

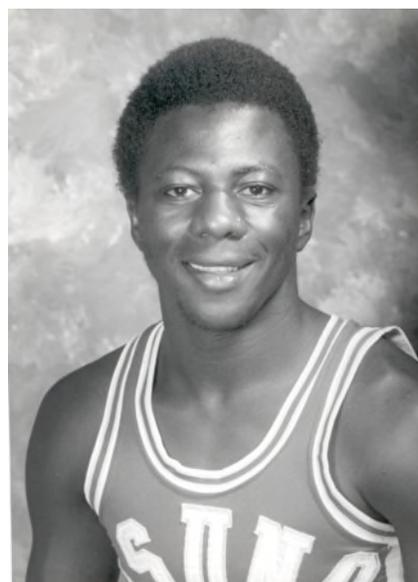
WILBUR HOLLAND

*Note: This is the **first** in a series of two articles on this year's inductees into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame. The 2002 inductees are Wilbur Holland and Xavier "Butch" Webster.*

PRIVATEERS' WILBUR HOLLAND TO BE INDUCTED INTO LOUISIANA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

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NEW ORLEANS --- Wilbur Holland, the first University of New Orleans Privateer to play in the NBA, will be inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame on July 25th in Baton Rouge. Holland becomes the third Privateer to be so honored, joining center Wayne Cooper (1992), former head coach Ron Greene (1996) and fellow 2002 inductee forward Xavier "Butch" Webster. The induction will take place during the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches' 28th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon, which will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge.



Holland led the Privateers to an outstanding 44-16 mark during his two seasons. He returned the program to its successful beginnings after the program dipped following the graduation of the first varsity team which took the floor in 1969-70. Holland pushed UNO to its greatest single-season turnaround of 12 games, from nine wins in 1972-73 to 21 wins in 1973-74. He led UNO to two straight appearances in the NCAA Division II Final Four and was selected to the Final Four All-Tournament team in 1975. He was also a two-time MVP of the NCAA Division II South Regional tournament.

Holland was a second team All-America selection in 1975 and a two-time All-Louisiana selection. He was inducted into the UNO Athletics Hall of Fame in 1990.

Holland became the first of eight former Privateers to play in the NBA. The Atlanta Hawks selected Holland in the fifth round of the 1975 NBA Draft with the 75th overall pick. He played in 276 games during his NBA career with the Hawks and the Chicago Bulls.

In his four-year NBA career he scored 3,760 points, averaged 13.6 points per game, shot 45.2% from the field and 79.9% from the charity stripe. In his final two seasons in the league he played in all 82 regular season games with the Bulls. He then played professionally in Europe for four seasons before retiring from the game and returning to Columbus, Georgia in 1984.

“He had the best jump shot that I had ever seen,” said former UNO point guard and current Birmingham Southern head coach Duane Reboul. “We played against each other during the off-season after I graduated. He has to rank up there with the best shooters that have ever played in New Orleans.”

A pure, left-handed shooter, Holland connected on 47% of his field goal attempts and finished his Privateer career as the second leading scorer in UNO history, with 1,346 points (currently ranks seventh). His career 22.8 scoring average is good for fourth best all-time at UNO. He shot 84.1% for his career at the free throw line. He averaged 25.2 points (9th in nation) in 1975 and 20.3 points in 1974.

A transfer from Morristown (Tenn.) Junior College, Holland scored in double figures in 56 of 59 career games and is tied with fellow inductee Butch Webster for most 30 point scoring games in school history with 13. He finished his career scoring at least 20 points in 41 games, and his 756 points scored during his senior season of 1974-75 remains the most ever by a Privateer in a single-season. His single-game scoring high was 42 points against Wabash College on December 31st, 1974. In that game he scored 27 points in the first half as he connected on 12 field goals and three free throws. The 42 points is the fifth best single game scoring output in UNO history.

One of Holland's best games in his first season was a 39-point effort against Northeast Louisiana (now UL-Monroe) on January 30th, 1974. UNO also returned to the national spotlight that season, finishing the year ranked No. 15 and then finishing No. 9 following his senior season.

The Privateers won 11-straight games to start the 1974-75 season enroute to a 23-7 record, a return trip to the NCAA Division II Final Four and a spot in the national championship game. Holland's 28 points led the Privateers in the title game, but UNO lost by a bucket to Old Dominion, 76-74.

During Holland's two seasons, UNO was 26-3 playing at the “Chamber of Horrors”, the H&PE Center located on the main UNO campus. The team had a 7-1 overtime record, the highest two-year overtime win total in school history.

The Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame, which is located in LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches. The Hall of Fame was created in 1975 to honor former great basketball players and coaches from Louisiana colleges.

In addition to the induction of the new Hall of Fame members, the July 25th noon luncheon will include recognition of Louisiana's major college, small college, junior college and high school players and coaches of the year, the top pro player from the state and the presentation of the prestigious Mr. Louisiana Basketball award.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 and can be obtained by contacting the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge. The Embassy Suites Hotel is located at 4914 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge (exit 158 off Interstate 10).