

Marvin West to be inducted into USBWA Hall of Fame

Marvin West, a past president of the USBWA and long-time sportswriter for the Knoxville News-Sentinel and Scripps Howard News Service, has been voted into the USBWA Hall of Fame.

West, the USBWA president in 1983-84, joined the News-Sentinel in 1955 and covered Tennessee until 1979, when he became full-time columnist and associate sports editor. He was named sports editor in 1980.

He continued covering UT and college sports, including the Final Fours until he was named managing editor of the paper in 1983.

West then went to Scripps Howard to become the wire service's first sports editor, where he began again covering Final Fours in 1985 and did so until 1991. He became managing editor of the news service in 1995 and retired in 1998.



Marvin West

He was honored by his alma mater, the University of Tennessee, for his "distinguished sportswriting career," has won numerous writing awards and was named the state Sportswriter of the Year several times.

"Few journalists I know have worked harder in their careers," said USA Today College Editor Tom O'Toole, who wrote a letter supporting West's nomination.

"Though he covered as variety of sports, his first love was college athletics."

West will be inducted into the USBWA Hall of Fame at the annual USBWA awards breakfast on Monday, April 3, in Indianapolis.

He'll become the 48th member of the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1988.

A year with the gavel went by all too quickly

Perhaps it's a function of age, but it doesn't seem that long ago that we were leaving St. Louis and talking about the things we wanted to get done over the next 12 months. Now, in the blink of an eye, we'll be together in Indianapolis and be making our plans for Atlanta in 2007. Wow!

When we gather on April 3, it will be my honor to pass the gavel to Tom Shatel, a very active and enthusiastic vice-president. When you sit in this chair, you appreciate that.

Let me update you about where the USBWA has been since St. Louis and where we hope to go in 2006-2007.

- Through the efforts of everybody, we continue to steadily build our membership. The word has gotten out that there are a lot of tangible benefits (Marriott VIP card, handbook) for those who join the USBWA.

We have found that the media workroom at the Final Four is a great recruiting ground. So I'm going to ask that each USBWA member identify two people from his or her state who are not members and physically put a membership application in their hand (you can print it out from the website). Take one minute to explain why he or she should be a member of the USBWA. And remind them that the entire process can be done on line, if that is their choice.

And one more thing. We *must* make every effort to recruit more women and people of color. We have to reach out to them and make them feel welcome and comfortable.

- Change is always a little scary and we are undergoing some change with David Worlock taking over for Bill Hancock as the head of media operations at the Final Four. Several of us have reached out to David, who drew high marks for his handling of the College World Series, to let him know that the USBWA stands ready to help with the transition. David assured me that the media ops for this Final Four will follow the blueprint left behind by Bill, who has assured me that he will help David in any way he can.

In my conversation with David, I explained that the USBWA has always felt that it had a partner in the person occupying his chair. From Dave Cawood to Jim Marchiony to Bill Hancock, the person in that job understood the role

of the media and, when it was appropriate, was our advocate. I told David that we looked forward to having the same relationship with him, and he embraced that idea.

Accordingly, we have invited David to all our functions in Indianapolis. If you have the opportunity, please visit with him for a couple of minutes while you're in Indy.

- We hope to have more consistent access to wireless internet during this tournament. Please note your experience (what it costs, how reliable, etc.) and pass that information on to Rob Daniels of the Greensboro News & Record (rdaniels@news-record.com). Rob will then file a report to Tom, and we'll see where we go from there.

A word of warning: There are going to be some inconsistencies throughout the tournament. Hancock worked hard to get everybody on the same page with the idea of free or inexpensive wireless, but some buildings that already had contracts in place were a bit stubborn in the negotiations.

So instead of screaming at the local host (unless that is what it takes to get things fixed), just funnel the info through Rob, and we will present our findings to the NCAA.

- On Friday morning before the semifinals, Joe Mitch and I will be hosting our annual breakfast, where we will present the Oscar Robertson Award. Tom Shatel will chair our annual meeting with the Men's Basketball Committee. If you have specific issues that you feel must be raised with the

Tony Barnhart
President, Atlanta
Constitution-Journal



committee, send Tom an e-mail at tomshatel@cox.net. That will help Tom put his agenda together prior to the meeting. The e-mails can include problems with first- and second-round plus regional final sites. Be very specific about the problem and whether or not anyone tried to fix them.

- And finally, one of the things I want to do as I hand the gavel to Tom is have a very good sense of the USBWA's relationship with the Men's Basketball Committee. Obviously, we are all concerned about where the Final Four is headed in terms of access and our seating on the floor. We have several friends on the committee who understand the importance of what we do and why it is important to have us on the floor. The goal here has to be to better help them understand that this organization has played a significant role in the growth of the NCAA Tournament.

They also must understand that our desire to remain on the floor during the Final Four is not born out of a feeling of entitlement but is based on our strong belief that the USBWA and the media outlets that we represent have contributed significantly to the success of the NCAA Tournament. In short, staying on the floor may be good for us, but it is also in college basketball's best interests.

There you have it. Thanks for all your help during what has been a very fast 12 months. I'll see you in Indy. Last one to St. Elmo's has to buy the shrimp cocktail.

Oscar Robertson Trophy finds permanent home at Conseco

The USBWA has found a permanent home for its player of the year award, the Oscar Robertson Trophy.

At a news conference in Indianapolis in February that was attended by nearly 100 people, the USBWA announced the trophy will be on permanent display at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The trophy – a bronze sculpture valued at \$10,000 showing Oscar grabbing a rebound with his legs stretched out wide in a Cincinnati uniform – will be part of an ongoing exhibit at Conseco Fieldhouse, starting as early as this March.

The display will highlight Oscar Robertson's career and feature the association's player of the year award, including a listing by name and pictures of past recipients.

Conseco has similar exhibits in its main concourse of teams, players and coaches showcasing the state of Indiana's rich basketball history.

The permanent display of the USBWA's Oscar Robertson Trophy at Conseco Fieldhouse is fitting and a natural choice.



Oscar's stellar basketball career began in high school in Indianapolis when he led Crispus Attucks High School to two straight high school championships in 1955 and 1956.

In 2000, when the NCAA Final Four was last played in Indianapolis, the National Association of Basketball Coach named Oscar the "Player of the Century."

The display is expected to be ready in time for the NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis, April 1-3.

Bill Benner is responsible for getting the USBWA's player of the year trophy permanently displayed at Conseco Fieldhouse. Benner is a past president of the USBWA and former columnist for the Indianapolis Star and currently the assistant director of communications for the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association.

He worked on the project with Rick Fuson, executive director at Conseco Fieldhouse. Fuson's father, Wayne, is a former sportswriter and columnist, having worked at the Indianapolis News before retirement.

"This should provide the USBWA and the Oscar Robertson Trophy with tremendous visibility," Benner said. "Over a million people each year visit Conseco Fieldhouse. The exhibits are immensely popular."

At the news conference, the USBWA also announced that Conseco Fieldhouse also will be the site for the College Basketball Awards breakfast, hosted by the USBWA, on Friday morning, March 31.

The USBWA will present the Oscar Robertson Trophy and the Henry Iba Coach of the Year award and also honor Indiana's 1976 and 1981 national championship teams. Part of the association's tradition is to annually recognize teams, players and coaches for significant achievements in college basketball.

Addressing the media at the press conference and

representing the two Indiana teams were Quinn Buckner, captain of the 1976 Hoosier team and now vice president of communications for the NBA Indiana Pacers, and Ray Tolbert, MVP on the 1981 team and now sports director for a church in Indianapolis.

Spearheading efforts to honor those teams at the breakfast is Bob Hammel, also a past president of the USBWA and now retired after 44 years in the sportswriting profession, 30 of them covering Indiana basketball at the Bloomington Herald-Telephone and Times.

Hammel, working with the Indiana Alumni Association, wrote a letter that was sent to each member of those two teams, inviting them and a guest to the breakfast.

The breakfast will benefit the USBWA's scholarship programs and other association activities. A portion of the proceeds will also be given to the National Kidney Foundation in honor of Oscar Robertson, who donated a kidney several years to his daughter Tia, who was suffering from lupus.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$100 each and can be purchased on the USBWA website at www.usbwa.com.

It is with sadness that I report the recent passing of two prominent members of the USBWA – Jay Simon and Bob Logan.

Logan was a longtime member and former sportswriter for 28 years covering college basketball at the Chicago Tribune and later 13 years at the Arlington Daily Herald.

Simon died this past fall in Arizona where he had retired after serving as sports information director at Kansas and before that sportswriting stints at the Topeka Capital-Journal and Daily Oklahoman. He was inducted as a charter member of the USBWA Hall of Fame in 1988.

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From the news conference at Conseco Fieldhouse: Joe Mitch, Ken Beckley, president and CEO of the Indiana University Alumni Association; Ray Tolbert; Rick Fuson, executive director of Conseco Fieldhouse; Oscar Robertson; Quinn Buckner; and Rick Greenspan, Indiana athletics director.

Meet David Worlock, Final Four media coordinator

Bill Hancock has left the NCAA as Division I men's basketball media coordinator to run the BCS. Good luck, Bill. And we really mean it.

Hancock's replacement is David Worlock. He's 35, from upstate New York. He was a longtime Division II sports information director and has been with the NCAA since 2001. He's someone we should get to know:

Q: How long have you been with the NCAA?

DW: I started Sept. 10, 2001. The first day was training, down in the basement of the NCAA. So the first day at my desk was Sept. 11, 2001. It was very strange. I remember most people were watching the TV that day. Someone came up to me and said, "Who are you?"



David Worlock

Q: Where are you from?

DW: I was born in Herkimer, N.Y., between Syracuse and Albany. I was a military brat. My dad was in the army. I grew up in Germany. I remember watching the NCAA championship game every year over there at 3 a.m. I grew up a big Syracuse fan. The year Keith Smart hit the shot, I had to

shower and go to school in a bad mood."

Q: Where did you go to college?

DW: I went to college at Henderson State, a Division II school in Arkansas. I graduated in 1992. The next year, I became the school's SID, at 23. I was there until the NCAA hired me.

Q: What did you do for the NCAA?

DW: I was assistant director of statistics. I worked the stats for all Division III women's soccer, basketball and men's lacrosse. I've also done football and hockey.

My boss, Jim Wright, was the media coordinator for the College World Series. I told him one time I would love to go one year and help. In 2002, I went as a fan. One of the NCAA people couldn't make it so I ended up helping.

Tom Shatel Vice President Omaha World-Herald



When Jim stepped down from media coordinator of the CWS, I got the job. I did it in 2004 and 2005.

I think that helped me get this position when Bill left.

Q: Do you talk to Bill a lot about your job?

DW: I'm in constant communication with him. I prob-

ably email him an average of five times a day. Most of the time I "CC" him something I tell somebody else, just my way of saying, "Right, Bill?" Just to make sure I don't pass on wrong information."

Q: You joined USBWA, right?

DW: Yes. One of the first things Greg Shaheen told me when I took this job was to make our relationship with the USBWA a priority. I think we have a good relationship. I want to make it better. I want the members to know I'm open to all ideas with the championship, with regards to credentials, who should get them, the seating, etc. I want the USBWA members to feel like they have ownership in this event.

Q: One of our biggest issues with the tournament now is wireless. It's been inconsistent. And pricey at times.

DW: We are discussing that. What we're striving for this year is consistency at every site, whether it's first round or Final Four. Last year, some had it, some didn't, some made

it affordable, others didn't. We want it to be cost-effective. We're striving to be on the cutting edge of that. It will be available at all sites. The price, I don't know that yet.

Q: Anything new in this year's tournament the media should know?

USBWA NCAA Men's Final Four Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 30	Past Presidents Dinner, 8 p.m., Mo's Steakhouse in downtown Indianapolis
Friday, March 31	Board of Directors Breakfast with the NCAA Basketball Committee, 7:30 a.m., Marriott Hotel USBWA Player of the Year Breakfast, 8 a.m., Conesco Fieldhouse
Monday, April 3	USBWA Awards Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting, 9 a.m., Marriott Hotel

DW: Yes. We are changing the practice times for the teams at the first round sites, to make them more attractive to the media and help them meet their deadlines. It will be shorter times, so we can get the day over sooner."

Q: Do you have a stance on future media seating, at the Final Four and throughout the tournament?

DW: I do recognize that that is a big issue. I want you to know I will fight the (NCAA Basketball) Committee on that if it ever gets to a serious discussion.

Thanks, Dave. Look forward to seeing you at our board meeting and regular meeting in Indianapolis.

Open Office: You can't beat the price

We all want the latest, greatest, state-of-the-art tools that make our jobs easier, right?

Sometimes, though, we have to settle for what the company gives us or, frankly, for what we can afford.

While each of us has a varying level of computer/technology aptitude – from "Give me back my typewriter," to "Man, this new BlackBerry rocks" – I think everyone can agree that it's nice to be able to work with the best equipment.

Surely, everyone is accustomed to using Microsoft Office software, whether it's Word, Excel or Outlook. And, in most cases, your company will foot the bill.

However, for freelancers and others who may have to be budget-conscious, there is a choice in the matter. And, it's very inexpensive and even free if you don't feel the need for technical support beyond user forums.

Open Office is what is called open-source software from Sun Microsystems. Just go to www.openoffice.org and download it. It has programs that virtually replicate Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. For a writer's purposes, the most valuable program is probably Open Office Writer, the equivalent of Microsoft Word. And, all of these powerful Open Office programs are free.

If you want to step up in class a bit, purchase Star Office 8 from Sun, which you can buy for \$69.99, and then down-

load and install it from www.sun.com/software/star/staroffice/index.jsp. You can also buy it from Amazon.com (and get a \$20 rebate). Star Office 8 includes tech support. But, unless you are a very advanced user, you don't need it.

Admittedly, I was skeptical. How could this free software do anywhere near what the \$300-plus brand name does?

Well, I have used the free Open Office for several weeks now, and I have yet to find a case where it is not compatible.

You can save the files as actual Word (or Excel or

Powerpoint) documents. You can open other MS Office documents that may have been sent to you and, of course, you can convert any document to a .pdf.

It's great.

Nothing against Microsoft. I use FrontPage to maintain the USBWA website, and it has been flawless and affordable, and it's regularly updated.

But, unless you want to spend a lot more than you have to, Open Office – or Star Office 8 – provides an affordable and highly usable alternative Microsoft Office.

Ted Gangi USBWA Webmaster



Mike Sutton named Most Courageous

The winner of the US Basketball Writers Association Most Courageous Award continues to coach while battling the paralyzing effects of Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Mike Sutton, in his fourth season as head coach at Tennessee Tech, attended games and practices from his motorized wheelchair. Assistant coach Steve Payne walked the sidelines and acts as the head coach during games, but this remains Sutton's team.

Sutton, 49, collapsed in the parking garage of a hotel near Norfolk, Va., while attending the Portsmouth, Invitational for NBA prospects last April.

Sutton was put on a ventilator and underwent a tracheotomy on April 13. He was able to communicate by blinking his eyes.

By June, Sutton was able to move his legs and speak briefly. He was taken off the ventilator July 18.

He was able to watch video of practice in October and recruit prospects from his hotel bed. He was able to return home on Nov. 18 for the first time since he left the 2005 Final Four.

Sutton attended a Nov. 20 home game and made his first road trip on Dec. 17, to Cincinnati. He has attended each of the team's remaining games, sitting beside the scorer's table in his wheelchair.

Sutton has limited use of his hands and legs, but he can walk with assistance.

Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which affects one in 100,000, is a mysterious disorder in which the immune system attacks the peripheral nerves and weakens the legs and arms. It has no timetable for recovery and can be life-threatening. About 75 to 85 percent of those affected by Guillain-Barre Syndrome recover completely.

Recent recipients of the Most Courageous Award have included Grant Dykstra, who became Western Washington's leading scorer despite having to teach himself how to play left-handed when a grain auger auger mangled his right arm at age 2; Marquette assistant Trey Schwab, who received a double-lung transplant; and Rayna DuBose, a former Virginia Tech player who lost parts of all four limbs after overcoming a near fatal brain and spinal cord bacterial infection.



Mike Sutton

Join the USBWA at
www.usbwa.com.



Grant Wahl



John Feinstein



Ken Davis

USBWA Best Writing Contest Results (For the 2004-05 College Basketball Season)

Game Story/Spot News

- First Robyn Norwood, Los Angeles Times
Illinois wipes out a 15-point deficit in the final four minutes of regulation and hangs on in overtime to stun the Wildcats, 90-89, in Chicago Regional final
- Second Tom Kensler, Denver Post
- Third Mike Waters, Syracuse Post-Standard
- Fourth Steve Helwagen, Bucknuts Media Network (Columbus, Ohio)
- Fifth John Bohenkamp, The Hawkeye (Burlington, Iowa)

Enterprise or Investigative

- First Ken Davis, The Hartford Courant
How Villanova's shocking upset of Georgetown 20 years ago in the 1985 NCAA championship game changed the players' lives forever
- Second Vahe Gregorian, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- Third Wendell Barnhouse, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
- Fourth Tom Noie, South Bend Tribune
- Fifth Jason King, Kansas City Star

Moderate Length Feature

- First Gary McCann, The Herald (Rock Hill, South Carolina)
A look at North Carolina women's player Ivory Latta
- Second Grant Wahl, Sports Illustrated
- Third John Feinstein, Washington Post
- Fourth Lew Freedman, Basketball Times
- Fifth David Teel, Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)

Columns

- First John Feinstein, Washington Post
Tears of joy for retiring Vermont coach Tom Brennan
- Second John Clay, Lexington Herald-Leader
- Third Dan Wetzel, Yahoo! Sports
- Fourth Bud Withers, Seattle Times
- Fifth Ken Davis, Basketball Times

Magazine Length

- First Grant Wahl, Sports Illustrated
Mercurial scoring machine Rashad McCants of No. 1 ranked North Carolina has all of Tar Heel Nation worriedly trying to read him
- Second John Akers, Basketball Times
- Third Jack Styczynski, Eastern Basketball
- Fourth Vahe Gregorian, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- Fifth Dana Pennett, Philadelphia daily News

Plaques and checks will be presented to the winners at this year's USBWA Awards Breakfast on Monday, April 3, during the NCAA Final Four at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Indianapolis

Katha Quinn Award goes to Wayne Duke

The man who authored the Basketball Writers Association's original constitution and was a key person in the formation of the USBWA 50 years ago has been selected by the USBWA board of directors to receive the Katha Quinn Award for service and contributions to the organization.

Wayne Duke, former Big Eight and Big Ten Conference commissioner who was an assistant to NCAA chief Walter Byers when the USBWA was founded in 1956, will be presented with this year's Katha Quinn Award at the USBWA's annual awards breakfast on Monday, April 3, in Indianapolis during the 2006 NCAA Final Four.

As Byers' assistant, Duke was assigned the task to write the USBWA constitution and spearhead efforts to organize an association of sports writers to promote college basketball.

Duke was voted into the USBWA's Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1988.

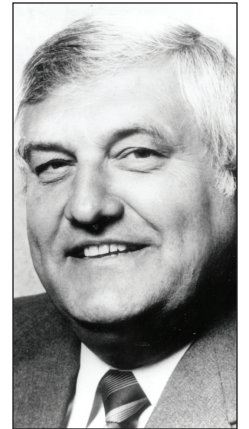
"With this being the 50th anniversary of the USBWA, there is no one more appropriate to receive this award than Wayne," said past USBWA president Malcolm Moran, who created the idea to present the Katha Quinn Award in honor of the former St. John's University sports information director. Katha was a beloved and nationally respected SID who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 1990.

Since naming the award for her following her death, the USBWA has honored a diverse group of individuals who like Katha have either excelled at servicing the media or provide an inspiration to those in the sports journalism profession. Recent winners include Mike Tranghese of the Big East Conference, Mark Asher of the Washington Post, Jack Watkins of the Missouri Valley Conference, Jim Marchiony of the NCAA and Steve Kirschner of North Carolina.

Duke pair lead POY nominees

Nominees for the Oscar Robertson Trophy, given to the nation's outstanding play by the USBWA, include:

Maurice Ager, Michigan State; Dee Brown, Illinois; Rodney Carney, Memphis; Randy Foye, Villanova; Mike Gansey, West Virginia; Paul Millsap, Louisiana Tech; Adam Morrison, Gonzaga; J.J. Redick, Duke; P.J. Tucker, Texas; Shelden Williams, Duke.



Wayne Duke