Six Legends Inducted into ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame

The 2009 inductees proudly hold their Hall of Fame Stallions after the ceremony in the Lakeside Grand Lobby. Inductees pictured (left to right) are Dorsey Brooks, Chris Demarta, Pat Breen, Tony Giorgetti, Carlos Perez, Red Hill, Ellen Vickers, York Carter, P.W. Bryan, Jr., Cook Holliday, and Newell Dorsey.
The 1984 Tennis Team won the NJCAA championship, the first national title in the history of ABAC. The top six players received All-America recognition in singles and doubles. Coach Norman Hill’s team included Carlos Perez, John Luc Dumont, Michael Rice, Pat Breen, Chris Demarta, and Tony Giorgetti. Other members of the team who did not compete in the national tournament were Richard Carr, York Carter, and Reg Holden.

Newell “Sarge” Dorsey is perhaps best remembered for the 12 years he spent as Director of Intramurals at ABAC beginning in 1981. For his devotion to intramural athletics, he received the National Intramural and Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA) Region II Award of Merit. ABAC recognized him with the Staff Forum Award and with a 1983 Pacesetter Award. Dorsey put in countless hours maintaining the ABAC athletics facilities. Dorsey was a retired Air Force Master Sergeant when he attended ABAC in 1970-72.
Dorsey Brooks attended ABAC from 1936 until 1939 when he played guard and forward on the basketball team. The 1937 team won the state title, and the 1939 team finished second in the state tournament. He completed his education at the University of Georgia. Brooks began his coaching career at Tucker High School in 1947. His baseball teams won numerous district championships and in 1956, the Tucker High baseball squad captured the school’s first ever state championship in a major sport. Brooks also coached football, basketball, and track.

Cook Holliday was born in Rochelle. Holliday attended ABAC in 1962-64. During his freshman year, he set the state junior college pole vault record. Holliday also became the first ABAC track athlete to qualify for the National Junior College track meet in Big Springs, Tex. En route, his steel pole was misplaced, and he used a borrowed pole to finish fifth in the nation. Holliday also played on the ABAC basketball team, earning the nickname, “The Baldwin Blaster,” for his shooting skills. He helped to lead the Stallions to the state basketball championship during his sophomore year. The University of Wyoming awarded Holliday a track scholarship.
P.W. Bryan, Jr. attended ABAC in 1955-57. The Thomasville native took his baseball skills to the diamond in Tifton by becoming the ace of the staff in his first year with five wins and two losses. Besides playing on the men’s basketball team, he was selected to coach the women’s team at ABAC after Coach Bruce Gressette had a heart attack one week before the season opened. He led the ABAC women’s team to a 13-1 record. Despite a shoulder injury which ended his pitching career, Bryan gained a baseball scholarship to the University of Georgia for his expertise at first base. He led the team in extra base hits and hit .286. Georgia Coach Wally Butts asked Bryan to coach the men’s freshman basketball and baseball teams at UGA.

Ellen Vickers was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Coach of the Year in 1991 when her team captured the national slow pitch championship. Her 1990 team finished second in the national tournament. The Fillies won six NJCAA Region XVII softball titles when Vickers was the coach. She was named Coach of the Year each time in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1994. Vickers was also named Coach of the Year in women’s tennis when her teams won NJCAA Region XVII titles in 1984, 1985, and 1986. She was a finalist for the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Junior College Coach of the Year in 1987. Vickers was a faculty member beginning in 1966 until her retirement in 1994.
2008 INAGURAL CLASS OF INDUCTEES

TOM CHENEY

COACH BRUCE GRESSETTE

COACH RED HILL

COACH ORION MITCHELL

PHILIP “GOOSE” SIMPSON

MILENA STANOYTCHEVA