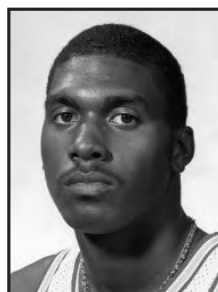


LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES

43rd Annual Awards Banquet

May 13, 2017
Embassy Suites Hotel
Baton Rouge, LA



John Williams



Mark Whitehead

*Celebrating 43 Years of Service
to Louisiana Basketball*

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PROGRAM

<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Coach Roman Banks</i> <i>Southern University</i> <i>LABC President</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>College Coach</i>
<i>Dinner</i>	
<i>Introduction of Master of Ceremonies</i>	<i>Scott Landry</i> <i>LABC Executive Secretary</i>
<i>Introduction of Head Table</i>	<i>Steve Schneider</i> <i>WAFB-TV</i> <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
<i>Introduction of Previous Louisiana Basketball</i> <i>Hall of Fame Inductees</i>	<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
<i>Introduction of Previous Mr. Louisiana Basketball</i> <i>Award Winners</i>	<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
<i>Hall of Fame Spotlight</i>	<i>Don Landry</i> <i>Founder of the LABC</i>
<i>Presentation of High School Awards</i>	<i>College Coaches</i>
<i>Presentation of College Awards</i>	<i>College Coaches</i>
<i>Presentation of Mr. Louisiana Basketball Award</i>	<i>Darrell Whitehead</i>

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONIES

<i>Inductee:</i>	<i>Presenter:</i>
<i>John Williams</i>	<i>Dale Brown</i>
<i>Louisiana State University</i>	<i>Former LSU Coach</i>

<i>Presentation to the LABC President</i>	<i>Coach Mark Slessinger</i> <i>University of New Orleans</i> <i>LABC Past President</i>
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>

2017 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Class C	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Tony Brown Atlanta</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Dirk Ricks Jehovah-Jireh</i>
Class B	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Brian Brown Negreet</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Carlo Maggio Hathaway</i>
Class A	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Greg Williams Lafayette Christian</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Charlie Williams Tensas</i>
Class AA	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Romin Williams Metairie Park Country Day</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Damon West Rayville</i>
Class AAA	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>C.J. Jones Wossman</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Paul Kelly De La Salle</i>
Class AAAA	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Davontavean Martin Ellender</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Albert Hartwell Washington-Marion</i>
Class AAAAA	<i>Player of the Year</i>	<i>Ja'Vonte Smart Scotlandville</i>
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	<i>Brian Gibson Landry-Walker</i>

2017 COLLEGE AWARDS

LOUISIANA JUNIOR COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

*Lasani Johnson
Bossier Parish Community College*

LOUISIANA JUNIOR COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

*Ricky Wilson
Baton Rouge Community College*

LOUISIANA SMALL COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

*Brian Sylvester
Louisiana State University at Alexandria*

LOUISIANA SMALL COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

*Larry Cordaro
Louisiana State University at Alexandria*

PETE MARAVICH MEMORIAL AWARD LOUISIANA MAJOR COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

*Erik Thomas
University of New Orleans*

TOMMY JOE EAGLES MEMORIAL AWARD LOUISIANA MAJOR COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

*Mark Slessinger
University of New Orleans*

BOB PETTIT AWARD LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

*Paul Millsap
Atlanta Hawks*

2017 MR. LOUISIANA BASKETBALL AWARD

*Mark Whitehead
Denham Springs, Louisiana*

2017 LOUISIANA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

*John Williams
Louisiana State University*

2017 HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CLASS C

Tony Brown – Atlanta – The 6-0 senior averaged 25 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists in leading third-seeded Atlanta to its first state championship since 1997 with a 32-7 record. He was the Most Outstanding Player in the Class C title game and was selected to the LHSAA All-Tournament team.

CLASS B

Brian Brown – Negreet – The 6-1 senior averaged 27.2 points and 11.7 rebounds in leading seventh-seeded Negreet to the second round of the Class B state playoffs with a 23-12 record.

CLASS A

Greg Williams – Lafayette Christian – The 6-3 junior guard averaged 14.8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals in leading second-seeded Lafayette Christian to its first state championship with a 30-5 record. He was the Most Outstanding Player in the Division IV title game and was selected to the LHSAA All-Tournament team. He was also the Most Valuable Player on the Lafayette *Daily Advertiser* All-Acadiana team. He is rated as one of the top 65 juniors in the nation by Rivals.

CLASS AA

Romin Williams – Metairie Park Country Day – The 5-9 senior guard averaged 22 points, 4 assists and 2.5 steals in leading second-seeded Country Day to the Division III state championship with a 28-8 record. He was named the Most Outstanding Player on the LHSAA All-Tournament team and in the Division III title game. He was also the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* All-Metro Player of the Year. He has accepted a scholarship to play college basketball at Emory University.

CLASS AAA

C.J. Jones – Wossman (Monroe) – The 5-11 senior guard averaged 21 points, 8 assists and 4 rebounds in leading second-seeded Wossman to its second straight Class 3A state finals appearance with a 26-9 record. For the second consecutive year he was named the Monroe *News Star* All-Northeast Louisiana Player of the Year and the Ouachita *Citizen* All-Parish Player of the Year. He was also selected to the LHSAA All-Tournament team and participated in the Louisiana High School All-Star Game. He has been a two-time first team Class 3A All-State selection. He has accepted a scholarship to play college basketball at Northwestern State University.

CLASS AAAA

Davontavean Martin – Ellender (Houma) – The 6-4 senior guard averaged 21 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 2 blocks in leading seventh-seeded Ellender to the Class 4A state finals with a 27-12 record. He was also selected to the LHSAA All-Tournament team and was named the Houma *Courier/Thibodaux Daily Comet* All-Region Most Valuable Player. He has accepted a scholarship to play college football at Washington State University.

CLASS AAAAA

Ja'Vonte Smart – Scotlandville (Baton Rouge) – The 6-4 junior guard averaged 25.1 points, 8.7 rebounds, 6.4 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.1 blocks in leading top-seeded Scotlandville to the Division I state championship with a 31-4 record. He was an honorable mention MaxPreps All-American and a second team MaxPreps Junior All-American. For the second straight year, the Louisiana Sports Writers Association named him "Mr. Basketball" in Louisiana and he was the Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year. He was selected to the LHSAA All-Tournament team and was named the Most Outstanding Player in the Division I title game for the second time. He is rated as one of the top 15 juniors in the nation by Rivals and 247 Sports and has been a three-time first team Class 5A All-State selection. This is the second straight year that he has been named Class 5A Player of the Year by the LABC.

HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

CLASS C

Dirk Ricks – Jehovah-Jireh (Baton Rouge) – This year he led top-seeded Jehovah-Jireh to the Division V state finals with a 33-7 record, which was the school's first state tourney berth since 2003 and its first title game appearance since 1998. This season the Warriors defeated the Division IV runner-up, as well as semifinalists in Division I and Class 2A. This is the second time that he has been named Class C Coach of the Year by the LABC.

CLASS B

Carlo Maggio – Hathaway (Jennings) – In his first season at Hathaway, he led the second-seeded Hornets to the Class B state finals with a 31-3 record, which was the school's first state tourney berth since 1961 and its first ever title game appearance. He was also named the Lake Charles *American Press* All-Southwest Louisiana Small Schools Coach of the Year and the Jeff Davis Parish Coach of the Year.

CLASS A

Charlie Williams – Tensas (St. Joseph) – This year he led sixth-seeded Tensas to the Class 1A state finals with a 26-11 record, which was the school's first title game appearance.

CLASS AA

Damon West – Rayville – This year he led second-seeded Rayville to the Class 2A state finals with a 29-6 record. He was also named the Monroe *News Star* All-Northeast Louisiana Small School Coach of the Year. This is the second straight year that he has been named Class 2A Coach of the Year by the LABC.

CLASS AAA

Paul Kelly – De La Salle (New Orleans) – This year he led third-seeded De La Salle to the Division II state championship with a 30-4 record, which was the school's first state title since 1986.

CLASS AAAA

Albert Hartwell – Washington-Marion (Lake Charles) – This year he led top-seeded Washington-Marion to the Class 4A state championship with a 29-4 record, which was the school's first state title in 30 years. He was also named the Lake Charles *American Press* All-Southwest Louisiana Large Schools Coach of the Year. This is the second straight year that he has been named Class 4A state coach of the year by the LABC.

CLASS AAAAA

Brian Gibson – Landry-Walker (New Orleans) – Despite playing only four home games all season, he led 22nd seeded Landry-Walker to its third state championship in four years with a 22-12 record, breaking the record for the lowest seed ever to win a Louisiana state basketball title. He was also named the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* All-Metro Coach of the Year. This is the second time that he has been named state coach of the year by the LABC.

2017 COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS

JUNIOR COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Lasani Johnson – Bossier Parish – The 6-3 sophomore guard averaged 21.1 points and 4.06 three-point field goals made (3rd in nation) and had a 40.1% three-point field goal percentage and a 74.7% free throw percentage. He scored in double figures in 30 of 31 games, including seventeen 20-point games and six 30-point games. He had single game highs of 37 points, 8 three-point field goals made, 4 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals. He led Bossier Parish to a fifth place finish in the North Division of the Region XIV Athletic Conference and to a No. 10 seed in the NJCAA Region 14 Tournament. He is the first Bossier Parish player to receive the Louisiana Junior College Player of the Year award since 2002.

JUNIOR COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

Ricky Wilson – Baton Rouge – He directed Baton Rouge to a second place finish in the Miss-Lou Conference and to a No. 4 seed in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament with a 17-9 record. This represented an improvement of 10 wins over 2016. This is the second time that Wilson has received the Louisiana Junior College Coach of the Year award.

SMALL COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Brian Sylvester – LSU-Alexandria – The 6-8 senior forward was a first team NAIA All-American, the Red River Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year, a first team All-RRAC selection and a NAIA National Tournament and RRAC All-Tournament selection. He was also a three-time RRAC Player of the Week. He averaged 14.0 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.03 blocks (8th in nation) and had a 60.4% field goal percentage (1st in RRAC and 3rd in nation). He had 10 double-double games. He scored in double figures in 30 of 35 games, including three 20-point games. He also had double figures in rebounds in 11 of 35 games. He had single game highs of 23 points, 15 rebounds, 6 blocks, 4 assists and 3 steals. He led the third-year LSU-Alexandria program to a No. 1 ranking in the final regular season national poll, to the RRAC regular season and tournament championships and to the semifinals of the NAIA National Tournament with a 34-1 record.

SMALL COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

Larry Cordaro – LSU-Alexandria – In his third season as a head coach and LSU-Alexandria's third season of competition, he directed the Generals to a No. 1 ranking in the final regular season national poll, to the Red River Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships and to the semifinals of the NAIA National Tournament with a 34-1 record. This represented an improvement of five wins over 2016 and was the most single season wins in Louisiana since 1938. LSU-Alexandria was ranked No. 1 in the nation for 10 straight weeks during the regular season. Cordaro was the NABC NAIA DI National Coach of the Year and the RRAC Coach of the Year. LSU-Alexandria led the RRAC in scoring margin (2nd in nation), field goal percentage (3rd in nation), field goal percentage defense (4th in nation), rebounding margin (4th in nation), assists (5th in nation), rebounding (8th in nation), scoring defense (9th in nation) and assist/turnover ratio. They also ranked 10th in the nation in blocks. This is the third straight year that Cordaro has received the Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year award.

MAJOR COLLEGE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Erik Thomas – New Orleans – The 6-5 senior forward was an honorable mention AP All-American and a CollegeInsider Mid-Major All-American. He was also the Southland Conference Player of the Year and Tournament Most Valuable Player, as well as a first team All-Louisiana and NABC All-District selection. He averaged 19.3 points, 7.8 rebounds, 2.28 assists and 1.47 steals and had a 58.8% field goal percentage (1st in SLC) and a 78.3% free throw percentage. He had 11 double-double games. He scored in double figures in all 32 games, including fifteen 20-point games. He also had double figures in rebounds in 11 games. His single game highs were 31 points, 13 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals and 2 blocks. He led New Orleans to the SLC regular season and tournament championships and to the NCAA Tournament with a 20-12 record. He is the first New Orleans player to receive the Louisiana Major College Player of the Year award since 2008.

MAJOR COLLEGE COACH OF THE YEAR

Mark Slessinger – New Orleans – He led New Orleans to the Southland Conference regular season and tournament championships and to its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 21 years with a 20-12 record. This was New Orleans' first conference title and most wins in 20 years. He was also the SLC and a NABC District Coach of the Year. New Orleans led the SLC in field goal percentage, three-point field goal percentage defense and assists. He is the first New Orleans coach to receive the Louisiana Major College Coach of the Year award since 1997.

PROFESSIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Paul Millsap – Atlanta Hawks (Louisiana Tech) – He averaged 18.1 points, 7.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.3 steals and had a 31.1% three-point field goal percentage and a 76.8% free throw percentage as a starting forward for the Atlanta Hawks, who finished in 2nd place in the NBA's Southeast Division with a 43-39 record. He started 67 games and averaged 34.0 minutes per game. He had 19 double-double games, scored 20 or more points in 30 games, and had 10 or more rebounds in 18 games. His single game highs were 31 points, 19 rebounds, 10 assists, 5 blocks, 5 steals and 3 three-point field goals made. He participated in the 2017 NBA All-Star Game, scoring 5 points, grabbing 5 rebounds and issuing 3 assists. He is in his 11th year in the NBA. This is the 9th time that Millsap has received the Louisiana Professional Player of the Year award.

2017 MR. LOUISIANA BASKETBALL AWARD WINNER

Mark Whitehead – Denham Springs, Louisiana – After 40 years as a basketball official, the past 29 working over 2,000 NCAA Division I games in eight different conferences, Whitehead hung up his whistle and striped shirt in 2016 to become the Coordinator of Men’s Basketball Officials for the Southeastern, American Athletic, Sun Belt and Atlantic Sun conferences. During his career he officiated in 23 NCAA Division I Tournaments, including 18 regionals, five Final Fours and the 2012 championship game in New Orleans. Whitehead is a native of Denham Springs and a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University.

2017 LOUISIANA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

John Williams – LSU – Player – 1984-86

Williams was a two-time honorable mention Sporting News All-American selection, as well as a two-time All-Southeastern Conference and All-Louisiana selection. He was the Louisiana Player of the Year in 1986 and a first team NABC All-District selection in 1985. He was also the Louisiana Newcomer of the Year and SEC Freshman of the Year in 1985. He finished his two-year career with 1,046 points for a 15.8 average and 503 rebounds for a 7.6 average. In 1986 he averaged 17.8 points and 8.5 rebounds in leading LSU to the NCAA Final Four. He averaged 13.4 points and 6.6 rebounds in 1985. He was also the MVP of the 1986 SEC Tournament, averaging 24 points and 15 rebounds, including a tournament record 20 rebounds in one game. He was the 12th player selected in the first round of the 1986 NBA Draft.

BANQUET SPONSOR

The 43rd Annual LABC Awards Banquet is sponsored by the Baton Rouge Orthopaedic Clinic, a comprehensive orthopaedic clinic with offices in Baton Rouge, Gonzales and Zachary.



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