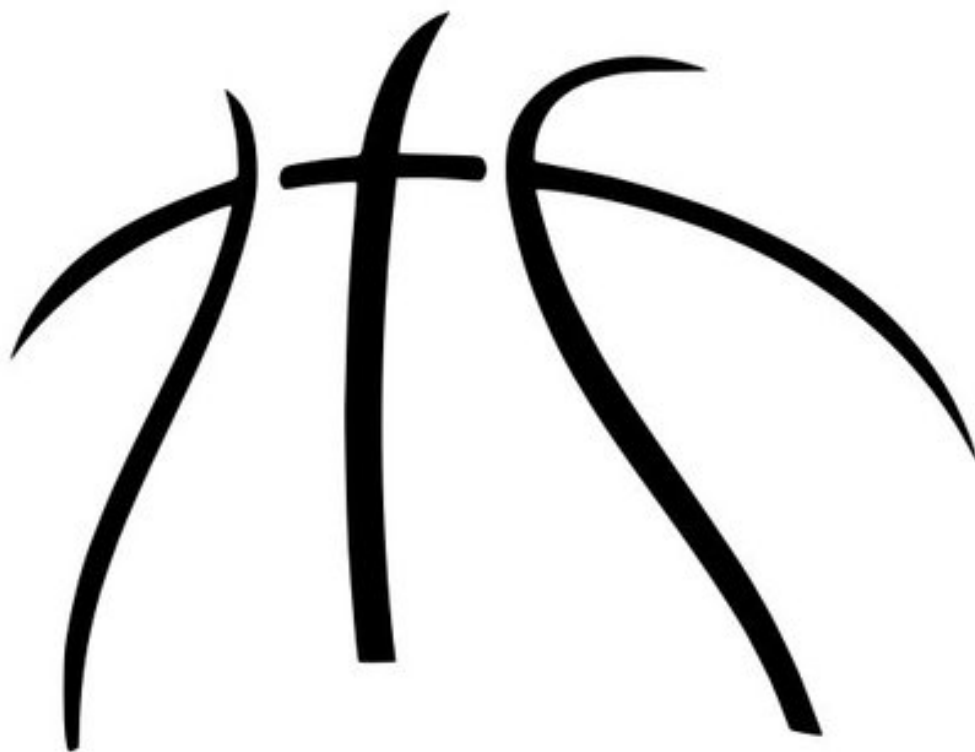


MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL



HALL OF FAME

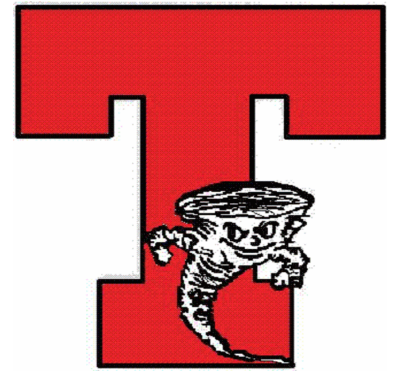


THIRD CLASS

APRIL 10, 2022

MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME'S

MISSION IS ABOUT RECOGNITION



MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL
HALL OF FAME
SELECTION COMMITTEE

Joe O’Gorman	President	Trentonian
Linda Weise	Vice-President	Allentown
Shelly Dearden	Vice-President	Ewing
Ann Demille	Member	Notre Dame
Harold Hall	Member	Trenton Catholic Boys HS
Bob Pugh	Member	IAABO#193
Bill Quirk	Member	Hun School
Kristin V Jacobs	Member	Steinert

WELCOME

PARADE OF INDUCTEES

EXPLANATION OF CEREMONY

Bob Pugh

Kristin V Jacobs

Sean Casey

Ann Demille

Deon Hames

Bill Quirk

John Castaldo

Linda Weise

Michelle Campbell

Ann Demille

Bryan Caver

Shelly Dearden

Mykeema Ford

Harold Hall

Jim Davis

Joe O'Gorman

Val Ackerman

Joe O'Gorman



Bob Pugh

Bob Pugh has been involved in high school and college basketball officiating for over 40 years. He began working top high school games around New Jersey before moving to the collegiate level as a referee, later as assessor and eventually to assignor.

Pugh served as the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) High School Basketball Interpreter for 18 years and was a member of the National Federation Rules Committee for boys and girls high school basketball for four years.

Pugh has been a Division I basketball official for the past 25 years. He was the ECAC coordinator for men's and women's Region XIX basketball for 10 years and is currently the coordinator for the New Jersey Athletic Conference Division III men's basketball officials. He also held the role of observer for men's basketball officials for the Ivy League for 12 years.

Pugh has received various recognitions for his accomplishments over the years. In 1995, he was awarded the Mercer County Community College Community Service Award and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Supervisor's Award. In 2002, Pugh was honored by the NJSIAA Sports Award for his contributions to interscholastic athletics. Two years later in 2004, he was recognized by the College Basketball Officials Association (CBOA) with the Metro New Jersey Service Award. He was also selected as the winner of the Bob Kanaby Award from the NJSIAA in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the sport of basketball in 2007.

In 2012 he was a recipient of the prestigious John P. Nucatola Honorary Life Membership Award presented by the CBOA to members who have made significant contributions through their commitment and dedication to support CBOA for the betterment of college basketball officiating.

Pugh began his career as a faculty member at Mercer County Community College in 1972. He served as a professor in the college's Division of Science and Health Professions and was awarded the Mercer County Community College Distinguished Teacher of the year Award in 2016.

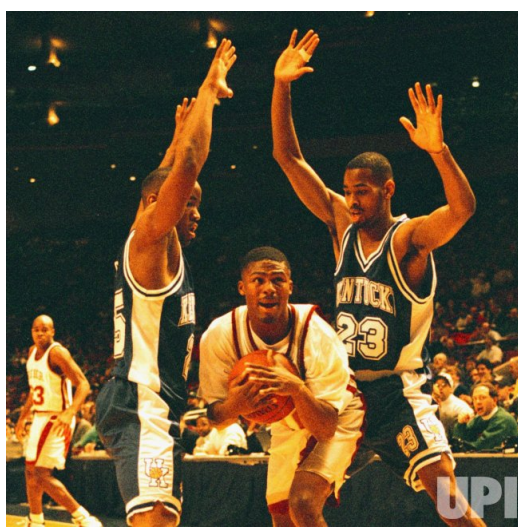
Bob retired from Mercer County Community College in 2018, with his wife Brenda, and three daughters by his side. In 2019 MCCC dedicated its new fitness center in his name.



Sean Casey

Sean Casey coached the Peddie Girls Basketball Team for 17 seasons from 1993-2010. His Peddie teams compiled a record of 329 wins against 88 losses and emerged as a power in Mercer County and beyond. They won 14 consecutive New Jersey Prep State Championships and 12 consecutive Mid Atlantic Prep League titles going an astounding 77-0 in league play. His teams played in the Nike Tournament of Champions on two occasions and were ranked in the top twenty-five in the country by Street & Smith Magazine and USA Today on six different occasions with their highest ranking of 7th in the country. In 2010, his Peddie team won the prestigious ESPNRISE National Invitational defeating the Florida State Champion Lake Mary and Oak Hill, Va. in the final.

Casey was honored as the Dr. James Naismith National High School Basketball Coach of the Year in 2010. During his tenure at Peddie, Casey coached twenty-two division-one basketball players including three McDonald's all American. Six of his former players played professionally in Europe or the WNBA. He was named the Trenton Times and Trentonian Coach of the Year on a number of occasions. Casey was inducted into the Peddie Sports Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Trinity Pawling Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019. He has served as Head of School at Franklin Road Academy in Nashville, Tennessee for the last eight years.



Deon Hames

Kenneth Deon Hames was born on January 14th to Miss Kathy Hames. He was raised by his loving & dedicated mother & grandmother, the late Ruth Hames. Raised in the Miller Homes Housing Projects in Trenton, NJ, Deon excelled at several sports during his early childhood days. He was voted MVP Of the North Trenton Baseball Little League in 1986. He was also MVP of West Ward Basketball in 1986 leading his team to back to back championships. Deon also was named All City Basketball, playing for Grant Grammar School. Deon was outstanding on the gridiron, playing for the Little Tornadoes Football Team. Academically he was enrolled in the Gifted & Talented Program and was a Honor Roll Student.

Deon played middle school basketball at St. Mary's Cathedral for legendary CYO Basketball Coach Jim Dill. In 8th grade his team, which was led by Deon and future Mercer County Basketball standout, Rashawn Glenn, and the late Jibri Parker would go 34-0 and win every tournament locally and regionally culminating with the CYO Championship in 1988. Deon was named regular season MVP, as well as also winning several Tournament MVPs.

Deon would attend the Hun School in Princeton NJ, and made an immediate impact on their basketball program. In the year before arriving at Hun, they went 5-22, Deon would be named to a starting spot his freshman year and would lead his team to a 16-11 record. As a freshman he was named 2nd Team All Prep in NJ, and averaged 14 points and 6 assists per game. Deon would then lead the Hun Boys Basketball team to the winningest three year period in school history. Hun would go 30-4 Deon's sophomore year (State Runner-Up), 28-5 Deon's junior year (State Runner Up), and 24-3 Deon's senior year, culminating with the school's 1st State Championship since 1976. Deon would be named First Team All Prep his last three years of High School and would also be named NJ State Player of the Year for Prep School in his junior year. In his senior year, he and teammate Rashawn Glenn, after capturing the State Championship—would both be named NJ State Player of the Year for Prep Schools. Deon averaged 22 points and 8 assists per game his junior & senior years of high school. Deon would twice be Co-MVP of Hun's Basketball Team, with backcourt mate Rashawn Glenn, as well as serve as team captain sophomore through senior year. Deon graduated in 1992 as the Second All Time Leading Scorer in Mercer County History with 1923 points and as the Mercer County assist leader with 822. Hames received many scholarship offers to continue his basketball career including; Villanova University. However, he decided to stay close to home and play for Rider University and Coach Kevin Bannon. Deon graduated from the Hun School with a 87 Average and was inducted into the Hun School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

As a freshman at Rider, Deon was once again named as the starting point guard by his 5th game, an honor he would have until he played his last game. As a true freshman Deon would average 11 points and 5 assists and would be named to the Northeast Conference All Rookie Team. Deon would help Rider get a bid to only its second NCAA basketball tournament, in 1993. He would be named Player of the Game for Rider against "Blue Blood" Kentucky, in a losing effort in the round of 64. In his sophomore and junior years he was named Team MVP as well as also being named First Team All Northeast Conference in his final three seasons. Again, in his sophomore year, he would lead Rider to its second consecutive NCAA tournament berth, and in his junior and senior years led Rider to the finals of the NEC Tournament. Rider has not been back to the NCAA Basketball Tournament since Deon graduated. He would also be named Honorable Mention All American in his sophomore and junior year. Deon would finish his Rider career with 1598 Points (5th All Time) and 604 assists (career leader). He was Inducted into the Rider Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002. Deon Graduated from Rider University with a Degree in Business Administration in 1996.

Deon would play three years professionally in Europe in the England Professional Basketball League for the Sheffield Sharks. He was named Newcomer of the Year in 1997 and would then play two more years before a knee Injury would sideline him.

Upon returning from his successful professional career in Europe, Deon would go to work for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank as a Private Client Account Executive. Deon would then transition into something he always wanted to do and that is giving back to the community. He worked with Young Scholars in Trenton, N.J. as the Coordinator of Events and Marketing Director. He currently works for Woods Services Counseling and Mentoring for at risk youths.

Deon is the father of three beautiful daughters, Kaiyla Alexis Hames (18) Nailah Hames (12) and Sanai Imani Hames (7). He is also the son of Miss Kathy Hames, stepson to Lonnie Basnight Sr, older brother of Lonnie Basnight Jr, older brother of Monet Shaniqkwa Basnight-Hames, and proud grandson of the late Ruth Hames.



John Castaldo

John Castaldo devoted his professional career to serving the cause of athletics by supporting the healthy development of young athletes. John's focus was first on building character, team work, and instilling a work ethic, and belief in young people – traits that are fundamental to true athletes, true teams, and honorable champions.

In 1983, John was appointed head boys' basketball coach at McCorristin Catholic High School. A position he held from 1983-1993. During John's 10--year career at McCorristin, his teams' racked up an abundance of achievements. They won seven Colonial Valley Conference Championships (1987, 1988, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1992), four Eastern States Christmas Invitational Championships (1985, 1986, 1989, 1990), won the Mercer County Tournament Championship (1987), participated in three NJSIAA South Jersey Parochial A Sectional Finalist games (1986, 1987, 1988), won three NJSIAA South Jersey Parochial A State Championships (1989, 1990, 1991), reached three NJSIAA Parochial A State Championship finals (1988, 1989, 1990), won two consecutive NJSIAA Parochial A State Championships (1988, 1989), and reached the Tournament of Champions Final Four two consecutive years (1988, 1989).

While at McCorristin, John's teams averaged 25 wins per year (from 1986-1992) and achieved a record of 191-32 during that time—an 86% win-rate. From 1986 to 1991 his teams went 22-7, 27-1, 24-2, 27-4, 27-4, 27-2, and 21-5, and set a Mercer County record by winning 98 out of 99 games against Mercer County opponents (including a 42-game and a 56-game winning streak). John's teams were consistently ranked among the top five basketball programs in New Jersey and they frequently broke into the mythical High School National rankings. Winning back-to-back NJSIAA Parochial A State Championships (1988, 1989) was a testament to a remarkable program. John had the distinct honor of coaching seven 1,000-point scorers (Guy Gundy, Gerald Posey, Noel Powell, Cory White, Bryan Caver, Blitz Wooten, Mark Bass, and Cameron Taylor).

During John's tenure, he was selected Coach of Year and was a two-time recipient of the Father Clarence O'Shea Award. John left McCorristin Catholic High School in 1993 with 210 career wins and at the time, with the distinction of being the all-time career leader in wins.

In 1993, John accepted the position of head men's basketball coach at The College of New Jersey (formerly, Trenton State College). In 1998, John led the team to a 22-5 record, won the New Jersey Athletic Conference Regular Season Championship (NJAC), and the NJAC Conference Playoff Championship (only the second team to do so in the College's history), and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, ranking as high as 6th in the country in the Division III NCAA National polls. In 1998, the team lost a hard-fought contest (59-50) to NCAA Division I Princeton University, which was ranked 4th in the country at that time in the Division I National polls.

John coached at the collegiate level for 14 years, during which time his teams were ranked nationally in the top five defensively for seven years. John coached another seven 1,000-point scorers and numerous All Conference and NCAA regional players. He also coached the team to numerous playoff appearances, including three consecutive playoff appearances from 2003-2006.

John was twice selected as New Jersey Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, and the New Jersey Collegiate College Basketball Association Coach of the Year in 1998. He accumulated 200 career wins and currently holds the record for most wins in the history of Trenton State College/The College of New Jersey.

In 2007, John accepted the position of Executive Director of Athletics at The College of New Jersey. The athletic teams flourished and ranked among the top 12 athletic programs in the country as noted in the National Directors Cup Rankings. He retired from The College of New Jersey in 2019 as the Executive Director of Alumni Engagement.

John was inducted into the McCorristin Catholic High School Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame in 2018. John and his wife Colleen reside in Hamilton Square, NJ and have three children and three grandchildren.



Michelle Campbell

Born May 12, 1984 in Waterloo, Iowa, Michelle Campbell is the daughter of Mel and Regina, and the second oldest of four girls; an older sister Melanie (George Mason University), and two younger sisters, Kristina (Hofstra University) and Korinne (West Virginia University). Her father played in the NFL, and mother a HOF track runner. Her sisters also played basketball at Notre Dame and beyond.

Having attended the Lawrence School System through intermediate school, she then attended Notre Dame for High School, where her basketball career would start to take shape. Under the guidance and support from her family, Ann Demille and Phil Merlino, she found love for the game and her career would start to take off.

While attending Notre Dame, Campbell had an impressive career racking up many awards. Her most notable were Gatorade Player of Year, Parade All-American, WBCA All-American, Student All-American, McDonald's All-American, Blue Chip Top 3 in the Nation, 1st Team All-State (2x), New Jersey Player of the Month, CVC Player of Year (3x), 1,741 Points Scored (All-Time Leader), captain and entered the Notre Dame Hall of Fame. After high school, Campbell was heavily recruited by most schools in the nation. She would narrow down to her top three schools, Rutgers, UCONN and NC State. Campbell decided to continue her education and basketball career at Rutgers University to play for legendary coach, C. Vivian Stringer.

In 2004, she earned Most Improved Player in the Big East Conference and All Big East, accredited to her great skill. She has always been a great leader and was captain again at Rutgers. Throughout her collegiate career, Campbell was also a 1000 Point Scorer, top in Field Goal %, member of Elite 8 and Sweet 16 teams, Big East Most Improved Player (2005), 3rd Team All-Big East (2005), 2nd Team All-Metropolitan (2005), Big East Regular Season Champions ('05,'06), Big East All-Academic Team (3.4 GPA), and Paradise Jam MVP (2004). Campbell was also part of the team that defeated three top-10 teams in an eight-day span.

Campbell would graduate with a degree in Journalism and Media Studies and a minor in Africana Studies. However, before she could walk to receive her diploma, she would start her professional basketball career at the Washington Mystics training camp and would ultimately end up in Korea for her first professional season. From there Campbell would play in Israel, Poland, Latvia and would spend 12 years playing in Turkey; she would also compete in Euroleague and EuroCup. Campbell's career in Turkey landed her among one of the top players to play in the Turkish league and she would become a Turkish citizen named Melisa Can.

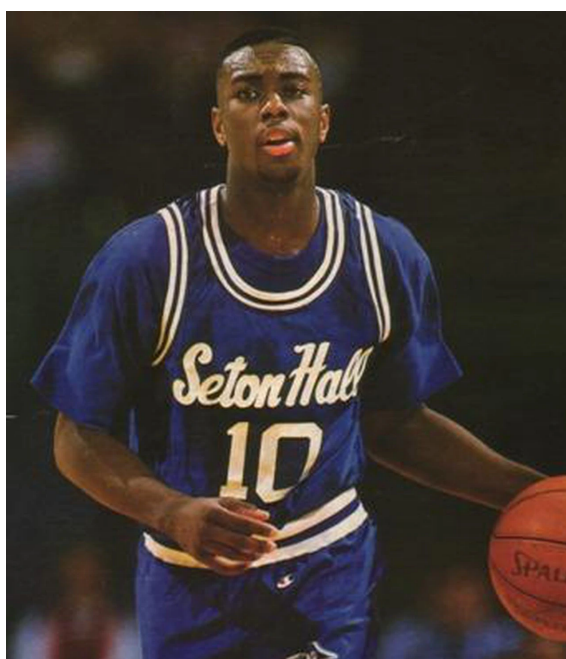
Throughout her overseas career, Campbell went to the Euroleague Final Eight, Eurocup Final Four, was a 2x Turkish Cup Champion, Turkish League All Star, and Turkish Regular Season Champion. She would also earn Turkish League Leading Scorer, Turkish League Leading Rebounder, Euroleague Top Offensive Rebounder, All-Turkish League Team, Euroleague Player of the Week (3x), and Turkish League Player of the Week(3x).

While Campbell enjoyed playing in Turkey and had an impressive career while there, she wanted to take another shot at the WNBA. Through perseverance, Campbell would debut for the Chicago Sky in 2013, where she was part of a playoff team, and first time that the Chicago Sky won the East regular season. While Campbell saw success at multiple levels in basketball, playing alongside Delisha Milton Jones, Sylvia Fowles, Cappie Pondexter, Diana Taurasi, and Essence Carson (to name a few); her other passion was helping girls get into sport.

Campbell would launch MichelleCampbellHoops(MCH) in 2008, which is a well- curated program for running clinics, camps, AAU teams and speaking events. This program was created to instill confidence in young girls. MCH alongside Franklin Moore would run the Philadelphia's school district girls basketball program for three years. This program was for girls to participate in basketball and to use basketball as a vehicle for life. In addition to her program in Philadelphia, she also ran Special Olympics Camp Shriver for 4 years. It wouldn't be wrong to say that Michelle is utilizing basketball to pave the way to success for little girls, and she is available every step of the way.

Topping it all, she has made her way into the business world and staying connected to basketball with her new career at Nike World Headquarters as a member of the WNBA/NBA Brand Marketing team. Campbell is one of the leaders of a Nike program called Game Growers. Game Growers is an exclusive chance for girls to be that hero and to help their community. Each of our 40 participating WNBA or NBA teams select two girls to serve as Game Growers Co-Captains and develop their idea to increase sports participation for girls. Through the success of Game Growers, the program has earned a HashTag Sports award for best Gen Z/ Kids activation. While Game Growers is Michelle's proudest moment so far at Nike, she is also leading WNBA/ NBA work at the brand. With her ability to connect with the consumer and extensive knowledge in the area, she has emerged as a marketing leader.

Throughout her career, on and off the court, Michelle Campbell's perseverance has opened many doors for her. For now she will continue to find new ways to impact change through her national and international connections.



Bryan Caver

Bryan's organized basketball career started at the CYO in Trenton, from there he went on to star at McCorristin, winning back to back "Parochial A" State Championships. Bryan earned Star Ledger First Team All-State Selection and was nominated as a McDonald's All American. He also attended a Nike Top 100 All-American Camp, and was named to Star Ledger's Top 10 Players All-Decade Team in New Jersey (1980-1989). From McCorristin, Bryan went on to star at Seton Hall University, where he led the Pirates to three consecutive Big East Championships. He is also one of two players in Seton Hall University history to go to four consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances (Final 8, Sweet 16, Field of 32 & Field of 64). During that time he also participated in the NCAA Final Four All-Star Game in 1994.

Caver also represented the United States in 1991 for the Men's Junior Nationals, collected a Gold Medal and was named Most Outstanding Player of those Games in 1991. After his collegiate and Olympic experiences he was ready to go Pro where Bryan played for a variety of teams like the Westchester Stallions and the Atlantic City Seagulls of the USBL. He also participated in the NBA pre-draft camp in Chicago, rookie camp and the Midwest Review with the Indiana Pacers, Nets, and Hornets. His professional career then took him to the CBA (Continental Basketball League) where he played with the Grand Rapids Mackers and with the Forte Wayne Fury and finally overseas where Bryan played in Australia for the Sydney Kings of the NBL.

Caver later turned to coaching locally and came back to his roots in Mercer County, where he has developed and trained basketball athletes for over 19 years; and has created the Caver Hoop Skillz System. Bryan has paced the sidelines of Mercer County Community College and Trenton Central High School. He is the director of Men's/Women Hoop Skillz Elite Summer Pro-Am's where he has NBA, Professional Overseas players, Division I, D2, D3, JUCO & Elite H.S. Participants.

Bryan C. Caver currently works for Mercer County Special Services as a Behavioral Interventionist. Bryan continues to carry out his family's community outreach work through Calvary Christian Fellowship Ministries Food Pantry, Youth Empowerment Sessions, Youth Summer Enrichment Programming, Hoop SKILLZ Elite Free Pop-Up Clinics in the city of Trenton, Mentorship through 501c3 non-Profit Hearts Matter and many more outreach projects throughout Mercer County.



Mykeema Ford

Mykeema Ford has been playing basketball since the age of 6 years old, which is when she began working hard towards her dream of becoming a great basketball player. She excelled at Trenton Central high school as a four year starter and varsity player from 1998 to 2002. She was named MVP all four years, also was named #1 guard in the state her junior and senior year. In addition to MVP, she was named Athlete of The Year and Player Of The Year in 2002. Trenton High won the Group 4 State Championship and were the eventual Tournament of Champions, when she received MVP honors for both games. Trenton made history by being the 1st girls team to win the Group 4 championship and the Tournament of Champions. They finished the season with a 31-1 record where she averaged 24 points and 8 assists per game .

In 2002 Ford finished as the All Time Trenton High leading scorer with 1,786 points. Her basketball jersey #23 was retired by coach Reggie Murray. In 2002 she was also honored by Mayor Doug Palmer with the Role Model of the Youth award and was granted her own day in the city of Trenton, which is August 19th, "Mykeema Ford Day." Annually on August 19th, Mykeema gives back to the community, in the city of Trenton, by running a basketball tournament, cookout, and 3 point contest. There are shirts and prizes given out to the youth.

In 2003, Ford was awarded a full basketball scholarship to Division 1, Stony Brook University. She excelled as the starting point guard for all 4 years and was also MVP for 3 of those seasons. She went on to break the three point record with 9 threes in one game, She was later named first Team All Conference for 3 years and was also the team's leading scorer. In 2006, she was named America East Player of the Year and went to the WNBA Camp with Washington Mystics. She played in two games before getting injured.

In 2008, Ford used her talents to create her own basketball camp called Ford's Focus at the West Ward Community Center, bringing in over 50 campers in her first summer. She continued the camp through, but moved the location outside, at Wilkerson Park, the park that raised her own game.

Tackling coaching next, she went back home and was blessed to be able to coach alongside her former coach and mentor, Reggie Murray from 2011 until 2016. During the off season, Ford still works with the youth of Trenton while training future basketball stars. Her goal has always been to continue to give back to the community that raised her and see the children in her neighborhood prosper both on and off the court.

As the accolades continued, in May of 2017, Ford was honored at the War Memorial building with the prestigious, Basketball Legend Award. And finally in 2019, she was inducted to Trenton High School Athletic Hall of Fame, which for her, was a dream come true. In 2022, it marks the twentieth year that her scoring record still stands, and hasn't been broken by a male or female player at The High.



James "Jim" Davis
1950 - 2004

James Davis was born in Atlanta, Georgia. His family moved to Trenton, New Jersey and James was educated in the Trenton public school system. James was a graduating member of Trenton Central High School, class of 1967. After attending college for one year in New Hampshire, Jim returned home with plans to enroll in Rider University. However, Jim was offered the unique opportunity to work for the local newspaper, the Trentonian. During his first stint with the newspaper, Jim decided to enlist in the United States Air force and marry his childhood sweetheart, Patricia. After completing a four-year tour of duty, Jim returned to the Trentonian in 1973, and began an illustrious career covering professional and local sports. Jim's favorite assignments were girls field hockey, boys basketball, and little league baseball.

Jim began writing about women's field hockey during the early 1970's and continued to follow the sport every fall, until his passing. This initial required assignment quickly became a passion for Jim. Jim's coverage of girls field hockey was unparalleled and unmatched. In 2003, The Central Jersey Field Hockey Umpires Association awarded Jim with The Positive Force Award, and The Central Jersey Field Hockey Association senior all-star game was renamed, "The Jim Davis Classic."

During the winter months, Jim spent many hours traveling across the state of New Jersey covering boys high school basketball. For years, basketball enthusiasts across the state of New Jersey made it a weekly ritual to review Jim's weekly statewide rankings. On April 10th, the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame will present the inaugural Jim Davis Memorial Scholarship to a deserving male recipient who embodies the characteristics of the late Jim Davis.

Long before major outlets began reporting on the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., Jim provided outstanding coverage for District 12 Little League Baseball. The teams of District 12 have experienced great success over the years and Jim followed those teams every summer until the last game, no matter the location. In 2004, The District 12 presidents created the Jim Davis Cup, which is awarded to the winner of the annual All-Star tournament. In addition, one 12-year old boy and girl from each league in the district receives the Jim Davis Sportsmanship Award each summer.

Jim was a consummate professional with an unbelievable work ethic. His love for coaches, athletes and the community allowed Jim to not only offer first-rate coverage, but also connect with readers from a human-interest perspective. His stories created lasting bonds, relationships and friendships.



Val Ackerman

Val Ackerman was named the fifth Commissioner of the BIG EAST Conference on June 26, 2013. She was the founding President of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and is a past President of USA Basketball, which oversees the U.S. men's and women's Olympic basketball program. She has had a long and accomplished career in the sports industry and is one of the few executives in sports who has held leadership positions in both men's and women's sports at the collegiate, professional, national team and international levels. She is an inductee of the Naismith Memorial Basketball of Fame (2021), the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (2011) and the New Jersey Hall of Fame (2021).

While at the helm of the BIG EAST, Val has presided over the rebirth of the conference following the decision in 2012 of seven then-current BIG EAST schools (DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, St. John's, Seton Hall and Villanova) to separate from the original BIG EAST Conference and align with Butler, Creighton and Xavier to form the present configuration. She led the relocation of the conference office to its current site in New York City and has managed the BIG EAST's fruitful partnerships with Fox Sports, which provides wall-to-wall coverage annually of BIG EAST men's basketball on FOX, FS1 and FS2, and with Madison Square Garden, which has hosted the conference's men's basketball tournament since 1983. In 2018, the BIG EAST and MSG entered into a venue agreement extension that will keep the Garden as the home of the BIG EAST tournament through 2028. In 2019, Val also led the negotiations which resulted in the return to the BIG EAST of the University of Connecticut, one of the conference's charter members, effective July 1, 2020.

Following its return to its basketball-centric heritage, the BIG EAST has continued its national excellence in the sport over the past seven years, with 10 of the league's 11 men's basketball programs receiving NCAA tournament bids since 2013-14 and Villanova winning the national championship in 2016 and 2018. Other BIG EAST team athletics accomplishments since reconfiguration include national titles for Providence in women's cross country in 2013, the University of Denver (an affiliate member) in men's lacrosse in 2015, and Georgetown in men's soccer in 2019.

Conference initiatives launched under Val's leadership include the BIG EAST Digital Network, which now carries more than 500 live sports contests annually; BIG EAST Serves, the conference's student-athlete development and community service platform; non-conference men's basketball scheduling challenges with the Big Ten Conference and the Big 12 Conference; an officiating alliance with the Atlantic Coast Conference and nine other Division I conferences; the annual BIG EAST Student-Athlete Well-Being Forum, which provides guidance on a wide range of student-athlete wellness matters; a conference-wide e-sports initiative; BE the Change, a diversity, equity and inclusion platform; Freshmen Fundamentals and Transition Game, league-wide programs designed to assist men's and women's basketball student-athletes, respectively, in their endeavors off the court; and BIG EAST University, a virtual career and professional development module.

Val attended the University of Virginia as one of the school's first female student-athlete scholarship recipients. She was a four-year starter, three-time captain and two-time Academic All-American for the Cavaliers' women's basketball team and the first 1,000-point scorer in the program's history. She graduated with high distinction with a degree in political and social thought in 1981, and played one year of professional basketball in France before earning a law degree from UCLA in 1985.

Val started her legal career as a corporate and banking associate at the New York law firm of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett and joined the National Basketball Association as a staff attorney in 1988. She was an executive at the NBA for eight years, serving as Special Assistant to NBA Commissioner David Stern and Director (and later) Vice President of Business Affairs before being named the WNBA's first President in 1996. She guided the league to a much-heralded launch in 1997 and headed its day-to-day operations for its first eight seasons. The league celebrated its 25th season in 2021.

In 2005, Val was elected President of USA Basketball for the 2005-08 term, leading the organization to an overall competitive record of 222-23 and gold medal performances by the U.S. men's and women's basketball teams at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She was one of the NBA's original appointees to the USA Basketball Board of Directors in 1989 and served as an organizational liaison with USAB during the early years of NBA participation in national team competitions, including the 1992 and 1996 Olympics and 1994 World Championships. A USA Basketball Board member for 23 years, Val played a key role in the long-standing success of the U.S. women's national basketball team program, which during her term won gold medals at the 1998, 2002 and 2010 FIBA World Championships and the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. In 2013, Val was named the recipient of USA Basketball's Edward S. Steitz Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in international basketball.

GEORGE O'GORMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Jamie Allen-Threadgill
Ewing

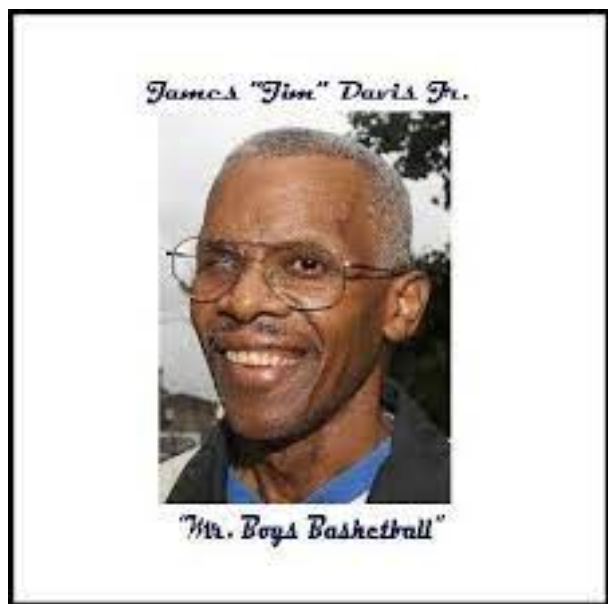
The Scholarship is named for George O'Gorman, the long-time legendary sportswriter of the Trentonian who passed away in August of 2018. He is noted and remembered for his coverage of all high school sports but most notably girls basketball, football, and soccer. He was also a broadcaster for WBCB 1040 radio.

The George O'Gorman Memorial Scholarship is presented to a deserving senior girls basketball player who is a member of a Colonial Valley Conference school or Mercer County prep school as selected by the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame committee. George was the type of sports writer that wanted to highlight the underdog player, the type of player that did the little things for a team that was seldom noticed by the casual fan. Someone that had a great attitude, a work horse and always found a way to contribute. We are honoring a player that may not be the star of a team, but someone it would be hard to imagine winning games without her.

Jamie Allen-Threadgill was not a household name on this year's CJG3 Champion, Ewing High girls basketball team. Even though Jamie may not have filled up the points column, Jamie's hustle never lacked as she was the first player on the floor for 50/50 balls and a relentless rebounder. During her senior year, she continued to thrive in not only her defensive and hustler roles, but her role as a leader of the young group Ewing had on the floor.

On the court, Jamie has always looked to get her teammates involved before looking for her own opportunities. Off the court, whether it was making sure all of her teammates volunteered for the Ewing Township Trunk or Treat Event or volunteering at the Ewing Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Jamie's positive examples have shown many of her younger teammates what it means to give back to the community. Jamie is the most encouraging voice for her teammates and is always looking to promote positivity, hustle, sacrifice, selflessness, and sportsmanship. This positive team-first attitude she embodies is infectious amongst her teammates during school, practices, and games.

JIM DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Brian Herbert Robbinsville

The Scholarship is named for Jim Davis, who was a sports reporter for the Trentonian for 30 years, who passed away June 2004. As a sports reporter for The Trentonian, Jim covered high school boys' basketball for decades. Although he reported on many competitive CVC, Prep, MCT, and NJSIAA games and championships involving the local teams,

The Jim Davis Memorial Scholarship is presented to a deserving senior boys basketball player who is a member of a Colonial Valley Conference school or Mercer County prep school as selected by the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame committee. Jim was best known for celebrating the players who weren't necessarily the stat leaders or stars of their teams. Jim's stories often detailed the efforts and contributions of players known as unsung heroes for their grit and selfless performances, who impacted the game often without accumulating impressive statistics.

Brian has represented himself and the Robbinsville boys basketball program with nothing but class over his four years. Off the court, Brian treats all teachers, administration, students and school personnel with nothing but respect. On the court, Brian leads by example. He builds up his teammates with confidence and positivity. He has never had a complaint for an official or coach. He is one of the hardest working players Robbinsville has produced and has set the tone for their basketball program moving forward.

Brian had to fight through a lot of adversity earlier in his career. He suffered a very serious injury in the fall of 2019, and he was unsure if he was going to be able to play basketball. Brian was able to come back that year and play through the injury and make a huge impact on our Robbinsville's first 20 win season.

While Brian has all the talent to be recognized as player of the year and play college basketball, it is his character and the way he goes about his work in the classroom and on the court that will be missed the most at Robbinsville.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FIRST
ANNUAL GEORGE O'GORMAN
SCHOLARSHIP:**

NEIL SHUSTER

FRANK BENCIVENGO

BOB PLUMERI

DON HESS

EDWARD PETRANTO

JOE FLYNN

GARY BUSHELLI

BILL REDNOR

JOHN WAGNER

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JIM MARUE

TERESA & WALTER KMIEC

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CHARLES PESCE

RONALD HOEHN

CHAPPY MOORE

ROBERT NURSE

RICH GIALLELLA

CHUCK ALLEN

EMIL WANDISHIN

JOE O'GORMAN

MCBHOF Inaugural Class of 2018



Left to right: George O'Gorman, Hollis Copeland, Bob Plumeri for Fr. Clarence O'Shea , Emil Wandishin, Norm Van Arsdelan, Nick Werkman, Vicky Piccott, Kate Larkin, Dahntay Jones and Greg Grant.



— THE BIG EAST CONFERENCE CONGRATULATES —

VAL ACKERMAN

COMMISSIONER

— ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE —

MERCER COUNTY BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME



It Starts With You!



OUTWEIGHS THEM ALL

Congratulations Mercer County Basketball
Hall of Fame Inductees

Mykeema Ford

Bryan Caver

Deon Hames

Bob Pugh

Val Ackerman

Michelle Campbell

Sean Casey

Jim Davis

John Castaldo

David "Poppy" Sanderson, President

Reginald Murray, Coach

CONGRATULATIONS BOB PUGH!



Congratulations on your induction into the
Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame! We are so
proud of you!

Love,

Brenda, Lisa, Thomas, Ella, Ava, Nicole, Kelly, Dan, Avery & Evan

Congratulations to all the other inductees!

Congratulations

VAL ACKERMAN!



We have always been very proud of
you, Cousin Val!

You have had an amazing career and it
all started right here in Mercer County!



Congratulations!

Mary Jane and Tom Mladenetz



CONGRATULATIONS



DEON HAMES '96

Accomplishments at Rider

- Three-time All-NEC selection and 1993 conference Rookie of the Year.
- Played in four conference championship games, making consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances in 1993 and 1994.
- Holds Broncs record of 598 total career assists and the most in a single season (192).
- Inducted into Rider Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002.





MCCC Congratulates
Bob Pugh
on his induction
to the Mercer County
Basketball Hall of Fame
and the MCCC Athletics
Hall of Fame.



Class of 2022
Induction Ceremony
on Saturday, June 11 • 6 p.m.
Cobblestone Creek Country Club,
Lawrenceville, NJ
www.mccc.edu/hof



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Michelle Campbell



We are very proud of you and all of your accomplishments. We are so blessed to be apart of your amazing life journey.

**Love your family,
Mel, Regina, Melanie, Kristina, Korinne**

Bryan Caver

The Man.

The Player.

The Legend!

Nothing given.

Everything

Earned!!!



Congratulations

BRYAN!

Well Deserved!

WE LOVE YOU!!! From: Vangela, The Cavers, and The Crowes

Congratulations
John Castaldo '78
and
Michelle Campbell '02



**The Notre Dame Athletics Family
is proud to join the Mercer
County Basketball Hall of Fame
in honoring our alumni.**

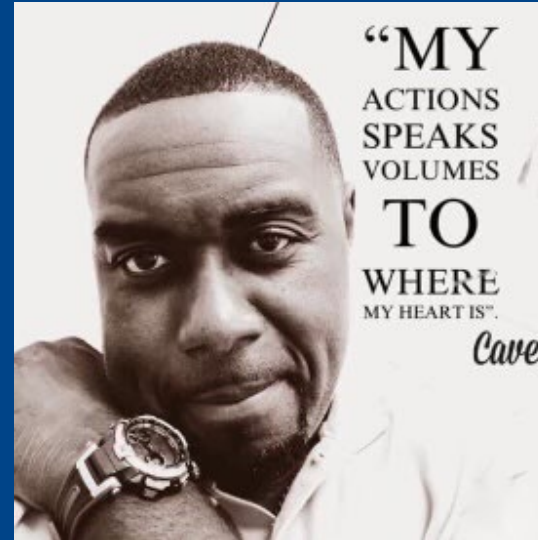


CONGRATULATIONS
DEON HAMES '92
ON YOUR INDUCTION
TO THE MERCER COUNTY
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

ON BEHALF OF
THE HUN SCHOOL OF PRINCETON

The Hun School of Princeton
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Congratulations BCave!



For your love of family, community, and basketball,
we are proud to call you our Hall of Famer and brother.

Pirate Pride Forever.

Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame 2022



Junior Sports Gym is a gross motor program for children ages **6 months to 16 years**. We travel to schools on a weekly basis to teach children about **sports** and **healthy lifestyles**. We use developmentally appropriate equipment for every age. Our program is taught utilizing **fun music** and a **high energy environment** that cannot be matched anywhere else!

During my 17 years of working with numerous age groups and children with different abilities, I have developed the most original ways for children to have **fun** while learning about sports. My goal is for children to experience a variety of sports, in a **fun** learning environment. My program will help the children build **confidence** and give them a **positive attitude** about fitness and sports. Junior Sports Gym is fully insured.

Sports:

Olympics
Volleyball
Gymnastics
Soccer
Football
Hockey
Yoga
T-Ball
Karate
Kickball
Golf
Bowling
Basketball
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Skills/ Habits:

Fine Motor
Gross Motor
Sportsmanship
Socialization
Safety
Accuracy
Flexibility
Discipline
Respect
Agility
Strength
Balance
Hygiene
Confidence
Teamwork

Additional Activities:

Parachutes
Hula-Hoops
Obstacle Courses
Stick Ribbons
Koosh Balls
Dancing
Stretching
Fun and Games
Bean Bags
Scarves
Juggling
Hand-Eye Coordination
Bells
Music Sticks
Bubbles/Balloons (if permitted)

Programs include:

Travel Sports Gym ages 18 months-6yrs
After School Sports and Games Program ages 5yrs-12yrs
Sports Clinics ages 4yrs-12yrs
Karate ages 3yrs-10yrs
Health and Wellness ages 3-13yrs
Sports/Games Themed Birthday Parties

For more information and Pricing:
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**Congratulations to all the
2022 Mercer
County Basketball
Hall of Fame
Inductees**

**James Ingram, President
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Congratulations to all of the inductees!

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Sports Equipment

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Congratulations to Bryan Caver for being selected to the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame!

Caver, you have had one of the greatest basketball careers in the history of the county. I am so proud of you!

You have been a positive role model for the youth of Trenton. May God continue to bless you and your family.

- Greg Grant



CONGRATULATIONS *Bryan Caver*

Sunday Worship Experience
9:30 AM

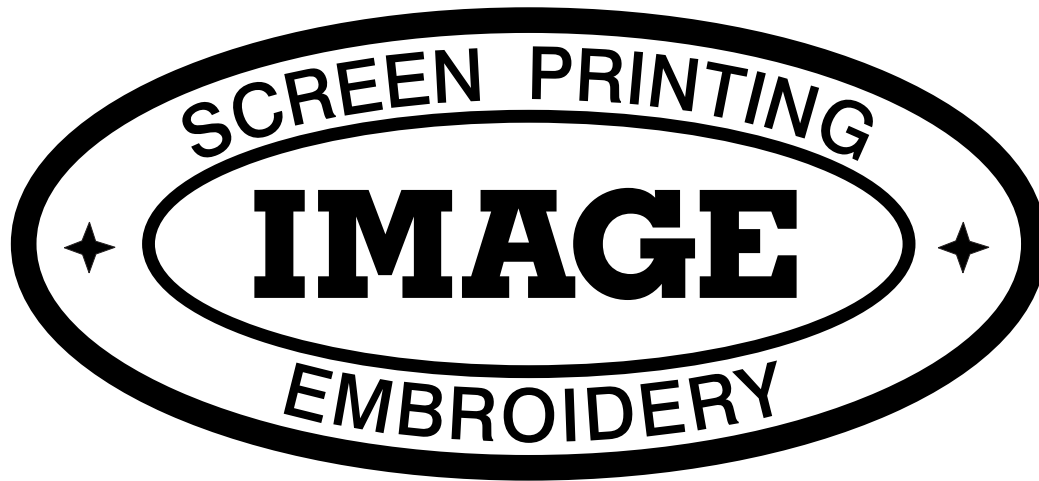
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PASTOR DAVID A. AND LADY KESHA M. COX

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Congrats to Bob Pugh, well deserved!



tony@imageusa.net

CYO Catholic Youth Organization
of Mercer County

Thomas G. Mladenetz, M.Ed.
Executive Director

Main Office:
920 So. Broad St. • Trenton, NJ 08611
(609) 396-8383 • Fax (609) 392-8419
tom@cyomercer.org

Yardville Branch: (609) 585-4280
East State St. Ctr.: (609) 989-8143
Ewing Hollowbrook Ctr.:
(609) 883-1560



Tornado Pride

Congratulations to
MYKEEMA FORD

from

The TCHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

2022 Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame



**CONGRATULATIONS BOB PUGH
& ALL THE 2022 INDUCTEES**

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Eet Gud Bakery congratulates :
John Castaldo
Bryan Caver
and all inductees!

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CONGRATULATIONS

JOHN CASTALDO

BRYAN CAVER

ON YOUR INDUCTION INTO THE

MERCER COUNTY

BASKETBALL

HALL OF FAME

FROM,



"ALWAYS IRON MIKES"

WWW.TRENTONCATHOLICPREP.ORG



The Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame would like to thank our sponsors:




M. DANIEL CANTOR
LAW OFFICE



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB PUGH!!!

YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AS A BASKETBALL PLAYER, COACH, AND REFEREE HAVE SET THE STANDARD FOR ALL WHO LOVE THE GAME OF BASKETBALL. YOUR LEGACY IS SET AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!!!!!!

BEST ALWAYS, BILL AND MADELINE GREENE



Congratulations to Bob Pugh on his Induction into the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame!

We are so proud to call you our friend!

Deb Amodie, Cindy Cohen, Greg Del Favero, Elyse Diamond, Lisa Durr, Reverend Kevin Emig, Bonnie and John Filipowicz, Peggy Howell, Mike Migliori, Michael Schneider and Rich Welker



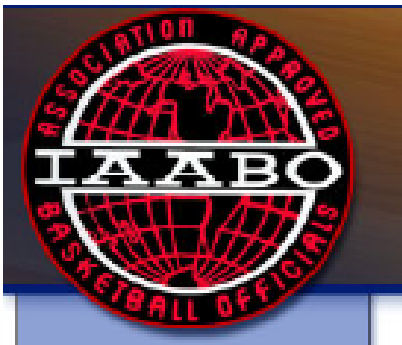
“MY ACTIONS SPEAKS VOLUMES TO WHERE MY HEART IS.”
Cave

Congratulations
BRYAN CAVER

on your induction into the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame, continue to shine bright and make all of us proud!
Many blessings on all of your future endeavors.

CRYSTAL FELICIANO
CANDIDATE FOR TRENTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE
VOTE NOVEMBER 8, 2022
"HERE I AM, SEND ME!"

PHOTO BY FRIENDS OF OPTICAL DELIVERED FOR CITY COUNCIL, JONETTE SHAW, TRENTON



Bob Pugh

Basketball Official

Congratulations on your outstanding career as an official and evaluator for Mercer County Basketball!

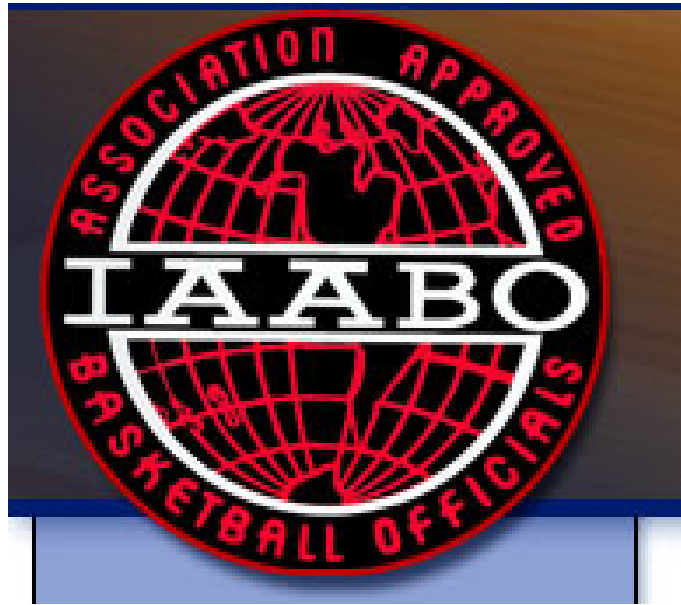
Art Schwartz



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP**



AND RICH WEISE



Congratulations to Bob Pugh

2022 Mercer County Basketball

Hall of Fame Inductee

From your friends at

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