 - 2023 Nominees for the Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Awards are Jack Elder, administrator and former head of Tennessee Special Olympics, Jerry Lawler, who was also considered as an inductee this year, Thomas Wilson, gentleman who was a baseball team owner, baseball league administrator in the negro leagues in the Nashville area and was nominated by Dr. Kimbro Hamilton, Diane Cummings Turnham, MTSU, and Jean Patton Latimer, she was a nominee for the Hall of Fame this year and a gold and silver medalist at the 1951 Pan-American Games.
- David William Significant Achievement Award is sports focused but it has often focused on team efforts or groups of people. Last year, the Hall spotlighted the women of Title IX. In 2021, Joan Cronin was given the award. David Williams was presented the award in 2019 and the award named after him at that point. Before that, the award was given to team such as University of the South Football team, Vanderbilt's 1955 football team and Tennessee State Men's Basketball teams. Sometimes the award is built on social change, trailblazers, outstanding achievement and so on.
 - 2023 nominees include 1958 Oak Ridge High School Football team, Lebanon Clowns Baseball team, negro league baseball team form the 1940s to the 1960s, and the 1984 Roan State Community College Women's Basketball team.
- Presentation, Guests Earl Nall and Jerry Harris, who made nomination for the 1958 Oak Ridge School Football team, present presentation on why the team should be honored with David Williams Significant Achievement Award.

4. Discussion of Honoree Categories, Willis

a. Tennessean of the Year

- Discussion, Massaro prompts discussion on 2023 nominees for Tennessean of the Year, Coach Josh Heupel and former Governor Haslam. Ask committee if there is any other individual that should be considered.
 - Former Governor Bill Haslam
 - Massaro: Put Haslam name forward following logic of last year with honoring John Ingram with the Nashville Soccer Club. Didn't realize transition has not fully gone forward as Haslam as majority owner.
 - Willis: July 1 of next year he will become the majority owner
 - Coach Josh Heupel
 - Massaro: UT had a breakthrough season, what standard does TSHF want to keep as UT did not make the playoffs?
 - Bradshaw: long awaited revival, economic impact
 - Grater: Josh Heupel did his job; he did what he was hired to do
 - Lampley: Year to recognize Josh Heupel due to the work he has done.
 - Graeter: Made a recommendation to nominate Danny White, Vice Chancellor/Director of Athletics for University of Tennessee, for Tennessean of the Year; broader recognition for University of Tennessee for what Danny White has done for the University of Tennessee and the state.
 - Hawkins: Heupel put energy into the football program, but he did not win a National or SEC Championship; Danny White had numerous number 1 programs this year.
 - Massaro: Danny White covers it all with what UT has done in baseball, men's and women's basketball, and football.
 - Hawkins: White has two (2) major building projects under his tenure.
 - Lampley: Heupel really turned the football program around. White's time for the award is going to come.
 - Massaro: Committee has heard arguments for Joah Heupel and Danny White. No further discussion on former Governor Haslam. Recommends Committee set him aside for future consideration.
 - Hawkins: Could make the same argument for Tony Vitello, University of Tennessee Head Football Coach. He revitalized a baseball program that has not done anything in a while, reaching number 1, keeping his program at number 2, and their currently number 3 right now. They won the SEC championship last year.
 - Graeter: Is there another recognition that Josh Heupel would qualify for?
 - Willis: Not individually
 - Sparks: Josh Heupel did what he was hired to do and Danny White has done what he was hired to do. Josh Heupel had addressed numerous

issues within the football program where there was numerous problems. Danny White has addresses numerous issues within the whole athletic department.

- Lampley: The only coach that Danny White has hired in the current group is Josh Heupel. When you look at White’s grand plans, I think that time will come. He’s got great ideas and going in the right direction. In the athletic department’s current success, there is a lot of people that deserve credit.
- Massaro: Alternative thought is to have them both be Tennessean of the Year
 - Sparks: Throw another one in the mix and have Donde Plowman, Danny White and Josh Heupel.
 - Massaro: Recommends taking a motion
- Motion: Lampley motions to nominate Josh Heupel as Tennessean of the Year, seconded by Bradshaw. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	No
Kenneth Hawkins	No
Chris Massaro	No
Art Sparks	No
Brad Lampley	Yes

Motion does not carry.

- Motion: Graeter motions to nominate Donde Plowman, Danny White and Josh Heupel as Tennessean of the Year for their combined work at the University of Tennessee and their success in the athletics department, seconded by Lampley.
 - Discussion:
 - Massaro: A name can always be added in spirit if another individual wins a nation title in the department.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	No
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Abstains
Brad Lampley	Yes

Motion carries and the recommendation will be made to the TSHF board.

b. Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award

- Discussion: Massaro prompts discussion on 2023 nominees for Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award. Willis reads off nominees:
 - Jack Elder
 - Jerry Lawler
 - Thomas Wilson
 - Jean Patton Latimer
 - Diane Cummings Turnham
- Motion: Graeter motions to nominate Jerry Lawler as the 2023 Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, seconded by Bradshaw.
 - Discussion:
 - Lampley: Lawler has brought a lot of attention to Memphis and this will get al lot of attention in what this award carries.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Yes
Brad Lampley	Yes

Motion carries and Jerry Lawler will be presented to the TSHF board as the honoree for the 2023 Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award.

c. David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award

- Discussion: Willis, for consideration for the 2023 David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award is the 1958 Oak Ridge Highschool Football team, 1984 Roan State Community College Women’s Basketball team, and the Lebanon Clowns.
 - Massaro, nominates Thomas Wilson for the category for his history with the negro leagues and franchise.
 - Graeter, how does his background and involvement in the negro leagues compare to the resume and impact of the Lebanon Clowns.
 - Willis, Wilson predates the Clowns by 20 years. He served as President of the Negro National League 1936 to 1946, considered a pioneer of the growth of the Negro League in the Nashville area, he was owner of the Nashville Elites, one of the longest running Negro Leagues in the country, and he built Tom Wilson Baseball Park in 1928, at the time was the only black owned stadium the in South.
- Hawkins, makes argument for 1958 Oak Ridge Football team as they were the model of high school football in the South. Model of two (2) different backgrounds coming together at the end of the week and playing football. They were able to come together after the events of Clinton. Oak Ridge was behind gates so this helped to prevent anyone from getting in that didn’t have a patch and starting trouble. They became integrated in 1955.

- Motion, Hawkins motions to nominate the 1958 Oak Ridge Football team, seconded by Art Sparks.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	No
Art Sparks	Yes
Brad Lampley	Yes

Motion carries to bring the 1958 Oak Ridge Football team to the TSHF Board as the 2023 David Williams Historical Achievement honoree. It should be noted that Thomas Wilson has support and should be considered for this award again next year.

5. Final Vote for Honorees to Forward to Full Board, Willis, none of these final until we bring them to the full board.
 - **Closing Remarks**, Massaro, as was nothing further, Massaro motioned for adjournment with second by Sparks. No further discussion, all in favor with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:59pm CT.

Dane Bradshaw	Yes
Harold Graeter	Yes
Kenneth Hawkins	Yes
Chris Massaro	Yes
Art Sparks	Yes
Brad Lampley	Yes

Approved:

April 26, 2023
Date

Alicia C. B. Widrig

Alicia C. B. Widrig, Attorney/Secretary
Department of Tourist Development