

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Tennessee State Sports photo

THE DR. IS IN THE HALL

A TRUE PLAYER: Tennessee State and NBA great, Dr. Dick Barnett, 87, voted into Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

NEW UFL HAS 11 HBCU PLAYERS; 3rd HBCU ALL-STAR GAME WRAPS; NAI A HOOP STARS HONORED

BCSP Notes

Team Wallace prevails over Team Mahorn at 3rd annual HBCU All-Star Game

PHOENIX — The team named for former Virginia Union and NBA All-Star **Ben Wallace** overcame an 11-point deficit to pull out a 108-97 win over the team named for former Hampton and NBA star **Rick Mahorn** here at the *3rd Annual HBCU All-Star Game* Sunday.

According to Kyle T. Mosley of *HBCU Legends*, the thrilling all-star contest had 7,211 fans in attendance at Global Credit Union Arena on Grand Canyon University's campus.

Team Wallace's **Dhason Dyson**, a 6-1 guard out of **Bethune-Cookman**, scored a team-high 19 points including five 3-pointers and was named MVP of the game. Dyson averaged 14.0 points and canned 61 3s while shooting .345 from behind the arc for the Wildcats this season.



Dyson

Winston-Salem State 6-4 guard **Jaylen Alston**, the CIAA player of the year who averaged 18.1 points per game and a league best 8.5 rebounds per contest, scored 16 points. **Alcorn State** 6-7 forward **Jeremiah Kendall**, an all-SWAC first teamer, added 14 in the comeback win. In total, six players from Team Wallace finished in double figures.

Team Wallace was coached by **Texas Southern** Head Coach **Johnny Jones** and **Lincoln** Head Coach **Jason Armstrong**. The team featured players from the **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** and the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)**.

Team Mahorn's **Christian Brown**, a 6-6 guard from **Tennessee State**, scored 21 points and **North Carolina Central** 6-1 all-MEAC point guard **Fred Cleveland Jr.** added 20 for Team Mahorn, coached by NCCU's **LeVelle Moton** and **Alfred Jordan** of **Clark Atlanta**. The team was comprised of players from the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)**, the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** and Independent All-Stars from Tennessee State and Hampton.

The two teams combined to shoot 30 of 88 from distance. Cleveland knocked down a game-high six 3-pointers.

TEAM MAHORN

Fred Cleveland Jr., PG, NCCU; Chris Martin, PG, CAU; Raquan Brown, SG, SCSU; Ja'Darius Harris, SG, NCCU; Allen Bertrand, SG, NSU; Asanti Price, SG, BEN; Christian Wells, SF, LOC; Tedrick Wilcox Jr., SF, HAMP; Jordan Simpson, PF/C, ALB; Jason Jitoboh, C, TNST

TEAM WALLACE

PJ Henry, PG, TXSU; Dhason Dyson, CG, B-CU; Brandon Davis, CG, SOU; Rashad Williams, SG, UAPB; Tra'Michael Moton, SG, GRAM; Jaylen Alston, SF, WSSU; Tre Richardson, SF, ECSU; Charles Smith, SG, PVA&M; Rayquan Brown, SG, MVSU; Jordan O'Neal, PF, JSU; Jeremiah Kendall, PF, ALC; Jourdan Smith, PF, GRAM

Tennessee State's Dick Barnett receives long overdue Hall of Fame recognition

Stephen J. Gaither of *HBCU Gameday.com* penned a report last week that former New York Knicks star and **Tennessee State University** basketball legend **Dick Barnett** was about to receive basketball's highest honor.

Barnett was said to be set to be enshrined in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, according to former Knicks great and Hall of Famer, Walt "Clyde" Frazier. No official announcement had been made at the time, but Frazier says he was told the news by none other than **Winston-Salem State** and NBA Hall of Famer, **Earl "The Pearl" Monroe**.

All those reports were confirmed on Saturday when it was announced that Barnett is one of 13 new members in the 2024 Hall of Fame Class. Barnett, now known as **Dr. Dick Barnett** after earning a PhD in education from Fordham University, is now retired from teaching Sports Management at St. John's University in New York as of 2007. He was selected from the Hall's Men's Veteran Committee. The Class Announcement was made in Glendale, Ariz., the site of the 2024 NCAA Men's Final Four, and was televised live on ESPN2.

Born Richard Barnett in Gary, Indiana, his rise to fame began at Theodore Roosevelt High where he battled with a Crispus Attucks High basketball team led by Oscar Robertson and helped lead Roosevelt to the state championship game in 1955.

Barnett, a left-hander noted for his fold-up jump shot, played his college ball at **Tennessee A&I** (now Tennessee State University) where he was an outstanding performer for legendary Head Coach **John McLendon**. With Barnett as his star pupil, TSU won NAIA national titles in 1957, 1958, and 1959 with a combined record over that period of 93-10, 31-4 in '57, 31-5 in '58 and 31-1 in '59. The Tigers were the first team to three-peat as national champions, revolutionized college basketball with its fast break and full-court defense and set the course for HBCU teams to dismantle racist practices in the NAIA and the NCAA.

Barnett became a three-time Associated Press Little College All-American at TSU helping the school to a 36-game winning streak and received back-to-back championship MVP honors, the Chuck Taylor Awards, in 1958 and 1959. He averaged 28.7 points per game in the 1958-59 season and 29.8 points in 1957-58 season. He graduated as the program's all-time leading career scorer with 3,209 points for a 23.6 average in 136 games. He totaled 1,571 career rebounds for an 11.6 average, a career shooting percentage of 44.8, and 80.0 from the free throw line.

He was selected fourth overall by the NBA's Syracuse Nationals in 1959. He briefly played for McLendon again, helping the Cleveland Pipers win the American Basketball League championship in 1961. Barnett returned to the NBA in 1962, spending three seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers before being traded to the New York Knicks. Barnett had his best years with the Knicks, making the NBA All-Star game in 1968.

He would go on to play a supporting role on the 1970 and 1973 teams that brought the New York Knicks their lone NBA titles so far. Barnett scored 15,358 regular season points in his career and the Knicks retired his No. 12 jersey in 1990.

The Class of 2024 includes Chauncey Billups, Vince Carter, Michael Cooper, Walter Davis, college coach Bo Ryan, high school coach Charles Smith, women's player Seimone Augustus, women's coach Harley Redin international player Michelle Timms, former No. 1 NBA draft pick Doug Collins, former Indiana Pacers' owner Herb Simon and Jerry West, previously enshrined as a player and member of the 1960 U. S. Olympic team that will go in this time as an executive.

Their enshrinement will be during festivities in Springfield, Mass., the Birthplace of Basketball, as well as the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn., on August 16-17.

Vice President Kamala Harris meets with HBCU legends at White House

Nearly 70 years after breaking barriers on the basketball court, six



THE GENTLEMEN CHAMPS: Members of the 1957 Tennessee A&I (Tennessee State) NAIA national basketball championship team then (above). (Below) The surviving members of the 1950s TSU championship teams now honored and recognized at the White House by Vice President, Kamala Harris.



members of the 1950s **Tennessee State** basketball program met with Vice President and HBCU graduate **Kamala Harris**, HBCU Gameday's Stephen J. Gaither reported last week.

Henry Carlton, Robert Clark, Ron Hamilton, Ernie Jones, George Finley and Dick Barnett met with Harris in the Roosevelt Room at the White House on Friday.

"I thought this would never take place," said Finley, who was part of the 1959 championship team. "[Winning] the championship was big, but it wasn't as big as being here with [Vice President] Harris today."

These six men - along with the rest of the team - played for the championship **Tennessee A&I** program that became the first from a black college to win a national basketball title. The program went on to win the same title in 1958 and 1959, becoming the first college basketball program to win three consecutive national titles.

"I look at each of you and the path and the journey that you've been on and your willingness to tell the story in such an active way is so important," VP Harris, a graduate of **Howard University**, told the men. "There are forces right now that would try to overlook or deny our history. But I think the only way that we will continue to strengthen ourselves and see progress as a country is when we remember where we've been to help us guide where we want to be."

The Tennessee State program was led by Basketball Hall of Famer **John McLendon**, who helped the program climb the NAIA mountain less than five years after black colleges were first allowed to participate in the tournament.

Barnett was the team's star player who would go on to be drafted into the NBA in 1959 and go on to become an NBA All-Star and two-time champion with the New York Knicks. The 87-year-old was recently elected (see related story) to the Basketball Hall of Fame and will be enshrined into the hall this fall.

Harris has been an outspoken ambassador during her stint as Vice President, appearing at the NCAA Tournament and **Celebration Bowl** during Howard's appearances and recently called **Grambling State** after its NCAA Basketball Tournament First Four win.

Langston's Anthony Roy, Toru Dean top list of NAIA All-Americans

Langston University lefthanded sharpshooter **Anthony Roy** and teammate and point guard **Toru Dean** were named NAIA basketball all-Americans this week. The duo was instrumental in the 35-2 Lions' run to the NAIA national championship game last week.

Roy, who was named to the NAIA All-American first team, capped a banner year for the Lions after being named Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, first-team All-SAC and to the NAIA All-Tournament team. The 6-5 junior guard from Oakland, California led Langston in scoring at 18.4 points per game and with 4.8 rebounds per game.

Roy had a high of 30 points vs. John Brown in December and had three other 29-point outings. He finished the season with 663 points, 171 career rebounds, 54 assists and 34 steals.

Dean, who was named to the NAIA All-American third team, is a 6-foot, senior point guard for the Lions. He was also selected first-team All-SAC. He suited up every game for the Lions during the 2023-24 campaign and finished averaging 9.4 points per game, 4.4 rebounds per game and 4.1 assists per game.

Dean tallied a season-high 17 points in an 86-55 win over SAGU on Dec. 9, 2023, 11 assists versus Southwestern Christian on Jan. 6, 2024, and seven steals on Nov. 25, 2023. He concludes his Langston career with 646 points, 251 assists, 283 rebounds and 132 steals in 66 games played.

Southern New Orleans 6-8 freshman forward **Jamal Gibson** and junior guard **Najee Jones** of **Texas College** were also named to the NAIA third team. Gibson, 26, averaged 21.8 points and 15.8 rebounds per game for the Knights. SUNO finished 8-22 on the season. Jones led the 22-9 Steers in scoring at 14.7 points per game and pulling down 6.2 rebounds per game.



BEST NAIA PLAYERS: Toru Dean (l.) and Anthony Roy (r.) of NAIA national runners-up Langston lead four HBCU players including SUNO's Jamal Gibson and Texas College's Najee Jones named NAIA All-Americans.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

UFL KICKS OFF WITH 11 HBCU PLAYERS:

The new eight-team United Football League (UFL) kicked off on March 30 with just 11 players on its rosters from the black college ranks.

The league was created following the merger of the XFL and USFL. The UFL consists of eight teams - four in the USFL Conference and four in the XFL Conference - all of whom were members of the XFL or USFL prior to the UFL's creation. The teams are concentrated in the Midwest and Southern United States. The Houston franchise in the USFL Conference has changed its name from the Gamblers to the Roughnecks.

There were a total of 33 HBCU players on rosters of the two leagues in 2023 - 19 in the USFL and 14 in the XFL. That means a lot of those players are not on UFL rosters.

Returning as a head coach in the UFL is former **Alabama State** and NFL wide receiver **Reggie Barlow** who coached the XFL's D. C. Defenders to the 2023 XFL title game. The Defenders fell to the Arlington Renegades, 35-26 in that championship contest. Before leading the Defenders, Barlow had been the head coach in the HBCU ranks at his alma mater **Alabama State** and at **Virginia State**.

His team has three former HBCU players, the most of any UFL team - former **Hampton** quarterback **Deondre Francois**, former **Tennessee State** wideout and kick returner **Chris Rowland** and former Virginia State running back **Darius Hagans**. The Defenders are 1-1 in the young season. Rowland and Hagans had short stints in the NFL.

Two teams - Houston of the USFL Conference and the San Antonio Brahmas of the XFL Conference - have two HBCU players. Houston has former Tennessee State offensive lineman **Brandon Haskin** and former **Kentucky State** cornerback **Jai Nunn-Liddell**. The Brahmas have former **Delaware State** running back **Brycen Alleyne** and former **Norfolk State** wide receiver **Justin Smith**.

Perhaps the most well known of the HBCU players is former **Fort Valley State** punter **Marquette King** who spent seven years in the NFL, six with the Oakland Raiders and one with the Denver Broncos. He kicked for the St. Louis Battlehawks in the 2020 version of the XFL and now punts for the Arlington Renegades in the XFL Conference of the UFL.

The league, who has TV partnerships with ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, Fox and FS1, will have each team play five regular season games. Three postseason games will culminate with FOX, who is carrying 21 of the 43 games, televising the championship game on June 16. UFL co-owner Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has said that "the XFL is specifically designed its schedule to give its players the best chance of latching on with an NFL team in May."

UFL players' minimum salaries are \$5,500 per week (\$2,500 for inactive players) and \$150 a week toward 401K contributions, with \$400 a week house stipend and \$55-a-day per diem stipend during travel days. All contracts run from January 1 to August 24.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCU PLAYERS ON UFL ROSTERS

USFL CONFERENCE

BIRMINGHAM STALLIONS (1)			
73 Alex Taylor-Proileau	OT	6'9"	308 South Carolina State
HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS (2)			
76 Brandon Haskin	OL	6'3"	315 Tennessee State
27 Jai Nunn-Liddell	CB	6'2"	190 Kentucky State
MEMPHIS SHOWBOATS (1)			
4 Dee Anderson	WR	6'6"	225 Alabama A&M
MICHIGAN PANTHERS (0)			
XFL CONFERENCE			
ARLINGTON RENEGADES (1)			
7 Marquette King	P	6'0"	192 Fort Valley State
D. C. DEFENDERS (3)			
8 Deondre Francois	QB	6'1"	215 Hampton
28 Darius Hagans	RB	6'0"	207 Virginia State
12 Chris Rowland	WR	5'8"	179 Tennessee State
SAN ANTONIO BRAHMAS (2)			
26 Brycen Alleyne	RB	5'5"	160 Delaware State
10 Justin Smith	WR	6'2"	180 Norfolk State
ST. LOUIS BATTLEHAWKS (1)			
80 Kemari Averett	TE	6'6"	257 Bethune-Cookman