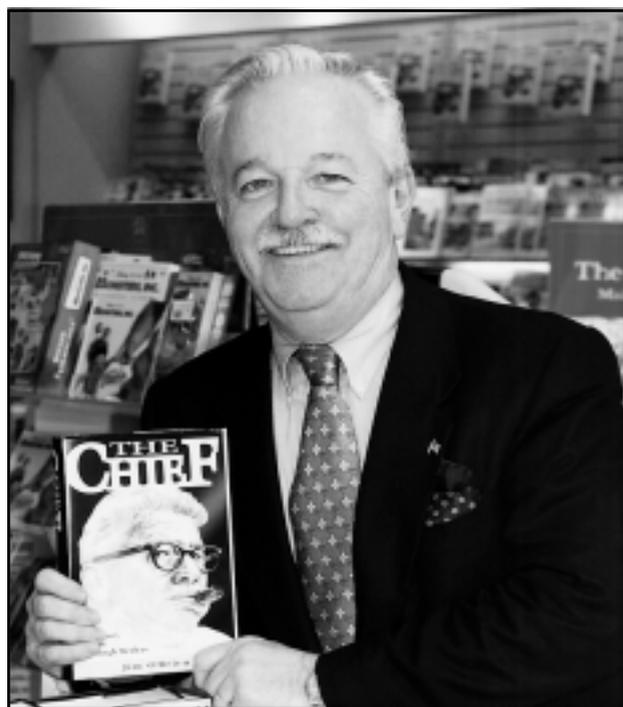


O'Brien, Jauss named to Hall of Fame



Jim O'Brien

Two writers who are legendary sports writing figures in their home cities – Bill Jauss in Chicago and Jim O'Brien in Pittsburgh – are the newest members of the United States Basketball Writers Hall of Fame.

The two bring to 44 the number of inductees in the USBWA Hall of Fame since its inception in 1988. To be eligible for the Hall, individuals must have a minimum 20 years of service in the profession and be recognized for their achievements in sports journalism.

Jauss has been writing about college basketball and other sports in Chicago for over 47 years. He joined the old Chicago Daily News in 1956 after a two-year newspaper stint in Wisconsin with the Neenah-Menasha Twin City News Record. He has remained in Chicago ever since. He moved to the Chicago Today for four years after the Daily News folded, then joined the Chicago Tribune in 1974 when The Today went under.

"The first three newspapers that I worked for all folded," says Jauss. "Now I'm trying to break the Tribune with my creative but absurd expenses accounts."



Bill Jauss

Jauss has at one time or another covered every university in Chicago – including the Loyola team that won the NCAA title in 1963 and now Loyola's current team.

"Covering that national championship was one of my greatest thrills," recalls Jauss. "When the Tribune celebrated its 150th anniversary a couple of years ago, we picked that championship as No. 7 among Chicago's top moments in sports."

Today, Jauss also handles the women's college basketball beat for the Tribune and is scheduled to cover the women's Final Four, which may prevent him from attending the induction ceremonies in New Orleans.

Jauss is legendary for wearing white sneakers to events. "Al McGuire always called me 'Gym Shoes,'" he said. "He wasn't very good at remembering names."

Jauss' popularity carried over into the classroom and on radio and TV. He taught reporting labs at Northwestern for 15 years and received Faculty Honors awards determined by campus-wide vote of students. He was an original member of "Sports Writers,"

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Get out the vote

President's Column

By STEVE RICHARDSON



The USBWA moves into one of its busiest times during the next few weeks when it picks the Players of the Year and its All-America teams. These expect to be particularly difficult chores this season because college basketball is so wide open.

Narrowing the list of candidates for the Player of the Year was impossible during a USBWA conference call in January. In fact, as region by region reported, players were added to the list, not subtracted.

That is why your ballot and input will be particularly important this season. Make sure you fill out your ballot and send it to your regional representative after you receive it.

The other important issue is to also vote for you All-Region team. Because many of the regions transcend

conferences, it is important to note which states are in your region and vote for players accordingly. One helpful hint to catch up on what some players might be doing in your region (in conferences you don't cover): go to naaa.org and to the statistics area.

The USBWA Board will review all issues involving college basketball coverage which you bring to us. I have received e-mails of concern regarding some post-game and seating situations at college basketball games. The USBWA Board will meet on Friday before the NCAA semifinals on Saturday, April 5. But feel free to send any ahead to me for that meeting.

As president of the USBWA I am hoping to organize a check list to send to schools for press operations at basketball games. This will not be completed by the end

of the season. But I want to take your suggestions and will develop this over the summer for submission to the board in the fall.

What works well for you at games? What doesn't? Where are the problem areas? Is there something some schools do which you wish every school would do? Please e-mail me at tigerfwaa@aol.com.

The USBWA's annual awards breakfast and meeting will be held Monday morning, April 7, of the NCAA title game in New Orleans. We encourage you to attend and bring a media friend or SID who is not a member. It is important that we continue to increase membership. And the annual meeting is a perfect time for potential new members to gain an understanding of the organization.

USBWA to sponsor seminar for aspiring sportswriters

The USBWA will once again sponsor a sportswriting seminar for high school and college students aspiring to pursue a career in the sports journalism profession and hold it again in conjunction with the NCAA Final Four.

This year's seminar will be hosted by Loyola University in New Orleans and conducted on the Loyola campus on Thursday, April 3, during the week of the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans.

USBWA President Steve Richardson will be one of three or four USBWA members who will serve on a panel and speak to students about sportswriting.

Students attending the seminar will be given the opportunity to cover events during the NCAA Final Four weekend in New Orleans and submit stories about the events they cover for entry in a competition for scholarships totaling \$3000.

Funding for the scholarships will be provided by the USBWA..

Following the panel discussion with the USBWA speakers, students will be given credentials to cover various NCAA events, including a press conference with NCAA President Myles Brand; the Friday team practices and press conferences in the Superdome; the NABC trade show and national convention; the NABC All-Star Game and the NCAA's Hoop City. Students also have the option to cover other free events during the NCAA Final Four weekend but may only submit one story as their competition entry.

The winners of the writing contest will be judged by members of the Loyola University communication faculty. The winners will have their scholarships applied to the college or university to which they are attending.

The scholarships provided by the USBWA are given in memory of former USBWA president and Basketball Times publisher Larry Donald, who passed away unexpectedly in the late fall of 2000.

Donald is remembered not only for his passion for the game of college basketball and his love to write about it, but also for the pride he took in developing young sports writers.

Many of today's top basketball writers first got their start by writing for Basketball Times.

"People wrote for Larry for one reason - respect," said his close friend Dick Vitale, ESPN announcer and Basketball Times columnist. "He loved the game. He had great integrity and always shared his feelings and opinions. He was as honest as could be."

This is the fourth time that the USBWA has hosted a sports-writing seminar and the third straight year the organization has held it in conjunction with a collegiate journalism program in the city hosting the NCAA Final Four.

The first USBWA seminar was held in St. Louis in 1999 over the Thanksgiving holiday. Students heard sports writers talk about their profession, then took what they learned and applied it by writing about a basketball tournament the organization sponsored.. The seminar was a huge success and very popular with students. But when the tournament the USBWA sponsored went away, the seminar was in jeopardy of dying also, only to be saved when USBWA President Alex Wolff stepped in and suggested holding it during the week of the NCAA Final Four.

Executive Director

BY JOE MITCH
MVC



The first USBWA Final Four seminar was in Minneapolis in 2001, where more than 150 students participated. It was hosted by the University of Minnesota School of Journalism. Last year the University of Georgia J-School hosted the seminar in Atlanta.

"We proved it could work in St. Louis, and we felt it was important to keep it going," recalls Wolff. "It has become a mainstay for our organization during the Final Four."

At press time, the USBWA was finalizing details with CBS for a Player of the Year Show that is scheduled to air at 3:30 p.m. EST Saturday, April 5, prior to the semifinal games of the NCAA Final Four. CBS has aired the show for the past six years.

The show features the USBWA's Oscar Robertson Player of the Year along with the USBWA's men's and women's all-America teams, the men's and women's coach of the year and a special tribute to the USBWA's Most Courageous Award recipient.

Congratulations to my friend and associate in the Missouri Valley Conference Jack Watkins for being selected to receive the USBWA's Katha Quinn Award for service to the media and lifetime inspiration.

No one is more deserving of this award than Jack. He and his wife Genny cared for their daughter Kate for six very difficult years. There were countless number of trips to the hospital emergency room, many surgeries and numerous nights in the hospital when they stayed at their daughter's bedside.

Yet all through this time, Jack never once wavered while performing his duties as PR director for the MVC and media coordinator for several NCAA tournaments in St. Louis. USBWA President Bob Ryan called the press setup at last year's NCAA First and Second Rounds at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis the best he had ever seen. It was a few short weeks after that NCAA Tournament ended that Jack and Genny Watkins' daughter Kate died.

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USBWA Schedule of Events at the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans

Thursday, April 3 Sports-writing Seminar at Loyola University (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)
Past Presidents' Dinner (8 p.m., site TBA)

Friday, April 4 Board of Directors Meeting and Breakfast with the NCAA
Basketball Committee (7:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency)

Saturday, April 5 USBWA Player of the Year Show, CBS, 3:30 p.m. EST

Monday, April 7 Annual Awards Breakfast and Business Meeting (9 a.m. Hyatt
Regency)

Submit your ballot; help protect USBWA's integrity

Vote.

I hope everybody understands that message, but let me make myself perfectly clear: Make sure you vote.

As somebody who grew up in the Chicago-area, I understand how these things called elections work. (Do I know any dead people who voted? I'll never tell.) And as somebody who has served on the Board of the Directors of the United State Basketball Writers, I also understand how the post-season hoops award system works.

So all I can say, again, is this:

Please, please, please vote.

It's that time of the year when the USBWA is distributing, collecting and tabulating the ballots for its all-district teams, all-American teams and Player of the Year.

And if I could ask for anything from the membership, it would be this: Please take the time to consider all the top players in your area and vote for all those awards.

You'd be surprised at how many members fail to vote. I know that the first time I tabulated the ballots in District 4, which includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, I was amazed at how many returned ballots I received.

Not many.

One year it was fewer than 20 ballots. I don't ever remember receiving more than 30 ballots. Not once.

I understand that our membership is not as extensive as the list of voters for the Heisman Trophy. But I always wondered why participation was so meager. Lots of lazy and disinterested people out there.

Vice President
By RICK BOZICH
Louisville Courier Journal



And what I really worried about was this: Some years there were more ballots filed by members of sports information staffs than by members of newspaper staffs.

Nothing against SID, folks. Not at all. Most are professional and helpful in providing information about their teams and players.

But when I received three or four identical ballots from members at the same school that contained votes for players who were borderline worthy for either all-district or all-American recognition, I worried about the prestige of the teams we selected.

The idea is to honor the best players, not the best publicity staffs.

There's a simple solution to that problem. Our teams are less susceptible to being manipulated by eager and aggressive SID staffs when more newspaper writers remember to vote.

And the USBWA post-season teams are certainly worth publicizing.

Our first post-season awards were given during the 1956-57 season. You'll find names such as Elgin Baylor, Wilt Chamberlain and Hot Rod Hundley on the first USBWA all-American team.

In 1959, Oscar Robertson was awarded our first Player of the Year award, a major reason his name is on the USBWA Player of the Year award today.

Bill Bradley, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Pete Maravich, Bill Walton, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan and Tim Duncan are all players that we have recognized.

So please do the one thing you can do to maintain the prestige of four awards that has been built over more than 40 years:

Vote.

Please.

Title IX benefits more far-reaching than you imagine

There will be far more ink committed to newsprint on the gender politics of Augusta National this April than there has been to the federal review of Title IX.

But one of those issues is only symbolic in the lives of women.

The other has been an important factor in the evolution of women's experience for 30 years, from high school playing fields to the educations paid for by athletic scholarships to the far-reaching impact on the Olympics and even careers outside sports.

Yes, Title IX can be rather dry, but it has infinitely more impact on ordinary Americans than whether a few privileged women will be allowed to join a private golf club.

Maybe we should make a point of diverting a little more of the ink we control to more relevant stories-and that certainly includes the young men whose wrestling careers disappeared as administrators tried to make the numbers work in a compliance formula that could use tweaking.

Despite widespread concern that the federal commission chaired by Stanford Athletic Director Ted Leland would recommend sweeping changes to the 1972 legislation requiring gender equity at institutions that receive federal funds, those fears proved unfounded. The Bush administration doesn't appear poised to turn Title IX into some shadow of itself, some Title 4.5.

As the panel prepared its report for Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige, Leland—clearly an advocate for women's sports at Stanford—balanced on a rail, both praising the legislation's effects and questioning how it is enforced.

One compromise in particular seemed fair enough. When using the proportionality standard that requires campus athletic opportunities to reflect the percentage of women and men in the student body, allow non-scholarship

walk-on players to be eliminated from the equation.

After all, the bottom line in most gender-equity cuts is financial.

And the real problem in counting tit for tat, most people know, is football and its mammoth roster, for which there is no female equivalent. You could start a thunderstorm in Nebraska in January if you suggested trimming a few football scholarships, but it isn't the most outlandish thought.

In the end, it's OK for Title IX to evolve.

It's not OK for it to go backward.

And particularly for those of us who have benefited, directly or indirectly, it's not OK to ignore it.

I include myself in that, though I've never been oblivious in the way of, say, Jennifer Capriati, who last year at the U.S. Open had no response to a question about Title IX.

"I have no idea what Title IX is," Capriati said. "Sorry."

It's not that women should be compelled to carry a banner, but that we should all be conscious of what brought us to this point.

Vice President
By ROBYN NORWOOD
LOS ANGELES TIMES



Maybe I need to finally complain that the column on men's basketball I write in the Los Angeles Times is labeled simply, "On College Basketball," while the column my colleague Mike Terry writes on women's basketball is labeled "Women's Basketball."

And just to get inside the skin of some of the people who struggle with this Title IX issue, let's imagine for only a moment that newspapers in this country weren't guaranteed freedom of the press.

Say newspapers received federal funds, and therefore had to comply with Title IX—as measured in column inches.

That would stir some emotion.

So just as an exercise in expanding our circles, let's consider going out during the off-season to do a story we wouldn't normally do.

Maybe, just maybe, there might be something in it for you.

You might become the reporter the next Marion Jones remembers from high school or college when she's the center of attention at Olympics.

Watkins inspires, wins Katha Quinn Award



Jack Watkins, with wife Genny and daughter Kate.

So graceful, so selfless and professionally steadfast was Katha Quinn in the face of great personal adversity that she inspired an award in her name.

Jack Watkins, its 2003 recipient, embodies her spirit as closely as any of the 14 honorees who preceded him.

Watkins, 40, is in his 11th season with the Missouri Valley Conference, where he oversees media services and public information.

Prior to that, the Missouri native was an assistant sports information director at Kansas State and Missouri, his alma mater. Few in the business have been more unfailingly courteous and accommodating. What few others knew, and what Watkins never let show, was the strain he shared at home with his wife, Genny, in dealing with the disability and death of their only child.

Kate Watkins was born with four of the five symptoms of Walker-Warburg Syndrome, a brain, eye and muscle affliction that required her to undergo 18 operations and spend almost a quarter of her life in St. Louis' Children's Hospital. She was only 36 inches long and weighed 32 pounds when she died a month and a half shy of her seventh birthday last April 26.

"She didn't want any pity. She just wanted to be loved, and that's what we tried to give her every day," Watkins says. "When it comes to your kids, you do whatever it takes."

He applied that to his job, as well. Watkins moderated MVC coaches' teleconferences from his daughter's hospital room. Days that had to be devoted to her were followed by

nights as late as 1 and 2 a.m. in his office.

Watkins never missed a Missouri Valley basketball tournament. He was a constant, helpful presence when the NCAA tournament came to St. Louis, serving as media coordinator for the 1998 and 1999 Midwest regionals, helping set up the 2001 women's Final Four, then again serving as media coordinator for first- and second-round men's games in the Edward Jones Dome last March. The sites were invariably among the best-run of their respective postseasons.

In the meantime, Watkins' 1997, 2000 and 2002 MVC men's basketball media guides were judged "best in the nation" by the nation's sports information directors.

It was four weeks after last year's Final Four that Jack and Genny buried Kate in Columbia, Mo.

Genny Watkins has overcome her own disability; a spinal tumor at age 5 left her with little use of her right arm and a weakened right leg. For almost seven years, she served as the vice president of Parquad of St. Louis, a non-profit organization that empowers people with disabilities to live independently. Since December, she has worked as the vice president for institutional advancement at Logos School in St. Louis, essentially a prep school for troubled teens.

"I am so proud of her," Jack says.

With the Katha Quinn Award, recognizing those who "like Katha provide an inspiration to those in the sports journalism profession," the USBWA is saying the same of him.

DuBose receives Courageous Award

The U.S. Basketball Writers Association has selected Rayna DuBose, a women's basketball player at Virginia Tech who has battled back from a life-threatening illness, to receive the Most Courageous Award this year.

DuBose was a freshman center on the Virginia Tech women's team last year when shortly after the season ended she was stricken with a rare brain and spinal cord bacterial infection, meningococcal meningitis, that caused her to lose parts of all four of her limbs.

She was in a coma for three weeks and nearly all of her vital organs shut down or malfunctioned. She had a heart attack, her lungs collapsed and her liver and kidneys were in failure.

Doctors told her parents, Willie and Andrea DuBose, that she might not live.

A month after she entered the hospital, amputations were required on all four limbs due to the damage caused by the infection.

The amputations were performed four inches below each elbow and six inches past each knee.

DuBose has been fitted with prosthetics on each limb and has vowed to walk, run and play basketball again. Doctors call her recovery a miracle and attribute it to her excellent physical condition. They thought she would be hooked up to a dialysis machine for the rest of her life.



Rayna DuBose

Instead, her kidneys are functioning on their own.

"My spirits are high," DuBose said in a news conference when she returned to Virginia Tech for homecoming last October. "I really don't think my goals have changed. Everything is still the same about me. I want to come back to school and graduate and play basketball, hopefully."

A fund has been set up at Virginia Tech by her coach Bonnie Henrickson to help with DuBose's medical expenses, which are expected to total more than \$1 million. Information on how to make a contribution is available at www.hokiessports.com/monogram.

DuBose is the 26th recipient of the USBWA's Most Courageous Award since it was first presented in 1979. Former USBWA Executive Director Steve Guback originated the award, which is presented annually by the association to recognize

individuals in college basketball who wage courageous battles in life in face of adversity and hardships.

The USBWA will present the award to DuBose at this year's NCAA Final Four in New Orleans during the association's annual awards breakfast on Monday, April 7, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Rayna will be accompanied by her parents at the presentation.

Hall of Fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which enjoyed a 15-year run on WGN radio, and spent 15 years on the nationally-syndicated "Sports Writers on TV."

Like Jauss in Chicago, O'Brien is a fixture on the sports scene in Pittsburgh. He has been hailed as "Pittsburgh's premier sports historian," having written 12 books about Pittsburgh sports over the past 12 years and 14 on Pittsburgh sports altogether. In 1998, he received an award at the Pittsburgh Men and Women of the Year dinner as "an individual who has exemplified the pride, spirit and excellence that exists in our city and who brings greater state and national recognition of Pittsburgh." He was also honored by Champions, Inc., a Pittsburgh minority organization as one of "20 Pittsburghers Who Make A Difference" at their 20th anniversary dinner.

In the world of basketball, O'Brien is known for his association with Street & Smith's Basketball magazine, the No. 1-selling basketball annual. He was the magazine's founding editor and served in that capacity for 23 years from 1970 to 1993. "We were among the first national magazines to give extended coverage to women and high school players," says O'Brien. This past year, O'Brien was named editor emeritus at Street & Smith's Basketball.

O'Brien has had newspaper stints at The Pittsburgh Press, The New York Post and the Miami News and wrote a column for The Sporting News for nine years. He has also written for Basketball News, Basketball Weekly and Basketball Digest and currently writes the Big East Conference report for Street & Smith's.

"You have made my day," said O'Brien, when notified. "I remember winning some writing awards from the USBWA back in the '70s. I also used to run USBWA weekly press luncheons in Pittsburgh in the late '60s."

"I am truly honored by this. I have a great deal of respect for all those guys who have been similarly honored. And I'm proud to be in the same class with Bill Jauss. He was a frequent contributor to Street and Smith's as were a lot of other writers in the Hall of Fame."

USBWA narrows player-of-year list to 15

The USBWA has narrowed its list of finalists for the Oscar Robertson Player of the Year Award to 15.

The Player of the Year will be named on Saturday, April 5, prior to the Final Four semifinals.

The finalists include:

Carmelo Anthony, Syracuse; Marcus Banks, UNLV;

Troy Bell, Boston College; Nick Collison, Kansas; Brian Cook, Illinois; T.J. Ford, Texas; Reece Gaines, Louisville; Jason Gardner, Arizona; Josh Howard, Wake Forest; Kyle Korver, Creighton; Hollis Price, Oklahoma; Ron Slay, Tennessee; Chris Thomas, Notre Dame; Dwyane Wade, Marquette; David West, Xavier.