

**MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL  
HALL OF FAME**



**INAUGURAL CLASS  
MARCH 18, 2018**

**MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL**  
**HALL OF FAME**  
**MISSION IS RECOGNITION**



**MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL**  
**HALL OF FAME**  
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**EXPLANATION OF CEREMONY**

DAHNTAY JONES

BOB PUGH

EMIL WANDISHIN

SHELLY DEARDEN

KATE LARKIN

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NICK WERKMAN

GARY BUSHELLI

NORM VANARSDALEN

BOB PUGH

HOLLIS COPELAND

SHELLY DEARDEN

FATHER CLARENCE O’SHEA

LINDA WEISE

VICKY PICOTT

GARY BUSHELLI

GREG GRANT

LINDA WEISE



## **Dahntay Jones**

Dahntay Jones is a professional basketball player, sports analyst, businessman and philanthropist widely respected as one of the strongest defenders in NBA history. Jones' dominated the sport for more than 14 seasons and received the highest honor, an NBA world championship with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016.

*"Dahntay Jones is a true professional. Competing against this guy, you always knew that you had to be locked in every time he stepped out on the floor. We had a lot of faith in Dahntay and he had a lot of faith in himself. Thank you, Dahntay."*  
-- Lebron Jam

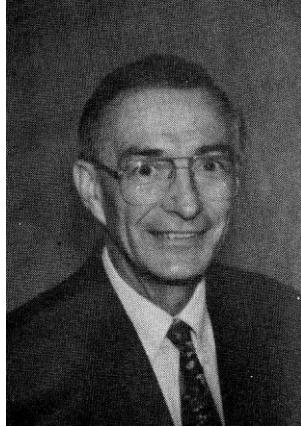
Dahntay attended Steinert High School who led his team to a State Championship in his senior year. The thousand point scorer and Steinert High School graduate first enrolled in Rutgers University before transferring to Duke University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy. He was academically gifted and a standout talent in basketball, averaging 18 points per game in his senior year, leading the team in scoring.

The 6'6", 215lb guard recently completed Harvard University Business School's MBA: Crossover into the Business program in 2017 and has received numerous accolades including being named Honorable Mention All-American by AP in 2003, voted to All-ACC Defensive Team 2002/2003 and All-ACC 1st Team in 2003.

In 2001, Jones' won the Gold Medal at the World Championship for Young Men with the U.S. Team, earned All-Tournament honors in the ECAC Holiday Festival in 2000 and was named to the Big East All-Rookie Team in 1999.

Jones is frequently seen delivering commentary and expert basketball analysis on ESPN and has proven to be a force on and off the court by actively volunteering his time and talent in each NBA city, providing partnership, mentorship and support to programs targeting minorities and youth.

Jones is married to Google executive Valeisha Butterfield-Jones, and the father of five children.



## **Emil Wandishin**

Emil Wandishin fondly known as Mr. Basketball of Ewing High School has been selected to the inaugural class of the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame. Emil attended High School in Hazelton, Pennsylvania and continued his successful playing career at St. Francis where he was a star point guard and led his team to its first N.I.T. bid.

Emil began his coaching career as an assistant coach at St. Francis followed by his introduction to high school coaching as a Junior High School Coach before his debut as the Varsity Basketball Coach at Ewing High School in 1965. In the next 27 years Emil won 491 games while only losing 208, a winning percentage of over 70 percent. Emil's Ewing High School teams reached five state championship games winning titles in 1992 and 1996. He also claimed six NJSIAA Central Jersey Championships as well as numerous CVC and Mercer County Championships.

Emil has received numerous Coach of the Year Awards, was inducted into the Hazleton High School Hall of Fame and Ewing High School Hall of Fame. He received the V Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colonial Valley Conference and Ewing High School has named its gymnasium in Emil's honor.

All of these achievements aside Emil is greatly respected as a tremendous educator, mentor and role model for the athletes under his tutelage as coach at Ewing High School. He has always been admired for his knowledge, leadership abilities, as well as, his focus on sportsmanship. He is truly a mold of young men.

Emil now spends most of his time with his wife of 61 years Doris and his family, son and daughter-in-law John and Denise, son David and grandchildren Ashley, Jenna, Clayton and Anne.



## **Kate Larkin**

Kate Larkin graduated from McCorristin High School (formerly St. Anthony's), in 1980.

During her high school career, Kate helped lead the Lady Mikes to a four-year record of 85-17, including two state championships. Over her final three seasons, St. Anthony-McCorristin was 37-1 against Colonial Valley Conference opponents.

Kate was named to the All-Mercer County Team for four years, the All-State team junior and senior years, and High School All-American her senior year.

Kate scored 1,000 points in her sophomore year, ended her high school career with 2,745 points, and still holds the Mercer County male and female all-time scoring record.

After one year at Old Dominion University, Kate transferred to LaSalle College (now University). She graduated from LaSalle in 1984 with a B.S. in Computer Science, and later earned an M.B.A. in Finance from Widener University. While at LaSalle, Kate was named an Academic All-American.

Kate recently relocated back to New Jersey from southern California and is currently Vice President, Pricing, Contracting and Government Programs at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company located here in Mercer County.



## **George O'Gorman**

Always a fan of sports and after playing baseball, soccer and football in high school he found even greater joy in covering sporting events.

He began when he was a student at Trenton Catholic and Cathedral covering games for the Monitor, the paper of the Diocese of Trenton, in the early 1960's.

During this time he served as the statistician for several of Fr. Clarence O'Shea's Trenton Catholic teams.

During his time in college he worked as the Sports Information Director at Mercer County College and also began reporting sports for the Burlington County Times.

He then moved to the Trenton Times in 1967 and was an integral part of their sports department until 1971 when he joined the sports staff at The Trentonian.

During his six plus decades at The Trentonian he has been the main beat writer for cross country, football, basketball, girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball and track and field.

He has covered the New York Giants football team for many years and reported on several Super Bowls.

George has served as a coach at St. Anthony High school in soccer and football. During his tenure as an assistant soccer coach with the Iron Mikes they won a state title.

For many years George played in the Mercer County and later the Central Jersey Flag football league.

He is a member of the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, the Steinert High Hall of Fame, the Mercer County Softball Hall of Fame and he has been honored by various groups and organizations over the year for his reporting.





## **Nick Werkman**

Nick Werkman fondly known as “Nick the Quick” has been selected to the inaugural class of the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame for his accomplishments at Trenton Catholic, Seton Hall University as well as being drafted by the Boston Celtics and playing professionally in the Eastern League and ABA.

Nick attended Trenton Catholic High School and was a member of four consecutive state championship teams. He blossomed even further as a scholarship player at Seton Hall University where he was a two time All American and led the NCAA in scoring in 1963. He scored 2,273 points in THREE years at Seton Hall highlighted by a 52 point performance vs St. John. Nick is one of only four players at Seton Hall to score 1,000 points and secure 1,000 rebounds.

Nick was drafted by the Boston Celtics and played much of his professional career with the Trenton Colonials of the Eastern League. Following his playing career he served as Athletic Director and Basketball Coach at Stockton College. Nick also coached and taught at Jackson Memorial High School. Nick is very much remembered for the camps and clinics he ran for over forty years as well as a distinguished career as a broadcaster and analyst for Comcast and Lighthouse Sports Network.

Nick has been married for fifty years to wife Harriet. He has two daughters Daun Ward and Tonja Werkman and a son Nick Werkman the fourth.

He has six grandchildren Zach, Tyler, Ella, Cole and Connor Werkman and John Patrick Ward.

Nick currently resides in Toms River, NJ.



## **Norm Van Arsdalen**

Norman Van Arsdalen is married to his wife, Thelma, and they have two sons, Keith & Scott, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

He began his education career in the Princeton Regional Schools where he served as a teacher, coach, coordinator of Physical Education, Athletic Director, special assistant to the Superintendent in Athletics & Physical Education and high school administrative assistant.

Norm officiated High School and College basketball for many years. He has had the opportunity to serve the major college conferences under the jurisdiction of the Eastern College Athletic Conference. He has officiated in the National Invitational Tournament, Holiday Festival, Quaker City Tournament, and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Finals. In addition, he has officiated numerous international tournaments and games including the First International University Basketball Tournament in Tel Aviv, Israel; World Basketball Championships in El Salvador, Central America; Athens, Greece; Tokyo, Japan and two USA Olympic Trial camps. His travels have also included US State Department Overseas Clinics with the University of Kentucky basketball team in Greece, Israel and Iran.

Norm has been the recipient of many distinguished awards including the Panzer Alumni Association Award of Honor for Distinguished Leadership and Central Jersey IAABO Board 193 Leadership Award.

Norm has been the driving force behind the inception of our local Board #193. He has been instrumental in helping many local officials (including myself) to move up in the officiating ranks.

Thank you, Norm, for all you have done for all of us!



## **Hollis A. Copeland Jr.**

Hollis attended Ewing High School, where he was an All-American in both Track & Basketball and graduated in 1974. Hollis committed to Rutgers University ('74-'78), where he ran track his first year, and started all four years for Rutgers Basketball Team. In his first two years, Rutgers completed in the NCAA post season tournament, and was successful in reaching The Final Four undefeated in 1976.

Hollis was blessed on their road to the NCAA tournament to win MVP in the ECAC tournament against St. John's. In his last two years, Rutgers competed in the NIT post season tournament. Hollis was an Honorable Mention All-American while at Rutgers, which earned him his shot at the NBA. Graduating in 1978 (BA), Hollis was chosen in the third round of the NBA draft by Denver Nuggets, but didn't make the team. A year later as a free agent, he connected with the New York Knicks, '79-'80 season, averaging 5.7 points per game, but was cut the following season.

Hollis took his skills to Zaragoza in Spain, where he was voted Most Outstanding Player ('80-'81). The Knicks signed Copeland to a contract the following season '81-'82, where during that season Hollis dislocated five bones in his left foot.

The financial industry was where he found his niche with Bear Stearns in 1988, and worked at a number of firms in the industry: Prime Charter, Josephthal Lyons & Ross, Monness, Crespi & Hardt, and Blaylock & Partners, and now is a Principal with Williams Capital Group, an Institutional Investment Firm.

Hollis has also acted in several commercials, and appeared on the Conan O'Brien Show on several occasions. And was also a somatotype model for the Michael Jordan flight man statue (United Center, Nike Flagship Store), as well as an NBA celebrity representative for Norwegian Cruise Lines, Jack LaLane Health Spa, Make a Wish Foundation, and Co-Chairman of the New York State and City Special Olympics.

In 1996 Hollis was inducted into the Rutgers Basketball hall of Fame. In 2003 Hollis was inducted into the New York City PRO-AM Hall of Fame. And in 2006 Hollis was inducted into The new Jersey Sportswriter's Hall of Fame. Hollis is also on the Rutgers Board of Trustees. A proud father of two children, Yasmin and Julian. And blessed to be married to the love of his life Delene Copeland for 35 years.



### **Father Clarence O'Shea**

Father Clarence O'Shea, the legendary coach of Trenton Catholic High School is a member of the inaugural class of the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame. Father Clarence was the freshman coach at Trenton Catholic from 1949 to 1952 and compiled a record of 70 and 13. He coached JV basketball from 1953 until the school closed in 1962 and compiled a record of 180 and 14. He also coached varsity basketball in 1954 until 1962 and had a record of 196 and 15. This translates into a record of 376 and 29 coaching both JV and varsity basketball. He played in six state championship games in his eight years as varsity coach winning three state championships. In 1957 his team was undefeated winning the NJSIAA state championship as well as winning the prestigious Eastern States Catholic Invitational Tournament with a record of 25 and 0.

Beyond these unbelievable statistics was the legacy of Father Clarence not only as coach but as a priest. To Father Clarence winning or losing meant the same. It was the participation and the process that counted. Outwardly calm and serene Father Clarence was an intense competitor. He loved the challenges of competing against Trenton Central, St. Peter's or DeMatha High School under legendary coach Morgan Wooten. He had enriched the lives of all those players who were members of the most successful teams of his era. The Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame is a well-deserved place for Father Clarence O'Shea.



## **Victoria Picott**

Vicky Picott while at Hightstown re-wrote the scoring records books when she finished her career, she became the school's all-time leading scorer (both boys/girls) (2,279 points), plus, in 1987 led the Rams for the Group 4 state championship. During her junior/senior seasons, Picott was regarded as a consensus High School All-American and was the regarded as one of the top forwards in the country.

Picott then went on to star for Coach Theresa Grentz at Rutgers University for four years. And, during her time at RU Vicky earned all sorts of collegiate honors, including being nominated as a Kodak All-American in her senior season. Picott was the Atlantic-10's Rookie of the Year her freshman year and went on to become an all-league performer from her sophomore season until her senior year.

Post college, with no WNBA to go to, Vick set sail for Europe where she played professionally for Etzella in Luxembourg where she played for one season. After that experience, Vicky headed home to coach at Rutgers for one season, then on to HHS for another before embarking on career in coaching basketball full time at the college level.

Vicki paid her dues early on in her career coaching at Drexel University, Temple University before taking off for Xavier University in Cincinnati when she coached under former Hightstown great Melanie Balcomb. With Picott's help the Musketeers became a top 25 team in no time and with that success, Balcomb and Picott headed south to Vanderbilt University in Nashville Tennessee.

There the two best-ever girl's basketball players from Hightstown made the Commodores one of the top teams in Southeastern Conference making it 12 of 13 NCAA tournaments during their tenure while capturing several SEC titles.

Honors: Vicky was inducted into the first class in the Hightstown High Hall of Fame, and upon graduation from Rutgers was inducted into the Scarlet Knight's Hall of Fame in 1998 finishing her career as the fourth leading scorer (1,792 points) for the Knights, plus was fifth in steals and third in rebounds with 1,029.

Following her senior season at RU, Picott was named New Jersey Sports Writers Association Player of the Year as well as a District II Regional All-American.

Vicky was selected to two Olympic Festival Teams in 1987 and 1989 and played for the Junior World Championship team that won a Gold Medal in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Being inducted into the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame is just another great honor and she is deeply grateful to become a member of the first-ever class in this distinguished Hall of Fame in county with such a rich basketball history.



## **Greg Grant**

In High School at Trenton Central High as a Senior Greg Grant averaged 24.6 points per game, was 1st team All County in the Trentonian and Times. In his three season at Trenton State College (College of New Jersey) Greg averaged a National Record 30.6 points for his career in 85 games. College first and only 2 time first team All-American 1987-1988, 1988-1989, All Time Leading Scorer in School history 1986-1989 ( 2,611 points in three season). Three times NJAC conference player of the year (1986-1989). National Record 1,044 in one season (1988-1989). All-Time Steal leader 301, and National record 144 steals in one season (1988-1989) National College Player of the Year 1988-1989).

Led college to 1988-1989 final four and National Championship, was named final four Most Valuable Player. Led nation in scoring 1988-1989 with a 32.6 average. Greg was voted greatest athlete in College of New Jersey history. Greg was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in second round 1989 NBA drafted. Scored season high 18 points against Boston Celtics and career 15 assist against San Antonio Spurs rookie season. Played with the New York Knicks 1990-1991. Played for childhood team Philadelphia 76ers in 1991-1993. Played total of 8 NBA season and three seasons overseas before retiring in 1999.

Greg started GGRANT94FT Academic Sports Academy 2004, now runs and operates 7 after school programs in the city of Trenton, give out yearly scholarships awards to Trenton Central High Students. GGRANT94FT have served over 9,000 students and over 300 yearly. He also served the Trenton Community by serving as the successful Head Coach at Trenton Central High School.

Greg is married to Hope Grant, has 6 children Austin, Amber, Jasmine, Ryan, James, and Tavian. Two grandchildren Olivia and Sophie.

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# **CYO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**

## **ALL STAR GAMES**

Friday, March 23, at the CYO Center located at  
920 South Broad Street in Trenton.

**Girls Tip Off at 6:30pm and Boys Tip Off at  
8:15pm**

Come out to see exciting basketball with the  
top players in the county participating, as well  
as the presentations of the prestigious Renee  
Keister and Jack Cryan Awards!



**CYO BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME**  
**DINNER AND AWARDS BANQUET**

Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Nottingham Ballroom in Hamilton, NJ, starting at 3:00pm

For more information, including nominations, tickets or sponsorship opportunities contact Patrick Hardiman at phardiman@cyomercer.org or call (609) 585 - 4280 ext. 102

[www.cyomercer.org](http://www.cyomercer.org)

**The CYO of Mercer County would like to congratulate all of tonight's inductees for this great honor, especially CYO Hall of Famers,**

**Kate Larkin and Nick Werkman, and long time CYO supporter, Val Ackerman!**



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