

National Sportscasters & Sportswriters Awards

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NSMA 2025

NATIONAL SPORTS MEDIA ASSOCIATION

65TH AWARDS PROGRAM





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to Greensboro!

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Weekend & National Convention!

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2024 NSMA Awards Photos by Daniel Coston and Bob Leverone

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MISSION STATEMENT

The National Sports Media Association & Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which seeks to develop educational opportunities for those who are interested in pursuing a career in sports media, through networking, interning, mentoring and scholarship programs.

The NSMA honors, preserves and celebrates the diverse legacy of sports media in the United States.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONORED ALUMNI



Mike Tirico '88
Hall of Fame Inductee



Ian Eagle '90
National Sportscaster of the Year

2024 NSMA STATE AWARDS

Jason Benetti '05
Michigan Sportscaster
of the Year

Kevin McNamara '88
Rhode Island Sportswriter
of the Year

Joe Danneman '01
Ohio Sportscaster of the Year

Anish Shroff '04
North Carolina
Co-Sportscaster of the Year

Adam Himmelsbach '01
Massachusetts Sportswriter
of the Year

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WELCOME

from the NSMA Executive Director

Welcome to the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina and specifically, to Greensboro!

Known as "Tournament Town," Greensboro has hosted dozens of major college tournaments, including more Atlantic Coast Conference men's and women's basketball tournaments than any city.

It is home to the Wyndham Championship PGA Tour event (July 31-Aug. 3 this year), an NBA G League franchise (Greensboro Swarm), South Atlantic League baseball (Greensboro Grasshoppers), and in October, will welcome back professional hockey (ECHL's Greensboro Gargoyles) to First Horizon Coliseum.

In addition, Greensboro is home to one NCAA FCS football program (North Carolina A&T), two NCAA Division I basketball programs (A&T and UNC Greensboro), and two NCAA Division III programs (Greensboro College and Guilford College).

The Greensboro Coliseum complex is busy year-round. First Horizon Coliseum is home to dozens of major athletic events throughout the year, while the adjacent Greensboro Aquatic Center hosts all levels of swimming and diving meets, and "The Hive" is the home to the G League's Swarm.

North Carolina A&T is also the home of the new Black Sportswriters Hall of Fame, which in April inducted NSMA Hall of Famers Wendell Smith, Sam Lacy and Michael Wilbon.

To our winners — congratulations on all you have accomplished! To have earned the respect of your peers is something to be proud of.

To our NSMA board members, sponsors, volunteers and interns — thank you for helping to make this weekend a special one for our honorees and their guests.

And to all of our guests — please let us know what we can do to make your stay enjoyable and to keep you coming back.

We hope you take advantage of all the hospitality provided by our friends at Grandover and the people of Greensboro.

Sincerely,



Dave Goren,
NSMA Executive Director



HISTORY OF THE NSMA *by Ron Morris*



For close to six decades every spring and summer, Salisbury raised a toast to salute the top sportswriter and sportscaster from each of the 50 states. The annual celebration, which until 2016 was called the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association, started because of the dream of a Salisbury restaurant owner and grew legs because of the vision of a Salisbury doctor.

Pete DiMizio promoted boxing matches around the Piedmont area of North Carolina as a hobby and ran an Italian restaurant to make a living. At one point in the early '50s, DiMizio imported an Italian chef to dazzle his patrons' taste buds, but soon figured out that his wife, Becky, cooked a better pizza than the chef.

DiMizio also figured it behooved his boxing promotions to buddy up with sportswriters and sportscasters in the area. In exchange for free food, DiMizio got the free publicity his boxing matches so badly needed.

One thing led to another, and DiMizio was hosting an annual recognition banquet at his restaurant, and the guests of honor were the best writers and casters in North Carolina. Then he founded the idea to expand and go national.

That was in 1958. The first scheduled gathering of national winners never got off the ground and was canceled in 1959. Then DiMizio died of cancer and left the NSSA dream to his wife, who had neither the time nor financial wherewithal to fulfill her husband's wishes.

In stepped the Salisbury-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, various regional civic clubs, and one Dr. Ed McKenzie.

To get the organization off the ground, all parties agreed that a sum of \$12,000 was needed. The total was more than the entire Chamber of Commerce budget. But McKenzie believed it could be raised, so he went about selling tickets to the first banquet at \$100 a plate. That was in 1960. By today's value, that would be the equivalent of asking for \$1,016 a plate.

McKenzie personally knocked on the doors of every business and friend in the Salisbury area. Before long, his list of donors reached 113 — everyone alphabetically from Howard Aiken of Miller Brewing Co. to Bill Younts of Rowan Dairy — and the Chamber of Commerce was willing to kick in the remaining \$700.

McKenzie next believed it was important for the organization to get the blessing and endorsement of the state of North Carolina, and he went to work on the governor, Luther Hodges.

"He drove to Raleigh three or four times to see the governor," Nancy, his wife, once told *The Salisbury Post*. "The governor didn't want to endorse a flop, the winners had to be assured the banquet was not a gimmick. Ed pulled a lovely finesse to get them all here."

McKenzie believed the organization would gain legitimacy only if the first two national winners attended the event. So, he boarded a train for New York and extended a personal invitation to sportscaster Lindsey Nelson and sportswriter Red Smith.

McKenzie talked his way into Nelson's office at NBC, and Nelson agreed to come. Smith was not so easy to get. On assignment, Smith was not expected back in New York for eight weeks. McKenzie sneaked past a receptionist at the *New York Herald-Tribune* and found an audience with Smith's editor. Six long-distance calls later and McKenzie was assured that Smith would be in Salisbury to be honored.

The inaugural event was smashing. Governor Hodges presented awards to Nelson and Smith. Miss North Carolina, Judi Klipfel of Asheboro, presented plaques to the 38 state winners who attended. Earl Ruth, the Catawba College athletics director, served as the master of ceremonies.

Nelson said his acceptance speech would be brief.

"I have never tried to make a speech since a woman sent me a telegram saying my speaking ability was the oratorical equal of a blocked punt," Nelson said.

Smith spoke as he wrote . . . with great prose.

"The very notion of honoring such a disreputable group as ours is utterly audacious," Smith said.

"This is the most gracious and most generous thing that has ever been done for our rather seedy group."

Three years into the organization's existence, the board of directors realized it did not have a charter. Upon drawing up the official papers for the organization, the board encountered a delicate problem: Would the organization be called the Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association or the Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association?

To settle the matter, the group decided on a coin flip between Nelson, representing the casters, and Melvin Durslag of the Los Angeles Examiner, representing the writers. Nelson won, and from that point until its rebrand to National Sports Media Association in 2016, the organization went by Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

That same board also established a Hall of Fame, and the lone inductee in 1962 was Grantland Rice, long considered the greatest writer of sports.

Of the Hall of Fame, Durslag wrote: "It is probably easier to walk out of the Louvres with the Mona Lisa than it is to be admitted to this hall of fame." Durslag was inducted into the NSSA Hall of Fame in 1995.

In 1963, McKenzie asked Nelson as a special favor to be the featured speaker at the Spencer High School athletic awards banquet. Nelson agreed, but getting to Spencer on time for the banquet was going to be difficult.

Nelson completed the play-by-play announcing of the first three innings of a New York Mets spring training game in Florida, slipped out of the press box, and drove 75 miles to the airport to fly to Charlotte. McKenzie and the sheriff of Rowan County met Nelson at the Charlotte airport and rode in the sheriff's car to Spencer.

Nelson arrived after dinner had been served and the tables cleared. He then spoke for 45 minutes, wowing the crowd with impersonations of Mets manager Casey Stengel. Then he concluded with a reading of Rudyard Kipling's poem "If"

On the basis of that reading, NSSA several years later, dedicated its Hall of Fame to youth. For several years, state winners and Hall of Fame inductees were presented copies of Kipling's poem, which for many years also appeared in the annual banquet program.

The list of honored guests over the years has included many from the world of sports and beyond. Among those who have visited Salisbury, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro for the awards weekend are Charles Barkley, Yogi Berra, Terry Bradshaw, Jerry Clower, John Elway, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Whitey Ford, Roman Gabriel, Andy Griffith, Lewis Grizzard, Bob Hope, Larry King, Bobby Knight, Bowie Kuhn, Mickey Mantle, Billy Martin, Curly Neal, Jesse Owens, Arnold Palmer, Richard Petty, Wilma Rudolph, Bart Starr, Lynn Swann, Ted Turner, Gene Upshaw, Jim Valvano, Flip Wilson, John Wooden and Cale Yarborough.

In June of 2017, the NSMA moved its rebranded Awards Weekend and National Convention to Winston-Salem. The organization's headquarters followed suit that October.

And in 2024, the NSMA expanded its home state footprint, holding its 64th Awards Weekend & National Convention at Grandover Resort and Spa in Greensboro.

Ron Morris graduated from Salisbury (NC) High School and is a 5-time NSMA South Carolina Sportswriter of the Year. Additional contributions: Dave Goren and Riley Mann.

4-11-60

Pete's Last Project Was Biggest, Best

The late Pete DiMizio's last sports project will go down in the records as the biggest and best. DiMizio, a Salisbury restaurant operator and sportsman, originated the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Awards Banquet. The first annual event will be held under sponsorship of the Salisbury - Rowan Chamber of Commerce and Regional Civic clubs. The awards ceremony is scheduled at 7:30 o'clock at Catawba College.

DiMizio was in the process of staging the awards banquet when he died less than two years ago. A friend of sports reporters, DiMizio regarded those in that profession as a special breed. He strongly felt that they should be recognized for their contribution to the sports world.

He developed the idea for National Banquet from the North Carolina Banquet which he founded in 1953.

A sports promoter for a number of years, DiMizio promised North Carolina scribes a party in appreciation of their help in

promoting his boxing and wrestling bouts.

From that party came the annual North Carolina Sportswriters and Sportscasters Banquet. It has been held annually since 1953. It honors the State's top sports reporters each year.

The idea for a National Awards banquet seemed practically impossible at first. But nothing could stop DiMizio. He'd exhaust every ounce of energy and penny to put across a project. He was the promoter at work again.

Pete put the wheels to his newest and last — project into motion. He wrote more than 6,000 sports reporters in the country, announcing plans for the banquet and soliciting their advice and cooperation. He received favorable replies from several thousand.

This was to be a DiMizio production. He was doing it at his own expense. "It's going to be something good for everybody — for Salisbury, North Carolina and the whole nation," he pointed out. "This is going to be an Oscar Show for Sportswriters and Sportscasters."

EVENT SCHEDULED
DiMizio scheduled his first annual banquet on Dec. 5, 1958. The National awards were established in memorial to the late Herman Hickman, outstanding athlete, coach and television commentator.

Pete appeared well on his way of putting on his first Oscar Show for Sportswriters and Sportscasters. But he was stricken with cancer about four months short of his goal.

As he grew sicker, plans were abandoned, but fortunately only temporarily. He died on Oct. 22 — just 33 days prior to the planned date for the first national banquet.

DiMizio's idea, like many he had, was a good one. Citizens and firms in Salisbury and Rowan County rallied behind it and are putting it across.

Tomorrow DiMizio's dream comes true. The Sportswriters and Sportscasters are going to have their "Oscar Show" just like the colorful sports minded Italian promoter predicted less than two years ago.



PETE DIMIZIO



BANQUET GUESTS — These four persons arrived yesterday for the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters banquet. Pictured dining at DiMizio's are Mrs. Burton Hawkins, Burton Hawkins, Washington Star; Les Biederman, Pittsburgh Press; and Fred Lee, Denver KDEN. (Staff Photo.)

SALISBURY POST 11-27-1959

All States Except Alaska Represented In Sport Vote

Nominations have been received from every state except Alaska for the national sports writers and sportscasters award. Chamber of Commerce Secretary Hank Palmer reported yesterday.

Palmer said he is very well pleased with the response to the initial ballot. About 500 ballots have been received, including several from Hawaii.

Largest number of ballots were received from the following states: New York, 34; California and Texas, 31; Pennsylvania, 27; and Illinois, 17.

North Carolina ballots are being handled by Mrs. Pete DiMizio and the awards will be presented at the annual state banquet here tomorrow night. The national awards banquet will be held in the spring, probably April.

Most sports writers and sportscasters seemed highly pleased that Salisbury is undertaking such a project.

One sports writer explained in voting for himself: "An admirable undertaking (the banquet). But there are problems. For instance, we are engaged in a bitter struggle with a competitive newspaper and it would be foolish to vote for them." And since there are only two papers in his state, the writer was "forced" to vote for himself.

The most humorous remark came from Peoria, Ill. Sports Editor Ben Abrams' ballot was filled in neatly, but lines were drawn in ink all over the ballot. Abrams commented: "Please

forgive the extra ink. My 18-month-old son got hold of the pen while I was opening the door."

Palmer said the executive committee would meet this week to tabulate the nominations and make plans for sending out a final ballot for state and national winners. The final ballot is expected to be mailed by January 10.



NATIONAL AWARD NOMINATIONS — Chamber of Commerce Secretary Hank Palmer reads the nominations for the Pete DiMizio National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Awards pour into his office. About 500 nominations have been received from every state except Alaska.

National Sports Media Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Nicole Auerbach
NBC Sports
Chicago, IL



Lindsey Babcock
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC



Carter Bills
Wasserman
Asheboro, NC



Greg Brewer
Right at Home
Winston-Salem, NC



Wes Durham
Atlanta Falcons/ACC Network
Cartersville, GA



Robert Egleston
Twin City Foundation
Winston-Salem, NC



Everett Fitzhugh
Seattle Kraken
Seattle, WA



Mary Jo Ford
AbbVie
Lexington, KY



David Geddes
Int'l. Sports Technology Assn.
Marietta, GA



Rob Goodman
Wyndham Ch'shp/3-G Sports
Greensboro, NC



Jimmy Holder
Self-Employed
Winston-Salem, NC



Jim Holmes
Three Magnolias
Winston-Salem, NC



Ryan McGee
ESPN
Charlotte, NC



Tim Nestor
Reynolds American Inc.
Winston-Salem, NC



Jimmy Quander
Womble Bond Dickinson
Winston-Salem, NC



Adam Raak
Teall Properties
Winston-Salem, NC



LEARFIELD

Congratulations To Our Family Of Broadcasters



Indiana - Don Fischer
28th NSMA Award - Indiana Hoosiers



Tennessee - Bob Kesling
5th NSMA Award - Tennessee Vols



Alabama - David Crane
1st NSMA Award - UAB Blazers



Mississippi - Neil Price
1st NSMA Award - Mississippi State Bulldogs



Montana - Keaton Gillogly
1st NSMA Award - Montana Grizzlies



Nevada - Matt Neverett
1st NSMA Award - LV Aviators, UNLV Runnin Rebels



New Hampshire - Pete Webster
1st NSMA Award - UNH Wildcats



New Jersey - Dave Popkin
1st NSMA Award - Seton Hall Pirates



Texas - Roger Wallace
1st NSMA Award - Texas Longhorns

Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award



Ray Goss



Great Ghosts Alive!!

CONGRATULATIONS

WASSERMAN



FOUNDATION

We are proud to support all of the honorees, including:

Ken Rosenthal
*2024 National Sportswriter
of the Year*

Mike Tirico
2025 Hall of Fame Inductee

MIKE TIRICO



Mike Tirico is the voice of NBC Sports' biggest events, handling play-by-play for Sunday Night Football and serving as the primetime host for NBCUniversal's coverage of the Olympics. Beginning in October 2025, he will serve as the lead play-by-play voice when the NBA returns to NBC and debuts on Peacock.

Tirico, who joined NBC Sports in July 2016, also hosts NBC Sports' coverage of the Kentucky Derby, and golf's U.S. Open and Open Championship, among other major events.

In January 2025, Tirico completed his third season as the play-by-play voice of NBC's Sunday Night Football. Last summer, Tirico received critical acclaim for his role as primetime and daytime host of the 2024 Paris Olympics, which registered daily audiences of more than 30 million viewers across NBC, Peacock and additional NBCU platforms.

"(Tirico) sets a tone of relaxed omniscience — the feeling that, at every moment, you're being told all you need to know, in an optimally elegant and succinct way," The New York Times Magazine wrote in a December 2023 feature on Sunday Night Football.

During the Paris Olympics, Front Office Sports observed: "[Tirico] is one of the last of a breed. The sports TV world of the 1970s and 1980s was studded with versatile sportscasters who called multiple sports with aplomb and always seemed to narrate the biggest sports moments. Not anymore."

"Tirico remains something of an anomaly in modern sports, a broadcaster with the chops to call the biggest games and the demeanor not to overtake them," wrote The Philadelphia Inquirer in January 2025.

Wrote The Associated Press in January 2021: "Smooth, informational, funny and opinionated when needed, Tirico simply is the best no matter what sport he is announcing. The more Tirico the better."

SNF averaged a Total Audience Delivery of 21.6 million viewers in 2024 (the show's best viewership since 2015) pacing to rank as primetime's #1 TV show in all key metrics for an unprecedented 14th consecutive year – adding to its record for the most successive years atop the charts (since 1950), based on official live plus same-day data provided by Nielsen.

Tirico has called primetime NFL games for 19 consecutive seasons, including 10 years as the voice of ESPN's Monday Night Football. In addition, 2024 marked his 29th season as an NFL primetime studio host or play-by-play voice. In January 2024, he became the first TV announcer to call two NFL Playoff games in a single weekend (Wild Card weekend).

Most recently, Tirico was selected by a vote of his peers to the National Sports Media Association's Hall of Fame, and will be inducted at the NSMA's Awards Weekend and National Convention in North Carolina in the summer of 2025.

In May 2023, Tirico was honored for the second consecutive year with the Sports Emmy for Outstanding Sports Personality – Studio Host, following a stretch in which he anchored the Beijing Olympics in primetime, horse racing's Triple Crown, golf's U.S. Open, and the Indianapolis 500. Tirico was also nominated in the Outstanding Sports Personality – Play-by-Play category following his first season (2022) as the voice of Sunday Night Football.

In May 2022, Tirico earned the Sports Emmy in the studio host category after an unmatched year in which he anchored the Tokyo Olympics in primetime, the Super Bowl LVI Pregame Show, Football Night in America, horse racing's Triple Crown, golf's U.S. Open, and in February 2019, Tirico was named host of NBC Sports' inaugural coverage of the Indianapolis 500. Earlier in the same month, he called play-by-play for his first-ever NHL game, after previously hosting the 2018 Stanley Cup Final, 2019 NHL Winter Classic, and 2019 NHL All-Star Game.

TIRICO continued on page 19



— Congratulations to —

MIKE TIRICO

2025 National Sports Media Association Hall of Fame Inductee



CHARLIE JONES

Charlie Jones' illustrious career in broadcasting spanned an impressive 38 years, with notable tenures at ABC and NBC. His career began in 1960 at ABC and moved to NBC in 1965, where he would remain until 1997. Jones' career was not only long but also deeply influential in shaping the landscape of sports broadcasting.

Born in Fort Smith Arkansas, Jones showed early promise in sports and communication. He attended the University of Southern California where he played on the tennis team and later graduated with a law degree from the University of Arkansas. His dedication to service was demonstrated as he served in the Air Force before beginning his career in broadcasting.



Jones first dipped his toes into broadcasting in 1956 as the sports director at KNAC-TV in his hometown of Fort Smith. He followed that with a stint as the sports director at KFPW radio in Fort Smith from 1957 to 1959 along with winning the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking contest in 1957. These early roles provided him with the foundation for his expansive career in sports broadcasting.

In 1960, Jones became the announcer for Lamar Hunt's American Football League (AFL) Dallas Texans and later that year for ABC. This marked the beginning of a significant chapter in his career as one of the original AFL voices. Jones was behind the microphone for the first-ever AFL game broadcast on September 10, 1960, between the original Los Angeles Chargers and the Dallas Texans at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, along with Roone Arledge's producer debut. His work helped define the early years of professional football broadcasting.

Jones' success with the AFL led to his transition to NBC in 1965, when the network secured the broadcasting rights for the AFL. His work at NBC would become a hallmark of his career, calling over 500 NFL games. He was a sideline reporter for Super Bowl I, where he interviewed Bob Hope at half-time and Super Bowl IX. He called radio play-by-play for Super Bowl III, after which he spent three weeks on a USO military hospital tour with Joe Namath in the Far East. Dick Ebersol, Chairman of NBC Universal Sports & Olympics, praised Jones in 2008 as "one of the greatest pioneers of NBC Sports."

Over his career, Jones announced 28 different sports for NBC, including major events such as 1991's "The War by the Shore" Ryder Cup, Wimbledon and French Open matches and Hank Aaron's 714th home run when working for Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine." His versatility as an announcer was unmatched, and his distinctive voice became synonymous with a variety of events. He was an integral part of NBC's "SportsWorld" and covered countless events, including the 1988 Seoul Olympics (track-and-field and diving), the 1992 Barcelona Olympics (swimming and diving), and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics (rowing, flat-water canoeing, and kayaking). Jones' presence was also felt at the 1986 World Cup soccer tournament in Mexico and the 1983 and 1987 World Championships of Track and Field in Helsinki and Rome, respectively.

A major part of Jones' legacy is his extensive coverage of college football. He called more than 25 bowl games, including the high-profile 1987 Fiesta Bowl national championship game between Penn State and the University of Miami.

Jones' excellence wasn't limited to announcing; he also made an impact as a writer and producer. In 1973, he won an

JONES continued on page 19



THE CITY OF TROY

Congratulates

BARRY MCKNIGHT

2025 NSMA ALABAMA SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

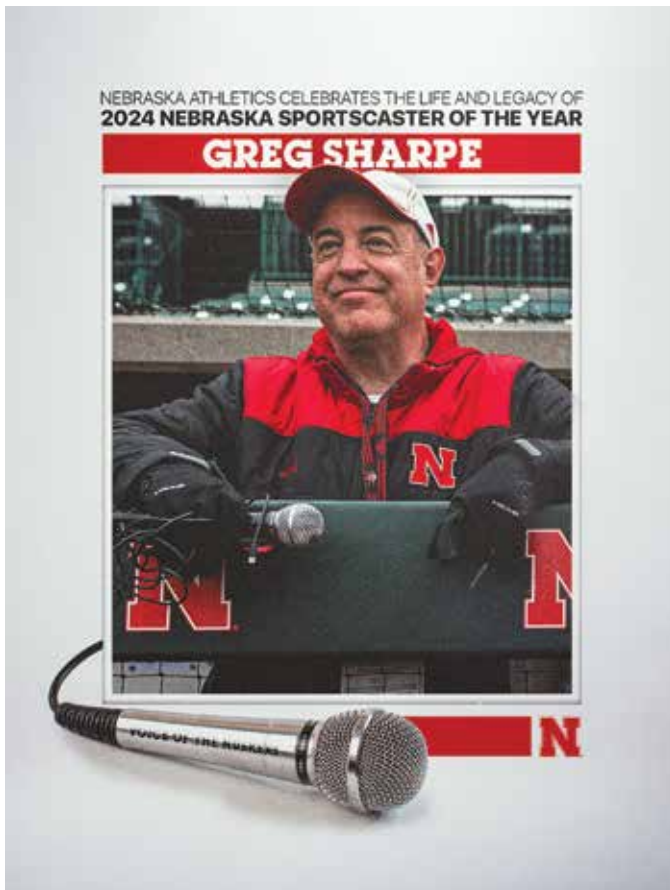


DAN SHAUGHNESSY

Dan Shaughnessy is a sports columnist and associate editor at the Boston Globe. He grew up in Groton, Massachusetts, and graduated from College of the Holy Cross in 1975.

Beginning his journalistic experience working part time at the Boston Globe from 1973-77, Shaughnessy covered the Baltimore Orioles for the Baltimore Evening Sun and the Washington Star from 1977-1981. He rejoined the Globe fulltime in 1981 and has been a sports columnist since 1989. He has been named Massachusetts Sportswriter of the Year 14 times and 13 times has been voted one of America's top ten sports columnists by the Associated Press Sports Editors. Shaughnessy is in the National Sports Media Association's Hall of Fame and was the 2016 recipient of the BBWAA Career Excellence Award for "meritorious contributions to baseball writing," presented at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Shaughnessy has written 13 books, including New York Times bestseller "Francona," "The Curse of the Bambino," and "Wish It Lasted Forever - Life With The Larry Bird Celtics." He makes regular appearances on MLB Network, WHDH SportsXtra, and NBC Sports Boston. He holds honorary doctorates from Southern New Hampshire University and Nichols College. He is married to Dr. Marilou Shaughnessy and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.





MONUMENTAL
SPORTS NETWORK



JOE BENINATI

#1

POSITION: CAPITALS PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER



2024 NSMA

**DC CO-SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR**

SPECIAL AWARD EDITION CARD

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM ALL OF US AT MONUMENTAL SPORTS NETWORK!

WENDELL SMITH

Wendell Smith was born March 23, 1914, in Detroit, Michigan. Smith was a gifted writer and avid sports fan. He graduated from West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University), where he excelled as a pitcher on the baseball team.

Smith began his journalism career in the 1930s, writing for the Pittsburgh Courier, where he gained the respect of his peers and ultimately became a pioneer for racial justice in journalism. Early on, Smith began using his platform not just to cover games, but also to advocate for equality. He was an early and vocal supporter of integrating Major League Baseball, and wrote a steady stream of editorials calling for the inclusion of Black players.

In 1945, Smith's advocacy took on a more personal role when he recommended Jackie Robinson to Brooklyn Dodgers' general manager, Branch Rickey. When Robinson was signed, Smith was selected to accompany Robinson from 1946 to 1947. In this hybrid role, Smith was able to document much of Robinson's progress. In 1947, Smith also joined the Chicago Herald-American, becoming one of the first Black sportswriters to work for a daily newspaper. In 1964, he entered the television business as a sportscaster at Chicago's WGN-TV.

When Robinson died in October 1972, Smith wrote his obituary. It was Smith's last article.

Smith passed away on November 26, 1972, at the age of 58, but his legacy continues to resonate. He was more than a reporter; he was a voice of change during one of the most pivotal eras in American sports and civil rights history. In 1993, Smith was posthumously awarded the J.G. Taylor Spink Award by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Through his courage, integrity, and pursuit of justice, Smith helped write not just the story of the game but also the story of a movement.





CONGRATULATIONS

MAGGIE DAVIS

NSMA
KY SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR



**PAYTON
MANNIE**

**KEVIN
CONNOLLY**

**DANNY
HARDEN**

START LOCAL. STAY LOCAL.

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TIRICO continued from page 11

In August 2018, Tirico was named studio host for Football Night in America, the most-watched studio show in sports, leading into Sunday Night Football, primetime television's #1 show.

In May 2017, Tirico was named NBC's play-by-play voice for Thursday Night Football, alongside analyst and current SNF partner Cris Collinsworth. NBC/NFL Network Thursday Night Football was primetime television's #2 show in the 2016-17 TV season and the #3 show in the 2017-18 TV season.

Tirico was named the full-time lead play-by-play voice of NBC Sports' Notre Dame Football coverage in August 2017. In the spring of 2017, Tirico debuted as the host of NBC's Triple Crown horse racing, covering the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes. He also served as NBC Sports' host of the Indianapolis 500 from 2019-24.

Tirico made his NBC Sports Group debut in July 2016 as host of NBC Sports' live coverage of The Open from Royal Troon in Scotland. Shortly thereafter, he made his Olympics debut as host for NBC's daytime coverage of Rio 2016. Also that fall, Tirico served as host of The Ryder Cup and NBC's primetime coverage of the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Tirico joined NBC after 25 years at ESPN/ABC (1991-2016), where he established himself as a preeminent broadcaster on properties and events including Monday Night Football, The Open, The Masters, NBA, college football, college basketball, FIFA World Cup, and tennis' U.S. Open and Wimbledon. Tirico, the voice of ESPN's Monday Night Football from 2006-2015, is one of four play-by-play announcers to work primetime NFL games for at least 10 seasons (Al Michaels, Frank Gifford, Mike Patrick). He joined ESPN as a SportsCenter anchor and was named 2010 SportsCaster of the Year by the National SportsCasters and Sportswriters Association (NSSA), an award voted on by his industry peers.

Prior to joining ESPN, Tirico worked in Syracuse, N.Y. (1987-1991). He was sports director at WTVH-TV and served as play-by-play voice for Syracuse University basketball, football, lacrosse and volleyball.

JONES continued from page 13

Emmy Award for his work as writer, producer, and host of the documentary, "Is Winning the Name of the Game?" His ability to create compelling narratives extended beyond live broadcasts to documentary filmmaking, showing his broad skill set in the world of sports media.

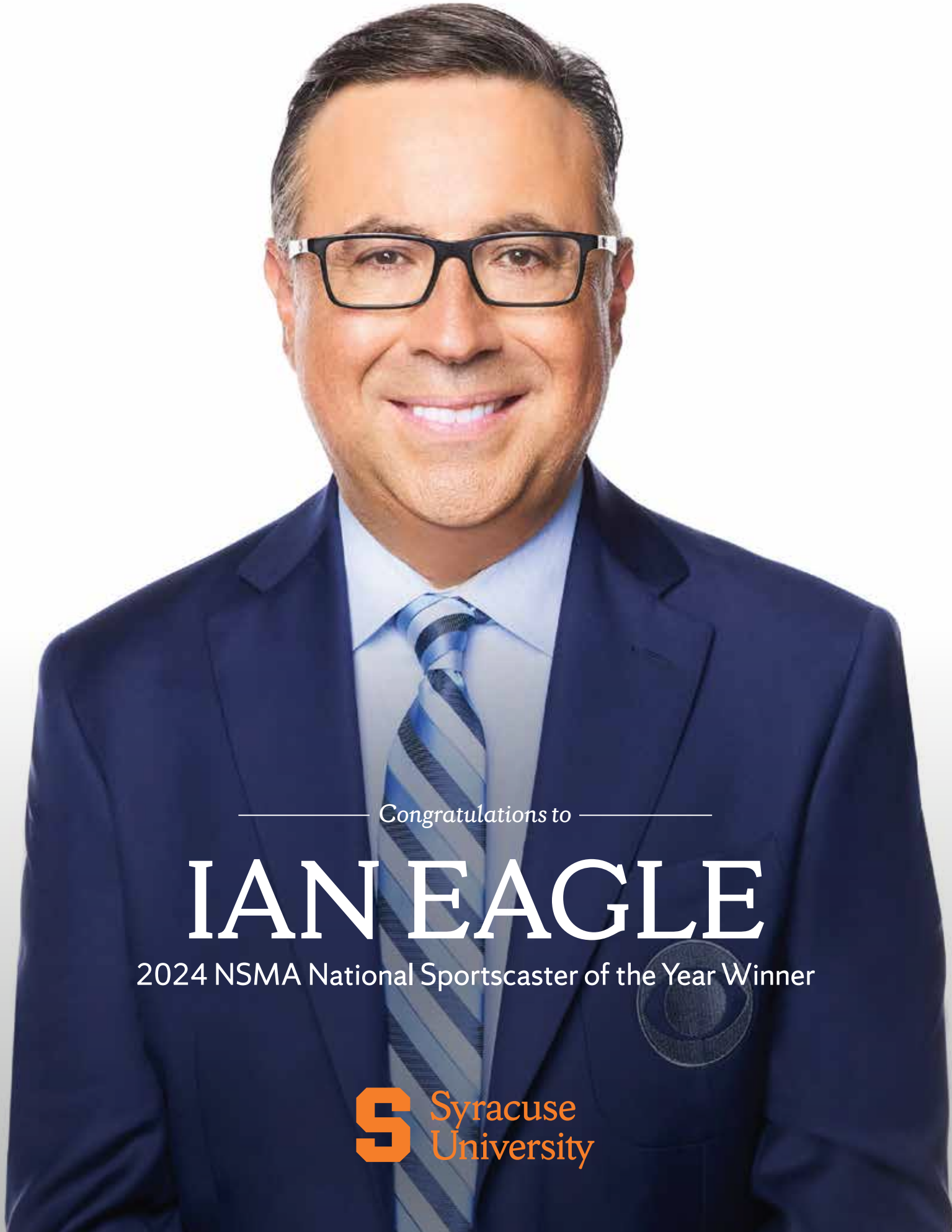
Additionally, Jones co-wrote, co-produced, and co-hosted the award-winning PBS series "The American Frontier" with former NFL player Merlin Olsen. This series was one of many examples of Jones' versatility and ability to reach audiences through different forms of media.

Throughout his career, Jones earned recognition for his contributions to sports broadcasting. In 1997, he was honored with the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award, for longtime exceptional contributions to radio and television in professional football. He was also inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2000, the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Arkansas SportsCaster & Sportswriter Hall of Fame in 2024.

In retirement, Jones continued to make his mark. He wrote several books on the theme of winning and personal success, including "What Makes Winners Win" (1997), which became a New York Times best-seller, "You Go Girl! Winning the Woman's Way" (2000), "Be the Ball: A Golf Instruction Book for the Mind" (2000), and "If Winning Were Easy, Everyone Would Do It" (2002). These books not only reflected his deep understanding of sports but also his broader insights into success, motivation and personal development.

Charlie Jones' broadcasting career stands as a testament to his enduring influence on sports media. From his early days announcing AFL games to his pioneering work with NBC Sports, he remains one of the most influential and respected voices in the history of sports broadcasting. His contributions to both the industry and to his audiences have left an indelible mark on the world of sports and beyond.

Jones died of a heart attack at his home in La Jolla, California, on June 12, 2008, at the age of 77.



— Congratulations to —

IAN EAGLE

2024 NSMA National Sportscaster of the Year Winner



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Congratulations to a true MVP.

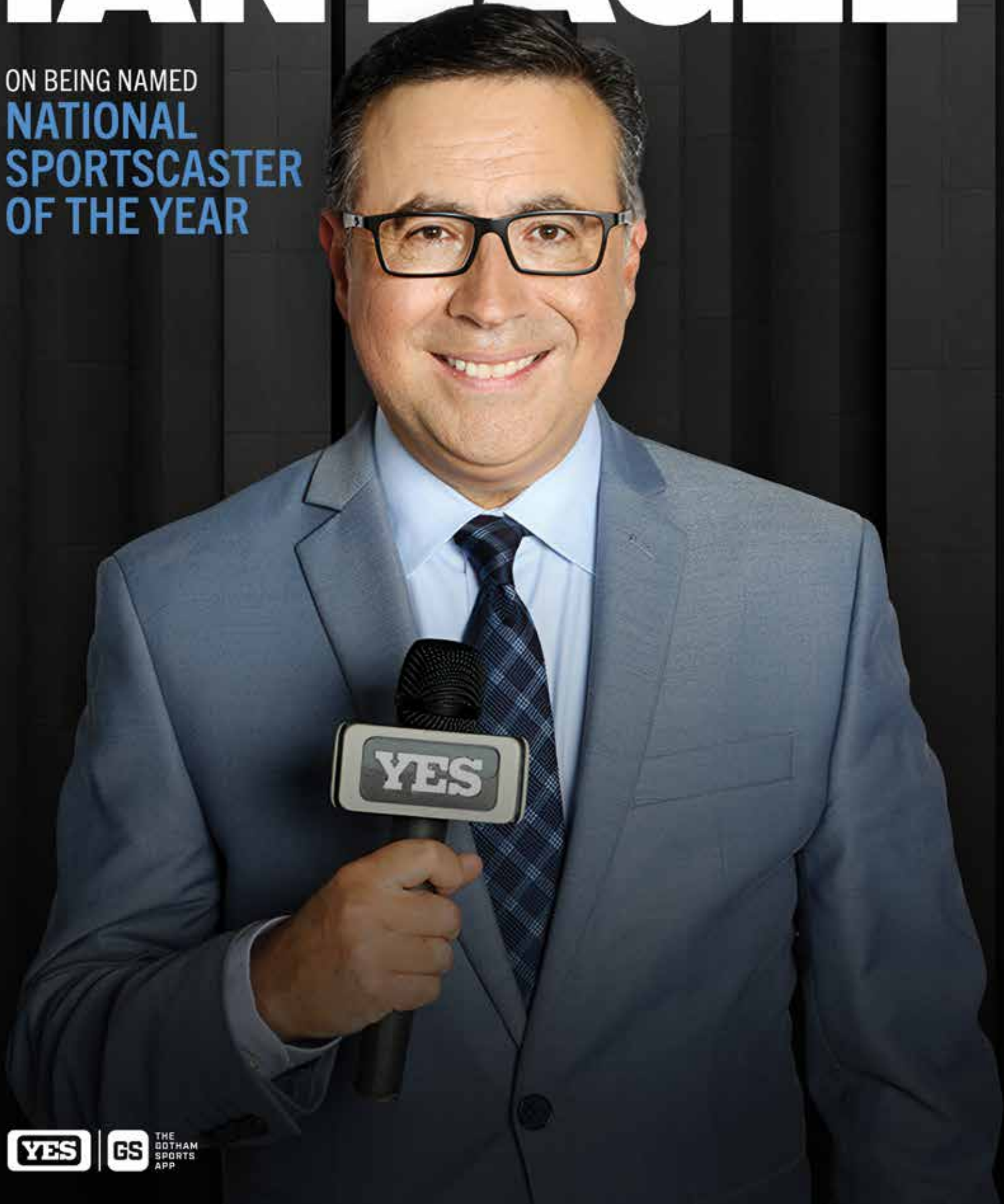
Here's to **Mark Bradley** for being named **2024 NSMA Georgia Sportswriter of the Year**. Thank you from your friends at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for 40 years of insight and perspective.



YES NETWORK CONGRATULATES

IAN EAGLE

ON BEING NAMED
**NATIONAL
SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR**





2024 SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

IAN EAGLE

Ian Eagle joined CBS Sports in March 1998. He serves as lead play-by-play announcer for the Network's coverage of NCAA Men's Division I Basketball and also teams with J.J. Watt and Evan Washburn on the Network's No. 2 NFL broadcast crew.

Eagle called his first NCAA Men's Final Four National Semifinals and National Championship in April 2023, pairing with Bill Raftery, Grant Hill and Tracy Wolfson.

He has called NFL games since joining CBS Sports in 1998. From 2020-2024, he teamed with Charles Davis, and from 2014-19, he paired with Dan Fouts.

Eagle also calls New York Jets' preseason games on WCBS-TV in New York, and has served as play-by-play announcer for Westwood One Radio Sports since 2009. He also serves as the play-by-play announcer for Brooklyn Nets games on the YES Network.

Eagle was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Sports Personality – Play-By-Play in 2014 and 2018. He has won multiple New York Sports Emmys for Outstanding Play-by-Play Announcer (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024). Eagle was named the New York Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2019 and was named the 2022 and 2024 National Sportscaster of the Year. In 2002 he won a New York Sports Emmy Award for game coverage of the dramatic Nets-Indiana Pacers playoff Game 5.

Eagle called the Network's high-definition television coverage of the 2001 AFC Divisional Playoffs and 2000 AFC Championship Game, as well as the Army-Navy football game for seven years (2002-08), NCAA Track and Field Championships for eight years (2004-12) and served as the studio host for the "U.S. Open Late Night Highlight Show" during 2004 and 2005. Eagle called play-by-play for the "First Four" of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship in 2012, 2015 and 2018. He has called play-by-play and been a contributor for CBS Sports' coverage of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships (2004-14), as well as the French Open for the Tennis Channel (2007-19). Eagle also has called the Masters' and PGA Championship for Direct TV/CBSSports.com (2008-14).

He served as play-by-play announcer for Westwood One Radio Sports during its NCAA Tournament coverage (2008-17). From 2005-08 he hosted the NBA show "Full Court Press" on Sirius Radio. Eagle once again called the NBA playoffs for TNT, serving in a more prominent role throughout the 2021 Playoffs, and NBA TV. He covered the 2012 NBA Draft on CBSSports.com along with Bill Raftery. Eagle served as the host of "Stars on Sports" on CBS, featuring stars of movies, television and music. He also has hosted a show for CBSSports.com, "Conversations with CBS Sports," which featured interviews with David Stern, Gary Bettman, George Brett, Boomer Esiason and others. He is the play-by-play voice of the video game NBA Playgrounds and was the play-by-play voice for the Sony PSP video game NBA '09 with Kenny "The Jet" Smith. Eagle also served as the blow-by-blow commentator for CBS Sports' coverage of the Showtime Championship Boxing series in 2000.

He was the play-by-play radio voice for the NFL's New York Jets in 1997, provided play-by-play for FOX Sports Net on NFL Europe telecasts, and was also a reporter for TNT's coverage of the NBA playoffs in 1996. Eagle joined WFAN Radio in New York in 1990 as a producer and debuted as host of his own show in 1992. He hosted Jets pre- and post-game shows on WFAN from 1993 to 1996. Eagle has appeared in a comedy sketch on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," and was in the movie "Southpaw."

For 15 years, Eagle co-hosted the "Bruce Beck and Ian Eagle Sportscasting Camp" for kids.

A 1990 graduate of Syracuse University, Eagle was the play-by-play voice of the Orange for football, basketball and lacrosse, and was awarded the Bob Costas Award for Outstanding Sportscasting. In August 2013, he was inducted into Syracuse University radio station's WAER Alumni Hall of Fame and in 2022, he was named 2023 National Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association.



FOX SPORTS CONGRATULATES
2024 NSMA NATIONAL SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR

KEN ROSENTHAL

AND PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE
65TH NATIONAL SPORTS MEDIA ASSOCIATION AWARDS





2024 SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR

KEN ROSENTHAL

Two-time Sports Emmy Award-winner Ken Rosenthal is a reporter and insider for FOX Sports' Major League Baseball coverage. He has served as the network's reporter for the MLB Postseason since 2006.

A sportswriter for over 30 years, Rosenthal contributes to FOX Sports' game coverage as a reporter and insider. On the air since 2005, he delivers weekly pregame reports and serves as a roving reporter during featured matchups on FOX and FS1. Rosenthal has been a major part of MLB Network's programming since 2009, contributing to a wide array of baseball programming throughout the year. In August 2017, he joined The Athletic as a senior baseball writer, covering the latest stories from around the league.

Rosenthal won back-to-back Emmy Awards in 2015 and 2016 in the category of Outstanding Sports Personality – Sports Reporter.

During the 2011 season, Rosenthal became active with "The Bow Tie Cause," a philanthropic initiative created by Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Dhani Jones in honor of Jones' best friend who was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1999. Jones' company produces bow ties that represent a number of nationally known charities, from Livestrong to Ronald McDonald House to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Rosenthal wears a charity's bow tie during each MLB on FOX game that he works and talks about the cause in addition to how fans can offer support during the broadcast.

He spent the early years of his professional career as a baseball writer and columnist at The Baltimore Sun (1987-2000). Simultaneously, he was a contributor to Sports Illustrated from 1990 to 2000, serving as one of 12 national writers providing weekly notes during baseball season. Rosenthal was named NSMA's Maryland Sportswriter of the Year five times while at the Sun. He also spent five years as senior baseball writer at The Sporting News, writing a weekly column for the magazine, as well as breaking news and writing features for its website. He was also voted NSMA's National co-Sportswriter of the Year (with Pete Thamel) in 2022.

When he's not tweeting (@Ken_Rosenthal) the latest inside information to MLB diehards, Rosenthal is a frequent contributor to Fox Sports Radio, and had a 14-year run as a radio personality in Baltimore on WJFK-AM and WBAL-AM.

Rosenthal has also authored or contributed to three books: "Best of the Best: 35 Major League Superstars," which was produced in partnership with and licensed by MLB Properties, Inc., and published in 1998; "Dean Smith: A Tribute," was published in 2000; and "Chicken Soup for the Baseball Fan's Soul" was released in 2001.





CONGRATULATIONS MERRILL REESE

NSMA PENNSYLVANIA SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR



2024 NATIONAL
SPORTSCASTER
★★★★ OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS
IAN EAGLE

FROM YOUR FAMILY AT  Westwood One



Congratulations
Ken Korach

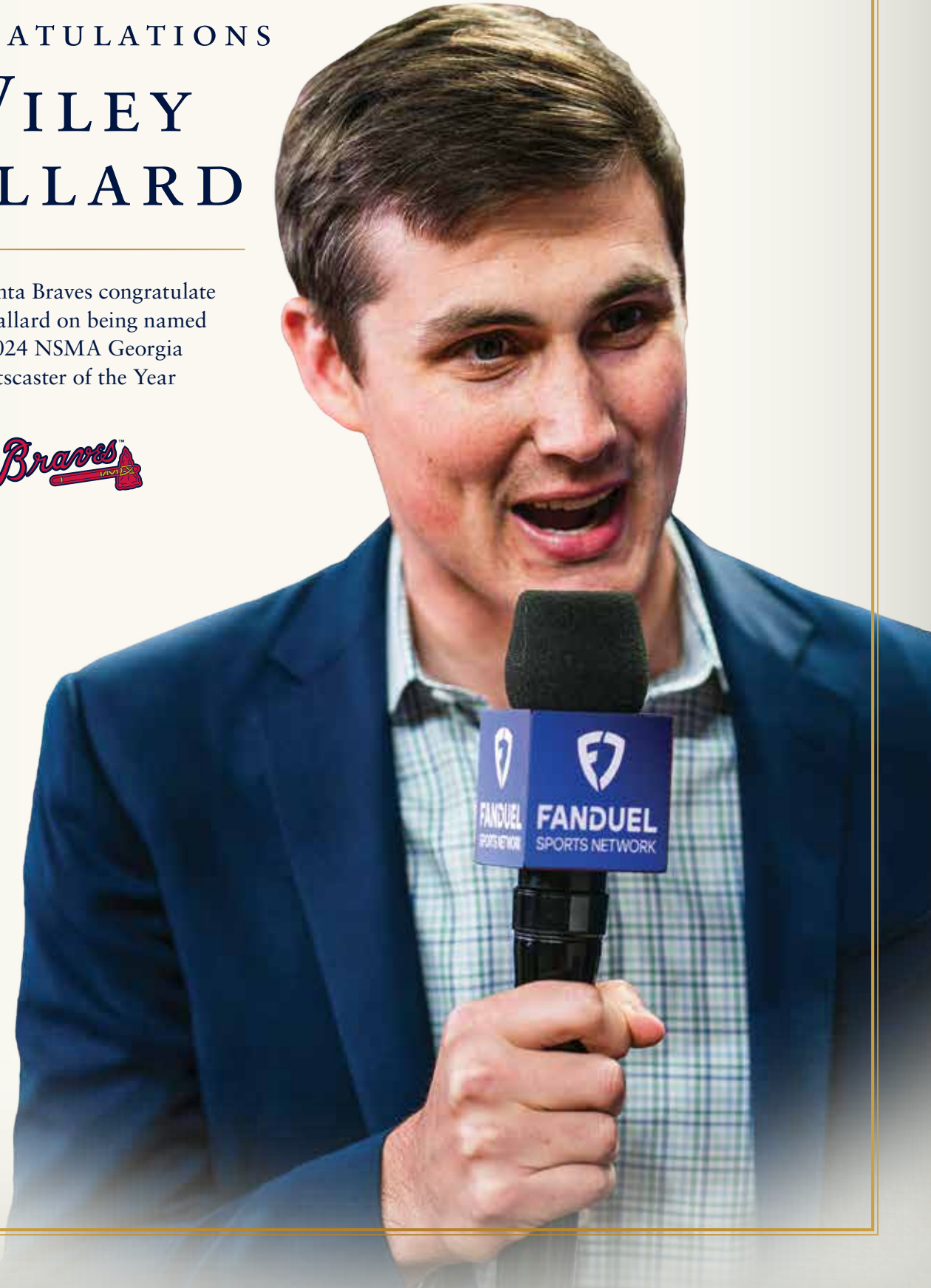
2024 NSMA California Sportscaster of the Year



CONGRATULATIONS

WILEY BALLARD

The Atlanta Braves congratulate
Wiley Ballard on being named
the 2024 NSMA Georgia
Sportscaster of the Year



CONGRATULATIONS



JACK EDWARDS

**NSMA'S MASSACHUSETTS
SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR**

THANK YOU FOR BROADCASTING YOUR SPIRIT, ENTHUSIASM AND HOCKEY KNOWLEDGE TO BRUINS FANS ON NESN FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES.





2024 STATE WINNERS

ALABAMA



SPORTSCASTER
David Crane



SPORTSCASTER
Barry McKnight



SPORTSWRITER
Nick Kelly

ARIZONA



SPORTSCASTER
Jody Jackson



SPORTSWRITER
Craig Morgan

ARKANSAS



SPORTSCASTER
David Bazzel



SPORTSWRITER
Bob Holt

CALIFORNIA



SPORTSCASTER
Duane Kuiper



SPORTSCASTER
Ken Korach



SPORTSWRITER
Scott Ostler

COLORADO



SPORTSCASTER
Katy Winge



SPORTSWRITER
Sean Keeler

CONNECTICUT



SPORTSCASTER
Joe Zone



SPORTSWRITER
Lori Riley



SPORTSWRITER
Marisa Ingemi

2024 STATE WINNERS

DELAWARE



SPORTSCASTER
Sean Greene



SPORTSWRITER
Brandon Holveck

DC



SPORTSCASTER
Joe Beninati



SPORTSCASTER
JP Finlay



SPORTSWRITER
Barry Svrluga

FLORIDA



SPORTSCASTER
Gene Deckerhoff



SPORTSWRITER
Ira Winderman

GEORGIA



SPORTSCASTER
Wiley Ballard



SPORTSWRITER
Mark Bradley



SPORTSWRITER
Tori McElhaney

HAWAII



SPORTSCASTER
Rob DeMello



SPORTSWRITER
Billy Hull

IDAHO



SPORTSCASTER
John Mallory



SPORTSWRITER
B.J. Rains

ILLINOIS



SPORTSCASTER
Pat Hughes



SPORTSWRITER
Mark Potash

INDIANA



SPORTSCASTER
Don Fischer



SPORTSWRITER
Dana Benbow

2024 STATE WINNERS

IOWA



SPORTSCASTER
Jake Brend



SPORTSWRITER
Jeff Linder

KANSAS



SPORTSCASTER
Pat Strathman



SPORTSWRITER
Taylor Eldridge

KENTUCKY



SPORTSCASTER
Maggie Davis



SPORTSWRITER
John Clay

LOUISIANA



SPORTSCASTER
Joel Myers



SPORTSWRITER
Katherine Terrell

MAINE



SPORTSCASTER
Emma Tiedemann



SPORTSWRITER
Travis Lazarczyk

MARYLAND



SPORTSCASTER
Gerry Sandusky



SPORTSWRITER
Bill Wagner

MASSACHUSETTS



SPORTSCASTER
Jack Edwards



SPORTSWRITER
Adam Himmelsbach

MICHIGAN



SPORTSCASTER
Jason Benetti



SPORTSWRITER
Mick McCabe

2024 STATE WINNERS

MINNESOTA



SPORTSCASTER
Michael Grady



SPORTSWRITER
Mike Russo

MISSISSIPPI



SPORTSCASTER
Neil Price



SPORTSWRITER
Robbie Faulk

MISSOURI



SPORTSCASTER
Chris Kerber

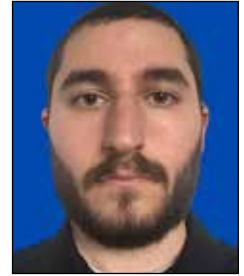


SPORTSWRITER
Rob Rains

MONTANA



SPORTSCASTER
Keaton Gillogly



SPORTSWRITER
Frank Gogola

NEBRASKA



SPORTSCASTER
Greg Sharpe



SPORTSWRITER
Mike Patterson

NEVADA



SPORTSCASTER
Matt Neverett



SPORTSWRITER
Vinny Bonsignore

NEW HAMPSHIRE



SPORTSCASTER
Pete Webster



SPORTSWRITER
Dave Haley

NEW JERSEY



SPORTSCASTER
Dave Popkin



SPORTSWRITER
Jerry Carino

NEW MEXICO



SPORTSCASTER
Jared Chester



SPORTSWRITER
James Barron

NEW YORK



SPORTSCASTER
Gary Cohen



SPORTSWRITER
Larry Brooks



SPORTSWRITER
Zack Rosenblatt

NORTH CAROLINA



SPORTSCASTER
Anish Shroff



SPORTSCASTER
Tripp Tracy



SPORTSWRITER
Luke DeCock

NORTH DAKOTA



SPORTSCASTER
Tim Hennessy



SPORTSWRITER
Mike McFeely

OHIO



SPORTSCASTER
Joe Danneman



SPORTSWRITER
Zack Meisel

OKLAHOMA



SPORTSCASTER
Matt Pinto



SPORTSWRITER
Ken MacLeod

OREGON



SPORTSCASTER
Nick Krupke



SPORTSWRITER
Bill Oram

PENNSYLVANIA



SPORTSCASTER
Merrill Reese



SPORTSWRITER
Matt Breen



SPORTSWRITER
Mike Sielski

2024 STATE WINNERS

RHODE ISLAND



SPORTSCASTER
Ian Steele



SPORTSWRITER
Kevin McNamara

SOUTH CAROLINA



SPORTSCASTER
Marc Whiteman



SPORTSWRITER
Chapel Fowler

SOUTH DAKOTA



SPORTSCASTER
Bryce Ladwig



SPORTSWRITER
Ryan Deal

TENNESSEE



SPORTSCASTER
Bob Kesling



SPORTSWRITER
Jim Wyatt

TEXAS



SPORTSCASTER
Roger Wallace



SPORTSWRITER
Mike Finger

UTAH



SPORTSCASTER
Craig Bolerjack



SPORTSWRITER
Sarah Todd

VERMONT



SPORTSCASTER
Michael Dugan

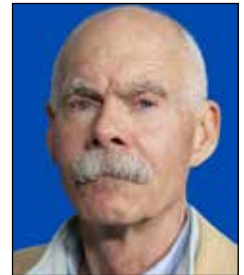


SPORTSWRITER
Alex Abrami

VIRGINIA



SPORTSCASTER
Jermaine Ferrell



SPORTSWRITER
John O'Connor

WASHINGTON



SPORTSCASTER
Alyssa Charlston-Smith



SPORTSWRITER
Jon Manley

WEST VIRGINIA



SPORTSCASTER
Fred Persinger



SPORTSWRITER
Gary Fauber

WISCONSIN



SPORTSCASTER
Lance Allan



SPORTSCASTER
Sophia Minnaert



SPORTSWRITER
Pete Dougherty



WYOMING



SPORTSCASTER
Dennis Switzer



SPORTSWRITER
Jack Nowlin

VOTING PROCESS

NSMA members in each state nominate up to three people for state and national awards from mid-October through mid-November. The names of the top two state vote-getters and top 10 national vote-getters (plus ties) appear on the final ballot. If a minimum of two candidates fail to earn a minimum number of nomination votes, that category requires a write-in vote on the final ballot. National Board members supply the 10 Hall of Fame finalists.

Final ballot voting is conducted throughout the month of December. In the event of ties, a tiebreaker vote is conducted. If there is still a tie after the tiebreaker vote, that contest is declared a tie and the candidates are declared co-winners.

Congratulations

Lori Riley

2024 Connecticut
Sportswriter
of the Year!

Hartford Courant



Congratulations!

John O'Connor

The Richmond Times-Dispatch congratulates John O'Connor for being named 2024 NSMA Virginia Sportswriter of the Year. Thank you for your outstanding work covering sports in Richmond and throughout Virginia.

Richmond Times-Dispatch
VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER





CONGRATULATIONS
KATY WINGE

2024 NSMA COLORADO SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR



HALL OF FAME GALLERY



1962
Grantland Rice



1963
Edward Brit 'Ted' Husing



1964
Graham McNamee



1964
Damon Runyon



1967
Ring Lardner



1969
J.G. Taylor Spink



1970
Clem McCarthy



1971
John Kieran



1972
Mel Allen



1973
Walter Lanier 'Red' Barber



1973
Arch Ward



1974
Bill Stern



1974
Stanley Woodward



1975
Russ Hodges



1975
Dan Parker



1976
Arthur Daley



1976
Jay Hanna 'Dizzy' Dean



1977
Walter Wellesley 'Red' Smith



1978
Jim Murray



1978
Jesse Owens



1979
Lindsey Nelson



1979
John Wayne



1980
Bob Considine



1980
Lou Gehrig



1981
Curt Gowdy

HALL OF FAME GALLERY



1981
Chris Schenkel



1982
Ray Scott



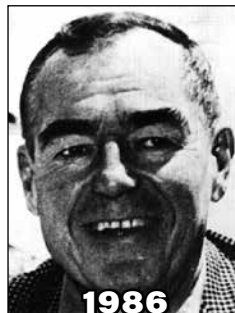
1983
Jack Brickhouse



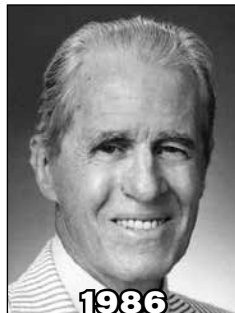
1984
Shirley Povich



1985
Si Burick



1986
Jimmy Cannon



1986
Don Dunphy



1986
Bob Prince



1987
Will Grimsley



1987
Jim McKay



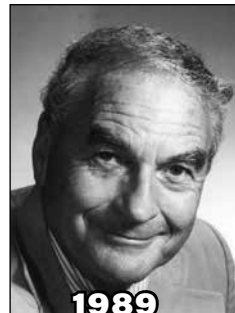
1988
Harry Caray



1988
Fred Russell



1988
John Patrick 'Jack' Murphy



1989
Furman Bisher



1989
William Earnest 'Ernie' Harwell



1990
Dave Anderson



1990
Jack Buck



1990
Knute Rockne



1990
Ronald Reagan



1991
Blackie Sherrod



1991
Vin Scully



1992
Dick Connor



1993
Howard Cosell



1993
Marty Glickman



1993
Murray Olderman

HALL OF FAME GALLERY



1994
Edwin Pope



1994
John Carmichael



1994
Pat Summerall



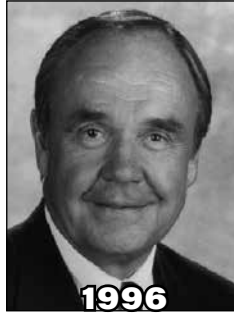
1995
Keith Jackson



1995
Mel Durslag



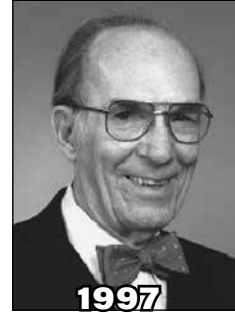
1996
Dan Jenkins



1996
Dick Enberg



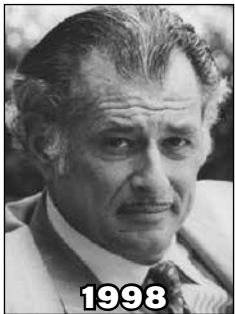
1997
Francis Dayle 'Chick' Hearn



1997
Robert Wiley Broeg



1998
Al Michaels



1998
Frank Deford



1999
John Steadman



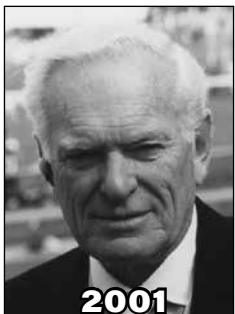
1999
Jon Miller



2000
Jim Simpson



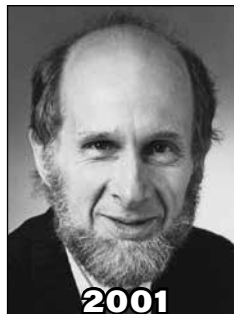
2000
Jerry Izenberg



2001
Jack Whitaker



2001
W. C. Heinz



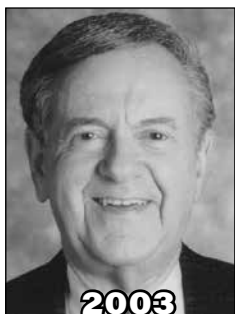
2001
George Vecsey



2002
Bob Murphy



2002
Bud Collins



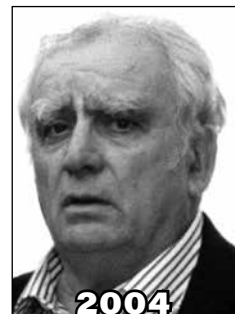
2003
Bob Wolff



2003
Will McDonough



2004
Joe Garagiola



2004
Jerome Holtzman



2005
Marty Brennaman

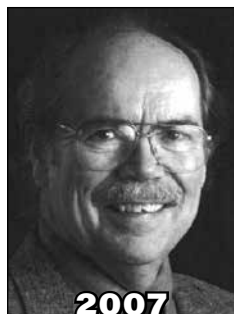
HALL OF FAME GALLERY



2005
Sally Jenkins



2007
Verne Lundquist



2007
Dave Kindred



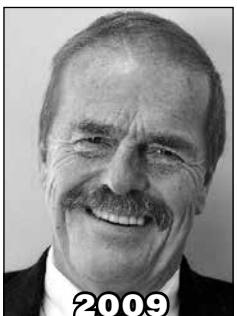
2008
Harry Kalas



2008
Mary Garber



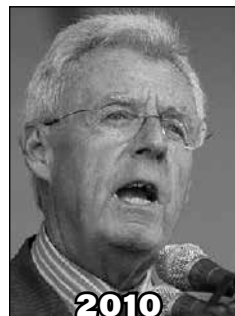
2009
Larry Munson



2009
Leigh Montville



2010
John Madden



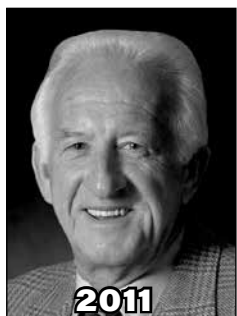
2010
Peter Gammons



2011
Brent Musburger



2011
Bob Ryan



2011
Bob Uecker



2012
Bob Costas



2012
John Feinstein



2013
Mitch Albom



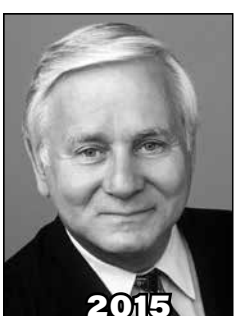
2013
Dick Vitale



2014
Marv Albert



2014
Rick Reilly



2015
Dick Schaap



2015
Hal McCoy



2015
Bill Raftery



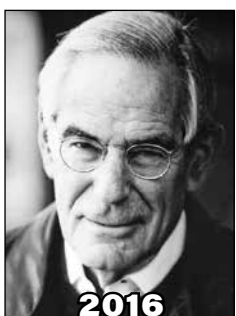
2015
Lesley Visser



2016
Billy Packer

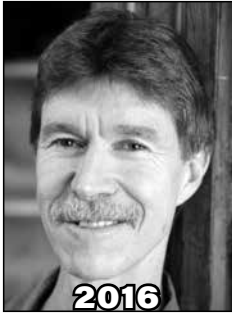


2016
Chris Berman



2016
David Halberstam

HALL OF FAME GALLERY



2016
Gary Smith



2017
Frank Gifford



2017
Linda Cohn



2017
Mike Lupica



2017
Sam Lacy



2018
Woody Durham



2018
Bryant Gumbel



2018
Thomas Boswell



2018
Dick Weiss



2019
Bob Ley



2019
Mike 'Doc' Emrick



2019
Peter King



2019
Tony Kornheiser



2020
Cawood Ledford



2020
Dan Patrick



2020
Michael Wilbon



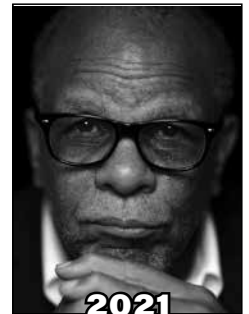
2020
Skip Caray



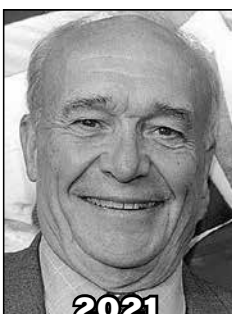
2020
Tom Verducci



2020
Dick Young



2021
William C. Rhoden



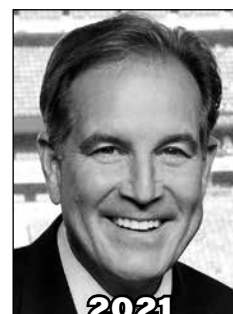
2021
William Nack



2021
Rick Telander



2021
Larry Merchant

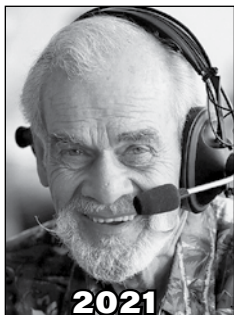


2021
Jim Nantz



2021
Dick Stockton

HALL OF FAME GALLERY



2021

Bill King



2022

Curry Kirkpatrick



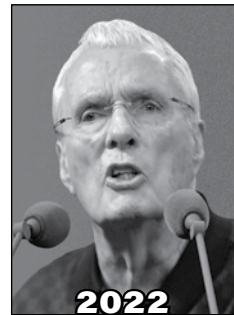
2022

Stuart Scott



2022

Jackie MacMullan



2022

Hubie Brown



2023

Lee Corso



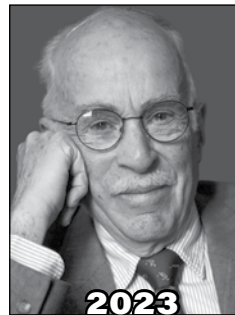
2023

Dan Kelly



2023

Bill Plaschke



2023

Roger Angell



2024

Andrea Kremer



2024

Jayson Stark



2024

Joe Buck



2024

Roger Kahn



2024

Tim McCarver



2025

Mike Tirico



2025

Charlie Jones



2025

Dan Shaughnessy



2025

Wendell Smith

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EXCELLENCE IN
SPORTS MEDIA



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Congratulations Frank Gogola!

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65th National Sports Media Association **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**



*Grandover Resort & Spa -- a Wyndham Grand Hotel
1000 Club Rd., Greensboro, NC*

SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH

3:00-6:00pm

Registration, Hotel Lobby

5:00-7:00pm

Welcome Reception

Light hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soft drinks

Dress: Business casual

MONDAY, JUNE 30TH

9:00am-6:00pm

Registration, Hotel Lobby

9:30-11:30am

Feedback Session (for Summit registrants only)

Dress: Business or business casual

12:30-4:30pm

Sports Media Convergence Summit

Dress: Business or business casual

5:00-6:00pm

65th NSMA Awards Reception

Dress: Business/cocktail

6:00-9:00pm

65th NSMA Awards Banquet

(Ceremony begins promptly at 6:00)

Dress: Business for men; business or cocktail for women

9:00pm

After Party, Lobby Bar (Cash Bar)



The NSMA welcomes Elon University and its School of Communications as our Presenting Sponsor for The NSMA Sports Media Convergence Summit series. The series begins with the hybrid in-person/virtual Summit at our 65th Awards & National Convention. Four more virtual Summits will be held during the 2025-26 academic year. Watch our website for details.

Thanks to all our presenters and those working our Feedback Sessions for donating their time to help our students and young professionals navigate their path in the industry!

SMALL GROUP/1-on-1 FEEDBACK 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

CONVERGENCE SUMMIT PANELS

12:30 - Paying Your Dues

Tori McElhaney/Atlanta Falcons

Jermaine Ferrell/WFXR-TV



1:30 - Reporting Workshop

Dan Shaughnessy/Boston Globe

Ken Rosenthal/The Athletic, FOX Sports



2:30 - Ask the Pros

Lydia Craver/Charlotte Observer

Mike Tirico/NBC Sports



3:30 - DIY: From Podcasts To PXP

Des Johnson/Tobacco Road Sports Radio

Joe Ovies/Ovies & Giglio Podcast





CONGRATULATIONS DOUG RICE

Speedway Motorsports and Performance Racing Network are proud to celebrate the incredible career of Doug Rice and his 36 years of broadcasting excellence.



SPEEDWAY MOTORSPORTS

CONGRATS



WYFF

CONGRATULATES

**MARC
WHITEMAN**

NSMA
SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR
SOUTH CAROLINA

INTERN GALLERY

The National Sports Media Association believes deeply in the investment we make in our interns. The practical experience they gain through various assignments benefits them in several areas.

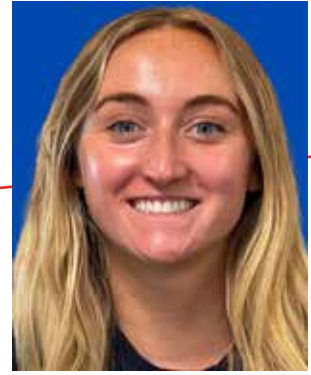
Interviewing our award winners teaches interns how to be conversational, formulate questions, listen carefully, and ask follow-up questions.

Working on databases teaches them how to enter data, organize it, and sort it.

Our social media campaigns involve graphic design as well as copywriting.

Our summer interns learn how the Awards Weekend/Convention is organized, and help with the planning and execution of that. They also assist in packing and preparing the awards for mailing.

Meet some of the dozens of interns who have worked with NSMA over the last two years.



**WYLLY
WILLMOTT**

COLLEGE:
Virginia '26

INTERN SEMESTER:
Summer '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

I loved the fun, collaborative environment, working towards putting on a unique and meaningful event.



**JOHN
KINNEY**

COLLEGE:
Arizona State '26

INTERN SEMESTER:
Summer '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

The opportunity to help plan and coordinate the 64th NSMA Awards Weekend and meet broadcasters from across the U.S.



**CATHERINE
KREIDLER**

COLLEGE:
Wake Forest '25

INTERN SEMESTER:
Fall '24/Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

Interviewing all of the award winners in the spring.



**CALEB
HERRERA**

COLLEGE:
North Carolina '26

INTERN SEMESTER:
Summer '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

Getting to meet so many accomplished individuals within sports media and learning more about the industry.



DENISE COLEMAN

COLLEGE:
Alabama '29

INTERN SEMESTER:
Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
Working on spreadsheets helped me build strong organizational and data management skills.



MCKENZIE KANE

COLLEGE:
Washington & Lee '25

INTERN SEMESTER:
Spring '24/Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
Learning about the life stories and professional journeys of the 2024 state award recipients.



RILEY MANN

COLLEGE:
Wake Forest '26

INTERN SEMESTER:
Spring '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
The process of interviewing sportscasters/writers, gaining valuable insights into their experiences and perspectives.



SCOTTIE KIMMELMAN

COLLEGE:
Wake Forest '25

INTERN SEMESTER:
Spring '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
Getting the opportunity to interview and connect with several different sports commentators and writers to learn all about their career paths.



MIKE SPAUGH

COLLEGE:
High Point '25

INTERN SEMESTER:
Summer '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
Gaining hands-on experience in sports journalism and event coverage, while working closely with industry professionals.



BLAKE ROBISON

COLLEGE:
Wake Forest '28

INTERN SEMESTER:
Fall '24/Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:
I loved the daily conversations with Dave and the other interns, as well as the awesome people I met.



ALYSSA ANDREWS

COLLEGE:

Wake Forest '25

INTERN SEMESTER:

Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

I gained valuable experience in professional networking and conducted interviews with award recipients.



PEYTON YOUSE

COLLEGE:

High Point '27

INTERN SEMESTER:

Fall '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

I learned the importance of networking and building meaningful relationships with those already in the sports media industry.



HELENA HRDLICKA

COLLEGE:

High Point '26

INTERN SEMESTER:

Summer '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

Having the opportunity to talk to and meet with sports media professionals during the awards ceremony.



ABAGAIL TUCKER

COLLEGE:

High Point '25

INTERN SEMESTER:

Fall '24

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

Getting the opportunity to interview and connect with several sports commentators and writers to learn all about their career paths.



RILEY HORTON

COLLEGE:

Fayetteville State '29

INTERN SEMESTER:

Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

I will be a sports business major in college, so gaining insight into the industry was very beneficial to me.



VANCE BALLARD

COLLEGE:

East Carolina '16 (Full-time firefighter)



INTERN SEMESTER:

Spring '25

WHAT I LIKED BEST:

The importance of putting yourself out there, never say no, and maybe most importantly OVER PREPARE!



WHO HAS
BERGERON SCORED
 PATRICE BERGERON, WITH THE
 OF THE DAGGER
 THEY RIP IT OFF
AND K
THIS BUILD
 IT'S HOCKEY NIGHT
 IN NEW ENGLAND
OF ITS BLUBBER!
STRIP THE WHALE
 SHIMON
 MOORE!

CONGRATULATIONS JACK!

**19 INCREDIBLE YEARS AS
 THE VOICE OF THE BOSTON BRUINS**

CONGRATULATIONS
TORI McELHANEY
 on being named 2024 NSMA Georgia Sportswriter of the Year

National Sports Media Association MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

With the help of Ghanaian sports journalist Philip Layer Alimo, the NSMA started its virtual mentorship program last July, with a live virtual introduction and mentor matching session of a dozen students and young professionals with industry veterans as mentors. Eric Reid, television play-by-play voice of the Miami Heat, was the keynote speaker.

Much like the Convergence Summit and Feedback Session held during our Awards Weekend & National Convention, the mentorship program is part of our commitment to our mission of helping students and young professionals navigate their paths.

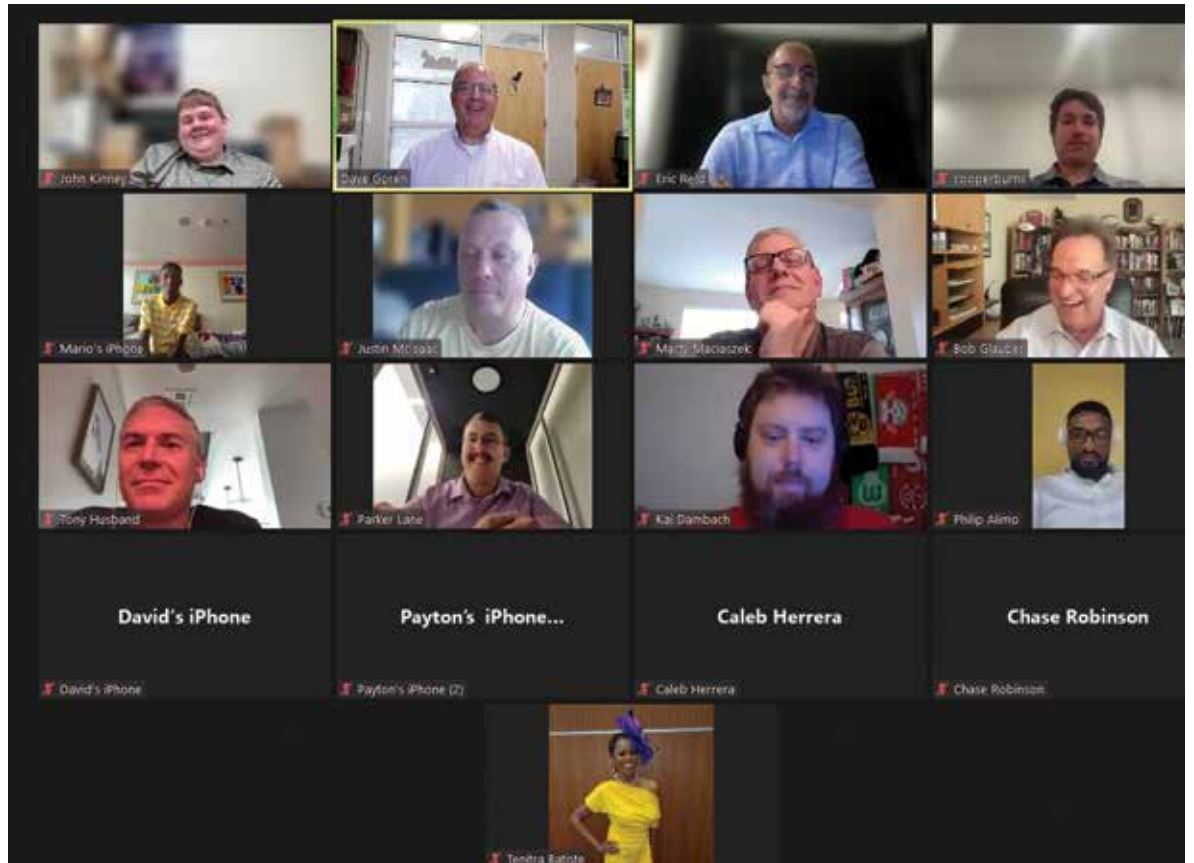
Our mentors include writers and broadcasters and were matched with mentees who expressed interest in specific fields.

A sampling of the feedback from one of the mentorships:

From mentor: "We're staying on track. Meeting on a regular schedule, generally every other Tuesday (next week is our next meeting). (Mentee) is making steady growth in his play-by-play work. We are focusing on storytelling and varying vocabulary. We've also discussed his talk show and ways he can better engage with listeners and how to advocate and pursue opportunities. (Mentee) has a supportive partner and we discuss career but also ways to handle conversations, especially if they are more difficult."

From mentee: "My mentorship meetings with (mentor) have been fantastic! We meet on a call every other Tuesday and the feedback he has given me on the tape I have sent has been super helpful. I'm very thankful to be a part of this program."

The NSMA is looking to grow the mentorship program on both sides. We need more professional mentors, as well as student mentees, as we continue our commitment to helping the next generation.



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together worth
cheering for!



Congratulations, Chris Kerber

2024 NSMA Missouri Sportscaster of the Year

Thank you for your outstanding work
calling St. Louis Blues hockey!





NSMA's dual mission includes helping students and young professionals. One of the ways we do that is through our student chapter program, which encourages learning from industry professionals and putting into practice what is learned.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA STUDENT CHAPTER

By Alex Chasen, Outgoing UA NSMA President



This year, UA NSMA hosted an exciting lineup of events featuring top professionals in the sports media industry.

The first semester kicked off with NSMA Executive Director Dave Goren, who shared insights from his more than 45-year career and highlighted the organization's offerings for aspiring and current media professionals. Students then heard from Alabama alum J.P. Shadrick, radio play-by-play announcer and Jacksonville Jaguars pre- and post-game host, who spoke about his journey from UA to present day. Alabama graduate student Alex Boothe also joined to share his six years of experience within UA's sports media program. He has participated in all media opportunities on campus and has been a great mentor for students.

The second semester started with Dallas Cowboys sales office employee, college football YouTube content creator, and Alabama master's program graduate Brian Gregoire. He offered a behind-the-scenes look at working in professional sports from a different lens. One of the most anticipated meetings featured Alabama play-by-play broadcaster Chris Stewart. Stewart, who took over for the great Eli Gold, spoke with students on his long journey to the position he's in today, full of hardships and perseverance. UA NSMA also collaborated with another student-led organization on campus, Girls Club. They welcomed Berkleigh Mezzanotte, a recent University of Central Florida graduate, current sideline reporter for UCF Athletics, and the Coastal Plain League.



In addition to guest speakers, UA NSMA held a LinkedIn workshop led by UA Professor Mike Little, a long-time faculty member in the Advertising and Public Relations Department. Students learned how to enhance their professional presence on LinkedIn with practical tips and guidance.

Along with monthly meetings, the organization ran an Instagram that 2024-25 Social Media and Membership Director Grace Elliot posted to weekly. She created a "Home Games This Week" post so students could learn what UA sports were going on around campus. Another weekly post that started in the second semester was "Member Highlight Friday." UA NSMA members would send in pictures or videos of themselves working in sports media to be posted and highlighted. Board members also went around campus asking sports questions to Alabama students, such as, "Who will win March Madness?" or "What's your favorite sports

moment?" The executive board for 2024-25, consisting of President Alex Chasen, Vice President Will Mauro, and Treasurer Jake Reichart, particularly enjoyed creating the "2025 NSMA Combine," a spin-off of the NFL Draft Combine.

The year brought two massive opportunities for members. In the first semester, UA NSMA was granted behind-the-scenes access to SEC Nation before the Alabama versus Auburn football game and was able to meet several on-air talents. In the second semester, ESPN's College GameDay came to campus for the Alabama versus Auburn basketball game. More than ten members



were able to get a behind-the-scenes opportunity that allowed them to meet UA graduate Rece Davis and the other College GameDay on-air talents.

The year concluded with the organization's elections, closing out a packed two semesters full of learning, networking, and professional development opportunities.

2025-26 NSMA Executive Board: President: Grace Elliot (Junior); Vice President: Jake Reichert (Senior); Social Media/Membership Director: Summer Saunders (Senior); Treasurer: Chloe Rigdon (Graduate Student); Secretary: Jace White (Sophomore)

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY - Clarksville, TN

By Student Chapter Faculty Rep, Barry Gresham



The National Sports Media Association Student Chapter at Austin Peay State University just completed its 10th year as a registered student organization on the APSU campus. This past year, chapter members produced the broadcast for the first-ever APSU Gobs Hockey game vs Eastern Kentucky on September 21, 2024 at the new Ford Ice Center in downtown Clarksville, Tennessee.

Nine-time NSMA Tennessee Sportscaster of the Year Pete Weber was hosted by the chapter for a "Hockey 101" presentation on October 8, 2024. The chapter attended the Nashville Predators Career Fair at the Bridgestone Arena on March 20, 2025. Following the event, the students received an exclusive "behind-the-scenes" tour of the entire in-house and TV video production of the Predators vs Anaheim Ducks game.

Chapter members have been attending the NSMA Hall of Fame Weekend since 2014 and two lucky members were chosen to attend the 2025 event this year in Greensboro. The APSU NSMA Student Chapter is looking forward to another outstanding academic year as they begin their second decade as an affiliate of the NSMA.

2025 Winner



JACK SMITH

Senior - University of Southern California

This marks the 14th year that the NSMA and the Sportscasters Talent Agency of America have partnered on the presentation of the Jim Nantz Award.

The Nantz Award is the culmination of the STAA All-America Competition, which recognizes the most outstanding collegiate radio and TV sports broadcasters. STAA's mission is to encourage collegiate sportscasters to strive to achieve their best.

Each year, the nation's most outstanding collegiate sportscaster is presented the Jim Nantz Award, named in honor of the 2021 NSMA Hall of Fame inductee and five-time National Sportscaster of the Year.

The 2025 Jim Nantz Award winner is University of Southern California senior Jack Smith. Congratulations, Jack!



Jim Nantz

Previous Winners



Derryl Barnes Jr.



Carlo Jiménez



Caroline Pineda



Evan Hughes



Scotty Gange



Drew Carter



Katie (Emmer) Storm



Nate Gatter



Josh Appel



Eric Gallanty



Kevin Fitzgerald



Ross Lippman



Bill Spaulding



Alex Faust



John Twork



Adam Cavalier

PREVIOUS WINNERS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2024 - Derryl Barnes Jr. - Sr. - University of Miami	Multimedia Reporter - Front Office Sports
2023 - Carlo Jiménez - Sr. - University of Southern California	Radio Play-by-Play - Los Angeles Clippers (NBA)
2022 - Caroline Pineda	Sideline Reporter and Sideline Assist - NBC Sports
2021 - Evan Hughes - Sr. - Virginia Tech	Asst. Dir of Broadcast Services - Virginia Tech Sports Properties
2020 - Scotty Gange - Sr. - Arizona State University	Sports Reporter/Anchor - KUSA-TV, Denver
2019 - Drew Carter - Sr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - Boston Celtics/NBCSports Boston
2018 - Katie (Emmer) Storm - Sr. - St. Cloud St. U.	Host/Reporter - FanDuel Sports North, Minneapolis
2017 - Nate Gatter - Jr. - University of Missouri	TV Play-by-Play/Radio Host - Freelance
2016 - Josh Appel - Sr. - University of South Florida	PA Announcer - Miami Marlins; Radio Play-by-Play - Sports USA Media, VISTA Worldlink
2015 - Eric Gallanty - Sr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play, Boston College, Harvard - ACCN Extra, ESPN+
2014 - Kevin Fitzgerald - Sr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - ESPN, FOX Sports; Also Podcast Host
2013 - Ross Lippman - Sr. - Emerson College	Photojournalist - WSBE-TV (PBS), Providence, RI
2012 - Bill Spaulding - Jr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - New Jersey Devils
2011 - Alex Faust - Jr. - Northeastern University	TV Play-by-Play - Freelance
2010 - John Twork - Sr. - Eastern Illinois University	Online/Print Communications Coordinator - Illinois State University
2009 - Adam Cavalier - Sr. - Marshall University	Assoc. AD, Athletic Comms/External Affairs - Carson-Newman University



CONGRATULATIONS to tonight's honorees!

The Greensboro Sports Council was formed in 1959 as a support group for First Horizon Coliseum. Our primary purpose was and remains to provide hospitality, resources and community support for events held at the Greensboro Complex and surrounding venues.

GreensboroSportsCouncil.com



2024-25 College Basketball Coach Of The Year
BIG HOUSE GAINES AWARD

DENNIS GATES

DIVISION I • UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



Making an immediate impact at the University of Missouri and reestablishing the Tigers on the national stage, Dennis Gates completed his third season as Whitten Family Men's Basketball Head Coach in 2024-25. In just three short seasons, Gates has put himself among the top coaches in the country.

Named the program's 20th head coach on March 22, 2022, Gates made his first year on the Tigers' sideline a memorable one. Inheriting a team that won 12 games and returned just three players from the season before, Gates engineered the seventh-best improvement nationally — and top among power-conference schools — during the 2022-23 campaign with the Tigers winning 25 games. The program's highest win total in 11 years, Mizzou also completed its best campaign since joining the SEC by advancing to the conference semifinals for the first time before capping the year with its first NCAA Tournament victory in 13 seasons.

When it was all said and done, Gates' 25 wins were the most by any first-year SEC coach since the Tigers joined the conference in 2012 and the fifth-most in league history, trailing only Tubby Smith, John Calipari, Eddie Sutton and Trent Johnson. Following the campaign, Gates was honored with SEC Coach of the Year accolades by USA Today, marking the third time in his young coaching career he received his league's top honor.

Gates' success did not end in his first season, however. During the 2024-25 campaign, the Tigers placed sixth in a SEC that sent a record 14 schools to the NCAA Tournament, outperforming their preseason expectations by seven spots in the standings. Mizzou also earned three wins over top-five teams for the first time since 1988-89, including the program's fifth-ever and first since 1997 against the nation's top-ranked team in No. 1 Kansas. Mizzou also defeated No. 4 Alabama and No. 5 Florida during the season, with the latter marking the first for the Tigers over the eventual national champions since 1983.

Gates also reached a milestone during the 2024-25 season with the team's 88-61 win at Mississippi State, marking the 100th of his career.

In two of his three seasons, Gates has been named a top-15 semifinalist for the Naismith Coach of the Year.

Gates joined the Tigers following a three-year run as head coach at Cleveland State, leading the Vikings to two Horizon League Championships and back-to-back postseason appearances.

Prior to that, he was an assistant coach at Florida State, Marquette, California, Illinois, and Nevada. He was a three-year captain as a combo guard at Cal and was a two-time Pac-10 First Team All-Academic Team selection. Gates was also named the team's Most Inspirational Player in 2001, its Outstanding Student-Athlete in 1999 and 2001, and was awarded the 2002 Pac-10 Medal of Honor, which is presented to the Pac-10 Universities Top Graduating Student-Athlete.

Gates earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from UC Berkeley in just three years and played a fourth year as a master's degree candidate in education. He earned his master's in adult education and human resource development from Florida State in 2005.

The Chicago native is married with three children.

2024-25 College Basketball Coach Of The Year
BIG HOUSE GAINES AWARD

COACH TYREECE BROWN

DIVISION II - FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY (WOMEN)



Tyreece Brown, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., was named the head coach for the Fayetteville State University women's basketball program in March 2024.

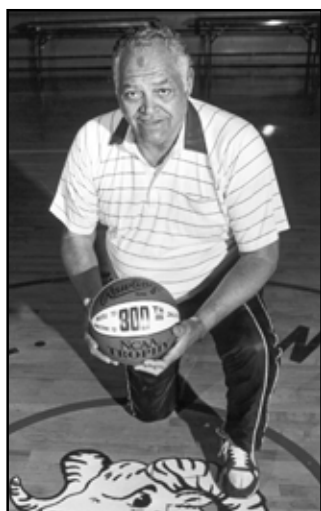
Brown, a 2008 graduate of Fayetteville State University, played on the men's basketball team as a two-year starter and was instrumental in leading the team to a Championship appearance in 2005.

He began his coaching career as an assistant coach for the women's basketball program in 2011, contributing to four Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship game appearances and a title win in 2020. Under his leadership as interim head coach during the 2023-24 season, the Broncos achieved a record-breaking 29-3 season and reached the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA playoffs. Brown's exceptional coaching earned him the 2023-24 CIAA Coach of the Year award.

Following the removal of the interim tag, Coach Brown led the 2024-25 team to an impressive 21-8 overall record and a 13-3 mark in the CIAA. His leadership and strategic acumen were evident as the team navigated the season with determination and skill. Under his guidance, the team sailed through the CIAA Tournament, showcasing their resilience and teamwork. Their efforts culminated in reclaiming the 2024-25 CIAA Championship, earning the title of back-to-back champions for the first time in school history. Although winning the CIAA Tournament secured a spot in the NCAA DII Atlantic Region playoffs, the team had already been ranked within the top ten. Coach Brown's impact has been transformative, setting a new standard of excellence for the program and inspiring his players to reach new heights.

Brown and his wife are the parents of two daughters and live in Fayetteville, N.C.

About The Clarence "Big House" Gaines Awards



The Clarence "Big House" Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year Awards are presented to the head coaches in NCAA Divisions I and II who may not earn recognition from mainstream outlets. An NSMA committee votes on the awards at the conclusion of the NCAA men's and women's tournaments.

Gaines was the head basketball coach at Winston-Salem (NC) State University for 47 seasons. His teams won 828 games, including the 1967 NCAA Division II National Championship. That team was led by Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, who went on to an NBA Hall of Fame career. Among other notable players, Gaines coached Cleo Hill, the first NBA first-round draft choice from a historically Black college or university, and sports media personality Stephen A. Smith. A former president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), Gaines was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982. He died in 2005.

GAINES AWARDS

ALL-TIME WINNERS

Year

2023-24
2022-23
2021-22
2020-21
2019-20
2018-19
2017-18
2016-17
2015-16
2014-15
2013-14
2012-13
2011-12
2010-11

Division I

Kevin Keatts - North Carolina State (M)
Rodney Terry - Texas (M)
Hubert Davis - North Carolina (M)
No Winner (COVID)
No Winner (COVID)
Kelvin Sampson - Houston (M)
Leonard Hamilton - Florida State (M)
Dawn Staley - South Carolina (W)
James Jones - Yale (M)
Ron Hunter - Georgia State (M)
Monté Ross - Delaware (M)
Tommy Amaker - Harvard (M)
Anthony Evans - Norfolk State (M)
Shaka Smart - VCU (M)

Division II

Alfred Jordan - Clark Atlanta (M)
Tynesha Lewis - Elizabeth City State, NC (W)
Janice Washington - Lincoln, PA (W)
No Winner (COVID)
No Winner (COVID)
Lonnie Blow Jr. - Virginia State (M)
Ricky Jackson - Claflin University (M)
AnnMarie Gilbert - Virginia Union (W)
AnnMarie Gilbert - Virginia Union (W)
James Hill Jr. - Virginia State (W)
Leon Douglas - Tuskegee (M)
James Stinson - Livingstone (M)
Jacques Curtis - Shaw (W)
Cleo Hill Jr. - Shaw (M)

(M) - Men's team (W) - Women's team



Woody Durham

VOICE OF COLLEGE SPORTS AWARD



Created in 2018, the Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award recognizes professional college broadcasters who fit the following criteria: preparation; association with his/her school; tenure at their school; efforts in the community; mentorship of young broadcasters; character. The award is named for the legendary, 40-year radio play-by-play announcer for the University of North Carolina, and is sponsored by Learfield and the University of North Carolina athletics department.

ALL-TIME DURHAM AWARD WINNERS

2024 MIKE REIS
Southern Illinois University

2023 RICH CHVOTKIN
Georgetown

2022 JOE STARKEY
University of California

2021 GENE DECKERHOFF
Florida State University

2020 JOHNNY HOLLIDAY
University of Maryland

2019 BILL HILLGROVE
University of Pittsburgh

2018 DON FISCHER
Indiana University

Ray Goss completed his 57th season behind the microphone as the Voice of the Dukes in 2024-25. The longest tenured broadcaster at the NCAA Division I level, Goss has been behind the mic for more than half of the over 2,700 games in Duquesne's 109-year history of basketball.

The first game Goss called for the Dukes during his distinguished career came on March 17, 1968, when Duquesne faced Fordham in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in New York, N.Y., at the famed Madison Square Garden. He began on a full-time basis at the beginning of the 1968-69 season and has missed only two games during his entire DU broadcasting career. The first came January 7, 1978, at Penn State when he auditioned for a regional play-by-play position with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the other March 21, 2011, at Oregon, while mourning his wife, Dee, who passed away the evening of Duquesne's victory at Montana five days earlier in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI).

In his first season as the play-by-play voice of Duquesne basketball, Goss called a 75-72 victory over No. 8 St. John's in College Park, Md., in a consolation game in the East Regional of the 1969 NCAA Championship. His career came full circle in 2024, as the Dukes defeated No. 21 BYU, 71-67, in the first round of the 2024 NCAA Championship in Omaha, Neb., at the CHI Health Center as Duquesne was making its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 47 years.

Goss' longest consecutive game streak spanned 977 games from Jan. 9, 1978, an 89-76 victory at West Virginia, to March 16, 2011, when the Dukes earned an 87-76 triumph at Montana in the first round of the 2011 CBI. Even with the onset of a global pandemic in 2020 due to COVID-19, Goss continued to call games remotely at Duquesne so fans of the program could continue to listen to his broadcast of the action.

A 1993 inductee into the Duquesne Athletics Hall of Fame, Goss is a 1958 graduate of DU, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in radio and television journalism. He was also inducted into the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters (PAB) Hall of Fame in 2023 alongside Edgar Snyder, Bill Hillgrove and The Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and is the author of a 2008 book titled "Misadventures in Broadcasting," which details his unusual and incredible experience throughout his 60+ year career in the field.

In addition to his role at Duquesne, Goss has an extensive history of sports radio experience with over 3,000 events covered in 60+ years in the field. He co-hosted "The First ABA Championship" alongside Vince Cazetta, the head coach of the Pittsburgh Pipers in the inaugural season of the American Basketball Association (ABA) in 1968-69, worked extensively covering Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) football with Jack Benedict, the voice of IUP, in Indiana, Pennsylvania. He had stints with the Pittsburgh Piranhas of the Continental Basketball Association (CBA) in 1994-95 and multiple softball competitions.

Goss and his late wife have seven children, including daughters Christine, Lisa, Julie and Amy and sons David, Thomas and Jason, and multiple grandchildren.

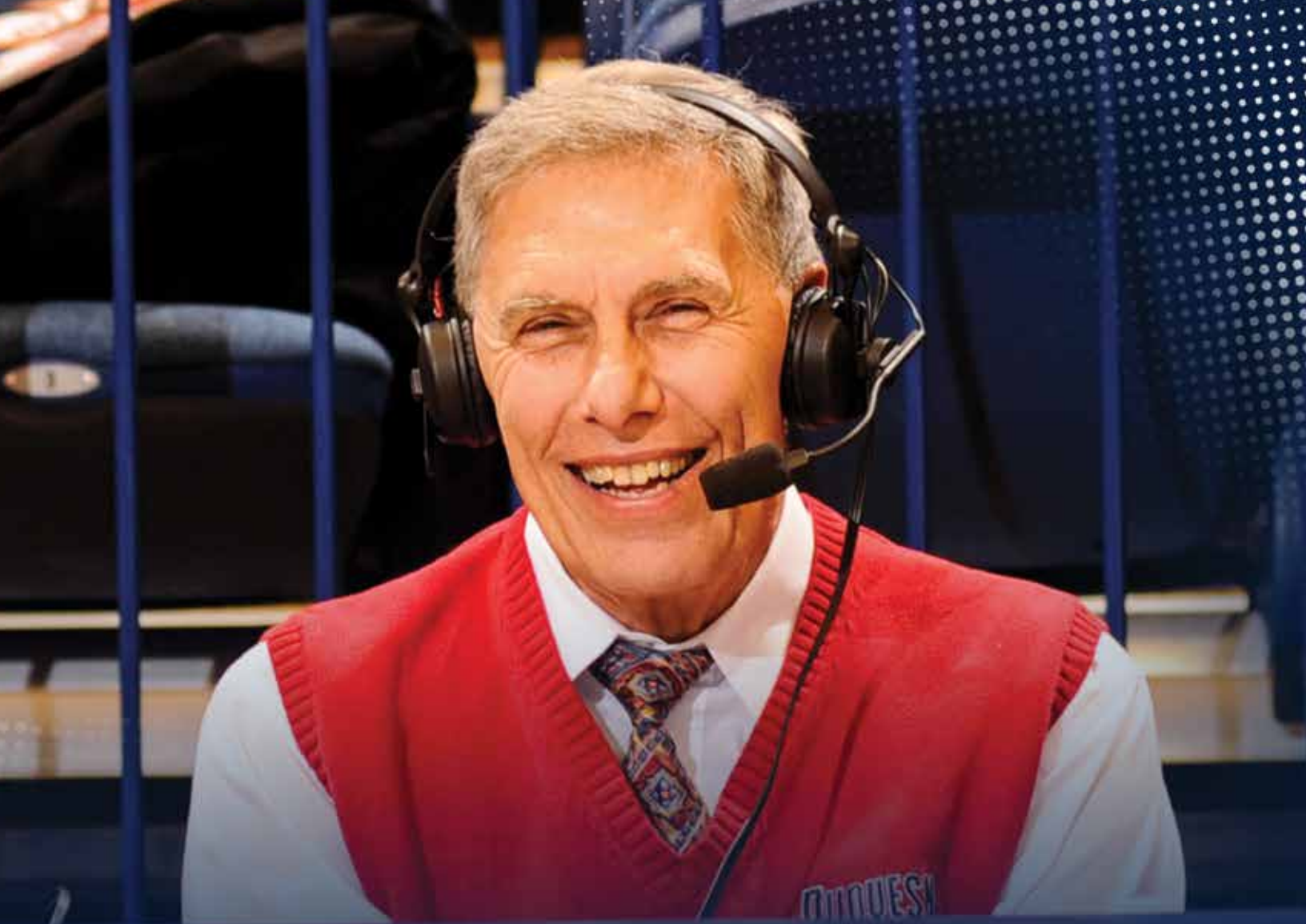


2025 Winner RAY GOSS - DUQUESNE



2024-25 BIG HOUSE GAINES
COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACHES OF THE YEAR:
DENNIS GATES, MISSOURI (DIVISION I)
TYREECE BROWN, FAYETTEVILLE STATE WOMEN'S TEAM (DIVISION II)





CONGRATULATIONS

RAY GOSS

WOODY DURHAM VOICE OF COLLEGE SPORTS AWARD

Bear Bryant

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

For 39 years, the Houston, Texas chapter of the American Heart Association has presented the Bryant Award as a salute to those college football coaches who have reached the same high standard of excellence as Coach Bryant.

NSMA members serve as the voting body for the Bryant Award. Members are emailed a ballot link at the end of the College Football Playoff National Championship Game. The award is presented on stage in Houston two nights later.

Marcus Freeman of Notre Dame was voted the winner of this year's Paul "Bear" Bryant College Football Coach of the Year Award. The Fighting Irish beat six of seven ranked teams during the 2024 season. They followed an 11-1 regular season with CFP wins over Georgia and Penn State, before Ohio State beat them in the National Championship game.

The Heart Association also presents a Lifetime Achievement to a former coach who excelled at his craft. Grant Teaff of Baylor was the 2025 winner.

Voting for the Bryant Award is a small way for NSMA members to help the AHA fight heart disease and stroke.

Bear Bryant

COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS

2024: Marcus Freeman, Notre Dame

2023	Mike Norvell	Florida State	2004	Tommy Tuberville	Auburn
2022	Sonny Dykes	TCU	2003	Nick Saban	Louisiana State
2021	Luke Fickell	Cincinnati	2002	Jim Tressel	Ohio State
2020	Nick Saban	Alabama	2001	Larry Coker	Miami
2019	Ed Orgeron	LSU	2000	Bob Stoops	Oklahoma
2018	Dabo Swinney	Clemson	1999	Frank Beamer	Virginia Tech
2017	Scott Frost	Central Florida	1998	Bill Snyder	Kansas State
2016	Dabo Swinney	Clemson	1997	Lloyd Carr	Michigan
2015	Dabo Swinney	Clemson	1996	Bruce Snyder	Arizona State
2014	Gary Patterson	TCU	1995	Gary Barnett	Northwestern
2013	Gus Malzahn	Auburn	1994	Rich Brooks	Oregon
2012	Bill O'Brien	Penn State	1993	Terry Bowden	Auburn
2011	Mike Gundy	Oklahoma State	1992	Gene Stallings	Alabama
2010	Gene Chizik	Auburn	1991	Don James	Washington
2009	Chris Petersen	Boise State	1990	Bobby Ross	Georgia Tech
2008	Kyle Whittingham	Utah	1989	Bill McCartney	Colorado
2007	Mark Mangino	Kansas	1988	Lou Holtz	Notre Dame
2006	Chris Petersen	Boise State	1987	Dick MacPherson	Syracuse
2005	Mack Brown	Texas	1986	Joe Paterno	Penn State



NSMA executive director Dave Goren (2nd left) and board member Greg Brewer (middle) join 2025 Bryant Award winner Marcus Freeman (far right) of Notre Dame and Marc Bryant Tyson (far left), grandson of Bear Bryant



Bear Bryant


LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

2025: Grant Teaff

2024	Lloyd Carr	2011	Bobby Bowden
2023	Bob Stoops	2010	Vince Dooley
2022	John Robinson	2009	Barry Switzer
2021	Howard Schnellenbeger	2008	Tom Osborne
2020	Bill Snyder	2007	Glenn "Bo" Schembechler
2019	Frank Beamer	2006	Jack Pardee
2018	Steve Spurrier	2005	Lou Holtz
2017	Barry Alvarez	2004	Gene Stallings
2016	Mack Brown	2003	Frank Broyles
2015	Jimmy Johnson	2002	Bill Yeoman
2014	R. C. Slocum	2001	Charles McClendon
2013	Lavell Edwards	2000	Darrell Royal
2012	Hayden Fry		

First awarded in 2000, the Paul "Bear" Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the career accomplishments of the nation's finest college football coaches.



Capital Gazette |  THE BALTIMORE SUN

congratulations

Bill Wagner

on being named **2024 NSMA Maryland Sportswriter of the Year**. *You are truly deserving of this honor for your tireless dedication to covering Navy and Anne Arundel County sports.*

MONUMENTAL SPORTS NETWORK CONGRATULATES JP FINLAY
ON BEING NAMED

2024 NSMA DC CO-SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR




BELTWAY FOOTBALL HOST

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CONGRATULATIONS MIKE MCFEELY!

NAMED NORTH DAKOTA

SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR



The Forum
OF FARGO-MOORHEAD



MIKE MCFEELY
COLUMNIST



CONGRATS, MICHAEL GRADY
FOR BEING NAMED
**NATIONAL SPORTS MEDIA ASSOCIATION'S
2024 MINNESOTA SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR**

WISHING YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS,
YOUR TIMBERWOLVES FAMILY





CONGRATULATIONS

JOEL MEYERS

2024 NSMA LOUISIANA
SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR



NEW YORK POST

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COLUMNIST
LARRY BROOKS**

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SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR

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4  | T44

CONGRATS

JP FINLAY



D.C. SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS

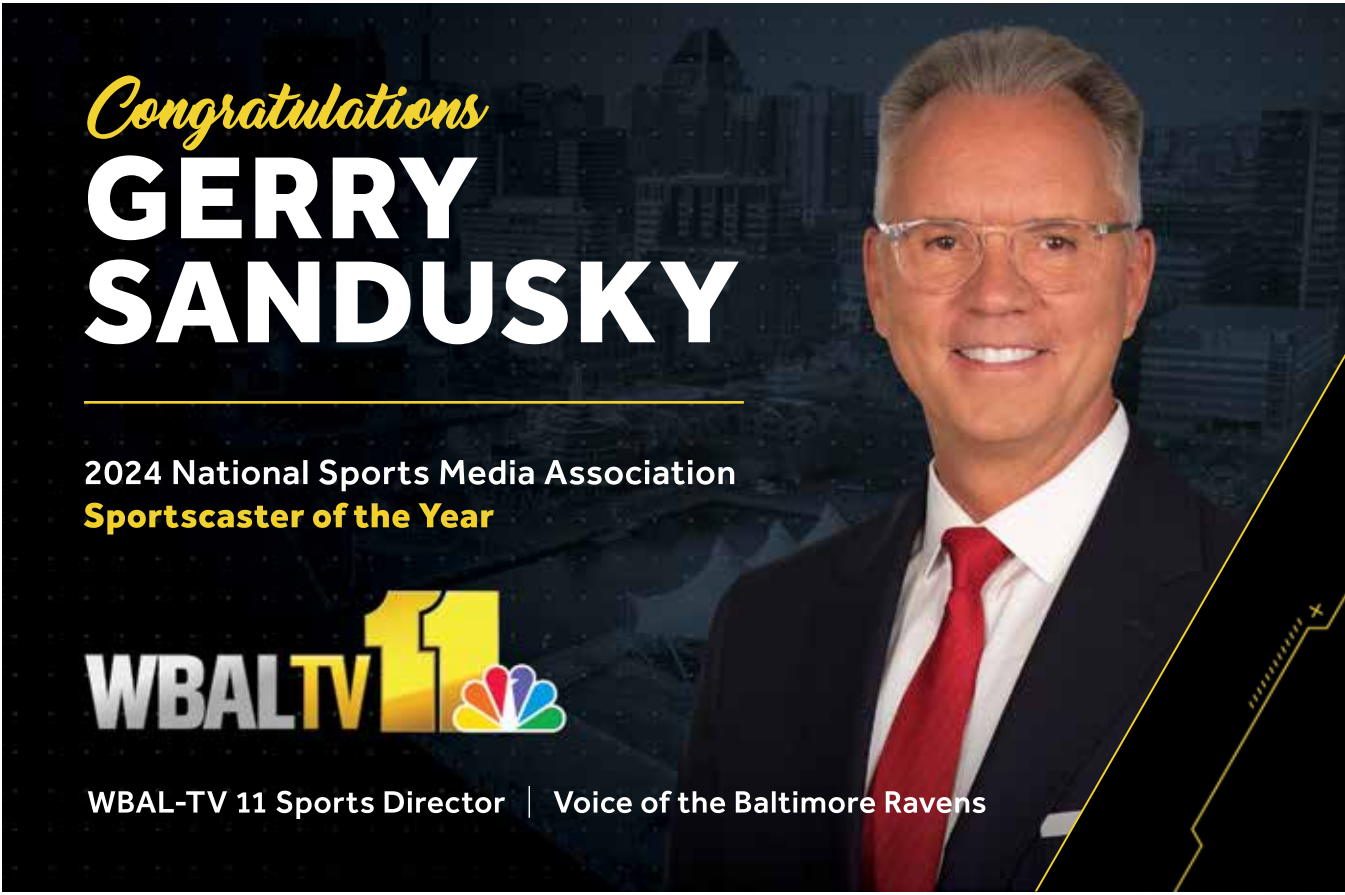
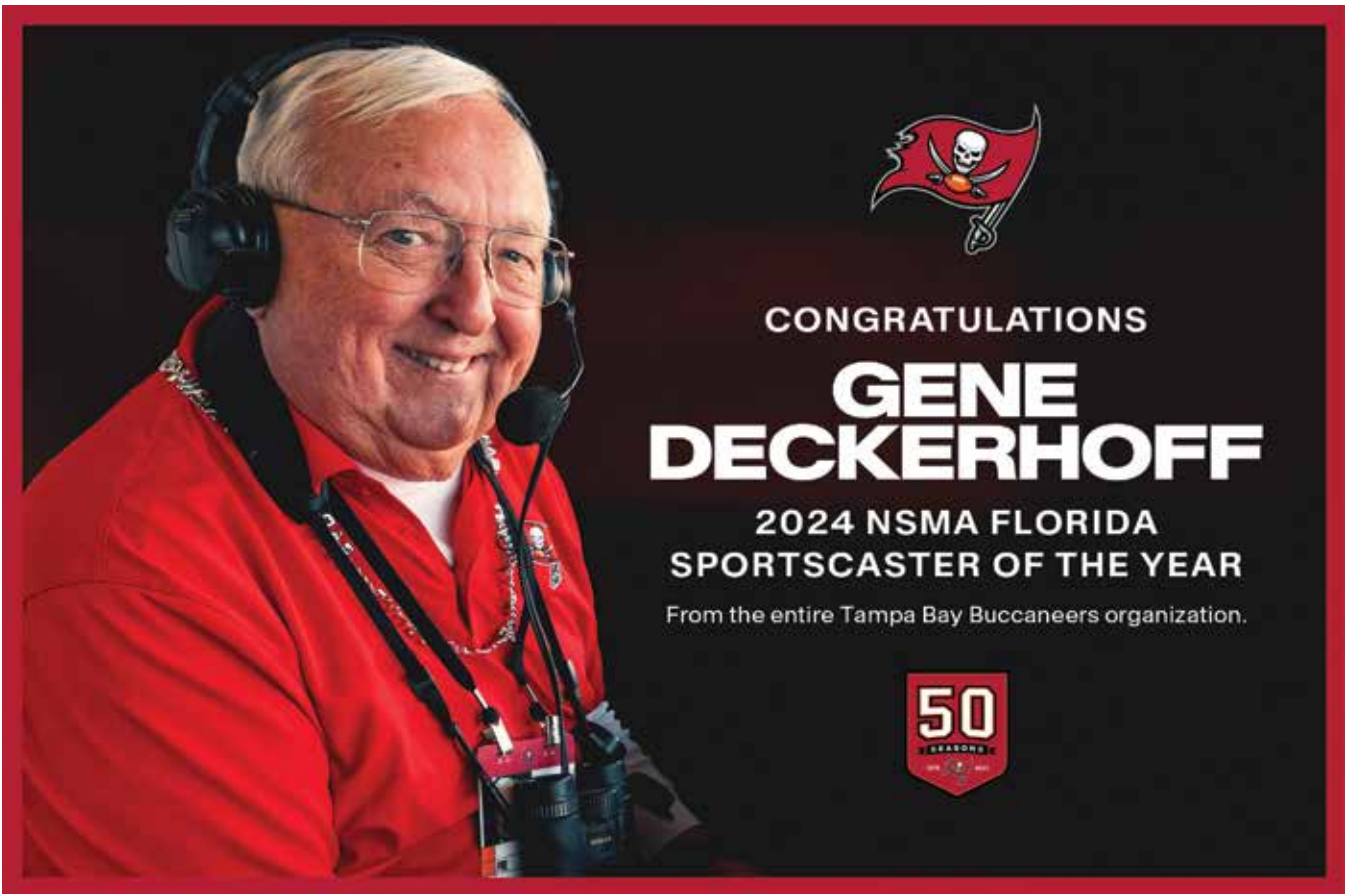
Dave
POPKIN
New Jersey NSMA
Sportscaster of the Year

Gary
COHEN
New York NSMA
Sportscaster of the Year

Seton Hall Athletics and Seton Hall Sports Properties congratulate the *best* College Basketball Radio Broadcast team *in the Country!*



LEARFIELD



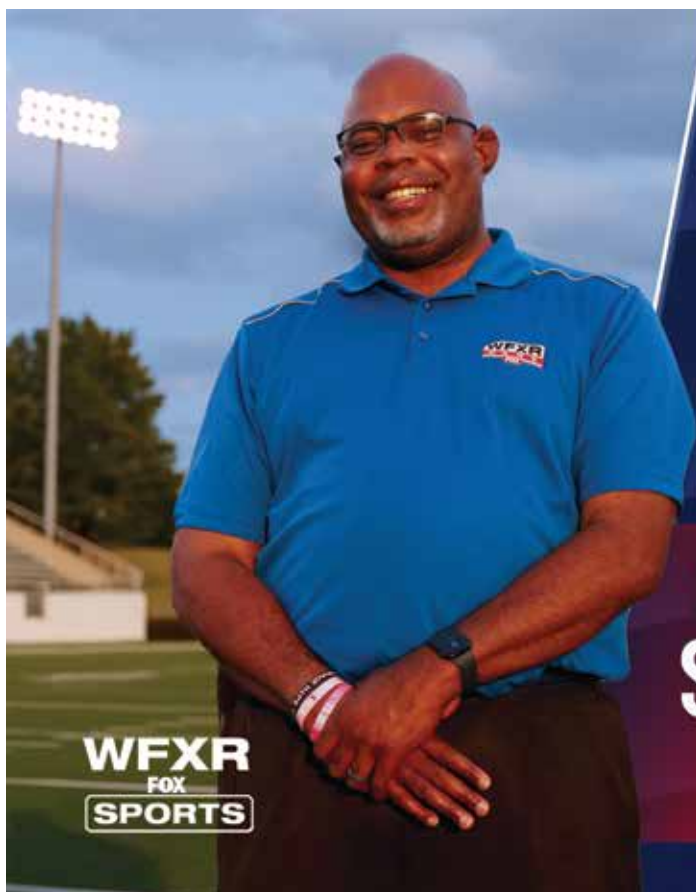
Congratulations **ROB RAINS**



**2024 NSMA MISSOURI
SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR**

**PROUD FATHER OF B.J. RAINS,
IDAHO SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR
AND MIKE RAINS, "RAINS ON THE
CARDINALS" PODCAST PARTNER**

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CONGRATULATIONS

JERMAINE FERRELL

2024 NSMA VIRGINIA SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

WFXR
FOX
SPORTS

When he was inducted into the NSMA Hall of Fame in 2019, Peter King said, "(NSMA), you change people's lives." And each year during our Awards Weekend & National Convention, we strive to do just that.

Integrating students and young professionals into our events allows them to take advantage of top-level networking and educational opportunities. Honoring excellence through our awards serves to perpetuate the sports media industry.

Through that lens, here is some of the feedback we received after the 64th NSMA Awards Weekend & National Convention.

what they were

“

Really enjoyed it. Have told a couple of young broadcasters that the networking and experience being in the same place as so many talented folks in the industry is unmatched at this event.

- Chris King

”



“



Loved the overall awards program. Made a lot of people feel special. Felt like a true honor to be in attendance.

- Matt Zimmerman

”

“



This was my first trip, and won't be my last. Win or lose, the NSMA weekend is something that I now realize I missed out on for many years. I'll be back.

- Mike Solarte

”

“



Great weekend. I came away with important takeaways about my career. I made lots of new friends as well.

- Eric Little

”

“

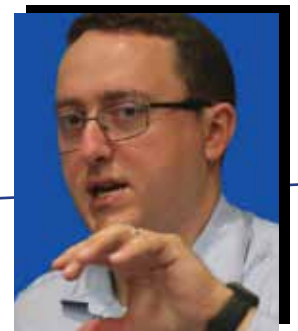
This was a recharging weekend and a treat to be around some of the best in the business. I can't wait to come back just to celebrate with other winners.

- Nkwa Asonye

”



“



This is such an incredible event where young broadcasters in their first couple years of their careers and veterans at the top level of this profession come together to become one for a weekend.

- Colin Lacy

”



SAYING...



“

Everything was top notch and a tremendous experience. Grateful to be included and left feeling inspired and appreciative of the whole experience and the opportunities it offered.

- Brian Hanni

”



“

This was my first time attending, and I cannot believe I didn't do this sooner. I'll 100% be attending again. Thank you very much for having me.

- Dan Hasty

”



“

I would add that the networking opportunities were very good. I thought the effort to involve young sportscasters was excellent.

- Mike Reis

”

“

Love the awards night! Inductees were great with their speeches! One of the best I have seen. This was the best weekend I can remember.

- Dave Snell

”



“

I appreciate everyone who makes this event possible each year. There's truly nothing like it. Best pro development I get all year.

- Nick Pierce

”



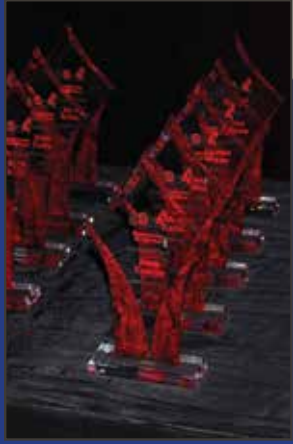
“

It is a terrific weekend. The chance to meet up with so many people who we can't spend much time with during the season because we are running around 1000-miles-a-minute makes this weekend extremely worthwhile and fun.

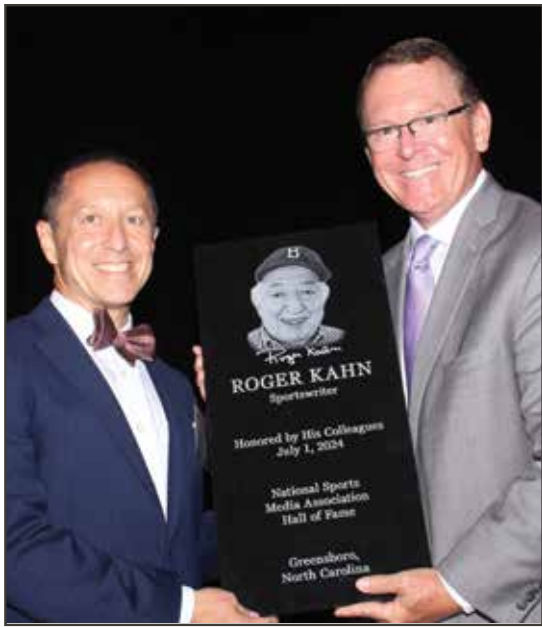
- Chuck Cooperstein

”





National Sports Media Association
AWARDS 2024



CONGRATULATIONS
PAT  HUGHES



Pat Hughes

2024 NSMA
ILLINOIS SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR



Grandover Resort congratulates
NSMA's Award Winners and
welcomes all of our guests!

HOW THE NSMA CAN HELP EVERYONE

by Dominick Petrillo



I always loved sports. But it took a series of near-devastating health challenges to realize I needed to follow my dream and take a chance.

At the age of 30, I had a partial foot amputation. At 32, I went completely blind. I like to say now that this was the moment

I lost my sight... but found my vision.

At 40, I went into the final stage of kidney failure. It required years of dialysis, a search for a donor, and an eventual transplant — the first of which was hastily called off while I was under sedation. The second came with complications that kept me in the hospital for weeks.

It was at this time that I found the NSMA and Dave Goren. They changed my life.

It has not been easy for me to find my place in the sports world; my forays into fantasy football writing, for instance, are littered with roadblocks — editors don't return emails, almost all the data tables I need to use for advanced stats are inaccessible, and people generally don't understand how much of a challenge it is to do this even with all your faculties.

Getting to meet Charles Barkley, Ernie Johnson, and A.J. McCord during my first time at the Summit was amazing. And then being able to talk to the likes of Bill Plaschke, Ian Eagle, Kenny Albert, and Andrea Kramer truly allowed me to find connections who could (and were willing to) help.

I now have people looking out for me. So to speak.

None of this would have been possible without Dave Goren and the NSMA. Not only is this organization important to me, but it is also important to the thousands of students majoring in sports journalism and the thousands of others looking to follow their passion into sports like I am.

Yes, I want to be an example for those with disabilities looking to get into an already crowded field — but I'm also fine at some point just being Dominick the writer whose hot take you angrily comment on in a column, not knowing anything about my background. It just riles you up.

I am now four months clear of a life-saving kidney transplant. I no longer require dialysis. I am ready to go when the opportunity comes. With the NSMA behind me, I know I will finally get there.

ESPN WICHITA
92.3

**CONGRATULATIONS
PAT STRATHMAN!**

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THE GOLD STANDARD

The Milwaukee Brewers congratulate Sophia Minnaert on being named NSMA's Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year for a second time!



The
San Francisco Chronicle
 would like to
CONGRATULATE



Marisa Ingemi
 STAFF WRITER,
 WOMEN'S SPORTS

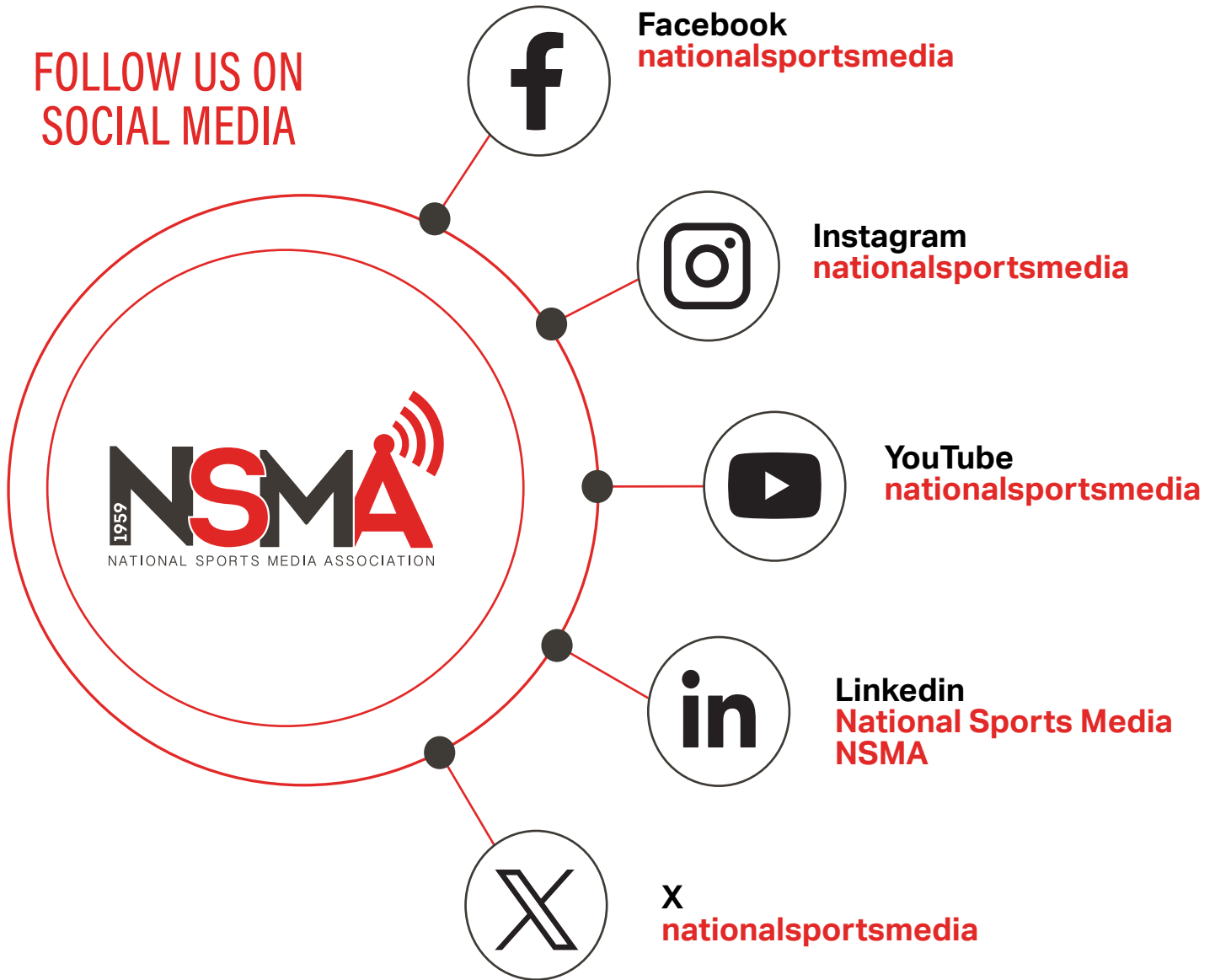


Scott Ostler
 SPORTS
 COLUMNIST

2024 NSMA CALIFORNIA
CO-SPORTSWRITERS OF THE YEAR



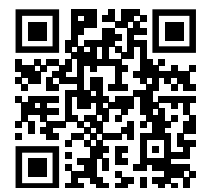
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The National Sports Media Association

REMEMBERS

The NSMA remembers our colleagues who have left us during the past year, memorializing them in these pages, hoping that their lives and accomplishments will never be forgotten.

BOBBY CURRAN 6-time Hawaii Sportscaster of the Year who was the radio play-by-play voice of University of Hawaii football and basketball for more than three decades

ED DANIELS 3-time Louisiana Sportscaster of the Year and sports director at WGNO-TV in New Orleans for more than 30 years

BOB DAVIS 14-time Kansas Sportscaster of the Year and longtime radio voice of the Kansas Jayhawks and Kansas City Royals

JIM DONOVAN sports anchor at WKYC-TV in Cleveland for nearly 40 years and play-by-play voice of the Cleveland Browns for 25 years

MIKE DOWNEY won 11 NSMA State Sportswriter of the Year Awards combined in Michigan, Illinois, and California

JOHN FEINSTEIN prolific author, Washington Post writer and columnist, NSMA Hall of Famer, and 3-time DC Sportswriter of the Year

LARRY GUEST 3-time Florida Sportswriter of the Year and Orlando Sentinel lead sports columnist from 1973 until his retirement in 2000

GREG GUMBEL longtime CBS sportscaster and first Black announcer to call play-by-play of a major championship (2001 Super Bowl)

ED HINTON longtime NASCAR reporter for Sports Illustrated and ESPN

BOB HOLT 5-time Arkansas Sportswriter of the Year (including 2024) and sports reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette since 1981

STEVE KLAUKE 3-time Utah Sportscaster of the Year as radio play-by-play announcer for Weber State football and basketball, and Salt Lake Bees baseball

MIKE LANGE 46 years as play-by-play announcer for the Pittsburgh Penguins

PETE MEDHURST part of the Navy radio network since 1997, including 12 years as the play-by-play announcer for football and basketball

MIKE PATRICK called NFL, college football, and college basketball for 35 years at ESPN

GREG SHARPE 2-time Nebraska Sportscaster of the Year (including 2024), radio play-by-play announcer for Nebraska football and baseball since 2008

AL TRAUTWIG 2000 New York Sportscaster of the Year and 4-time Emmy winner, who worked 16 Olympic games and many other major international events

BOB UECKER former MLB catcher who broadcast baseball for more than 50 years

BRIAN WHEELER 2007 Oregon Sportscaster of the Year as radio play-by-play voice of the Portland Trail Blazers

CRAIG WOLFLEY former NFL player who was a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers' broadcast team for more than two decades

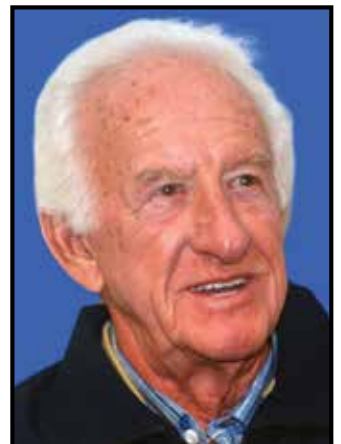
WOODY WOODRUM longtime Marshall University broadcaster was 2000 West Virginia Sportscaster of the Year



BOB DAVIS



JOHN FEINSTEIN



BOB UECKER

Forty - Three Sports Reporters Assemble To Receive Awards At National Banquet

4-11-60
Forty - three sports reporters from different sections of the County will be present to accept awards at the first annual National Sportswriters and Sports-casters Banquet here tomorrow night.

Heading the group are Red Smith, sports columnist of the New York Herald Tribune, and Lindsey Nelson, assistant sports director of the National Broadcasting Company.

Smith will be honored as "Sportswriter of the Year," Nelson will be honored as "Sports-caster of the Year."

Following are those who will attend the banquet:

JIMMY DUDLEY, Cleveland, O., WERE-TV . . . 15-year veteran in sportsbroadcasting . . . native of Virginia . . . current assignments include major league baseball, pro and college football, game of week and game of day.

WARREN WALDEN, Providence, R. I., WJAR . . . sports director . . . has broadcast play-by-play of top events and once was associated with New York Yankee network.

DICK HUDSON, Charleston, W. Va., Daily Mail . . . sports editor since 1940 . . . covers major sports.

RAY SOLDAN, Oklahoma City, Okla., Daily Oklahoman . . . reports high school sports on state-wide basis.

PERCY G. ANGWIN, Barre, Vermont, Times-Arge . . . syndicates outdoor column . . . heads New England Outdoor Writers.

TONY ADAMS, Burlington, Vermont, WCAX . . . sports director . . . did play-by-play of NCAA tourney at Evansville.

BLACKIE SHERROD, Dallas, Tex., Times-Herald . . . sports editor for past 10 years . . . former president of Texas Sports-writers Association.

STAN GALLUP, Roswell, N. Mex., KGFL . . . former col-



Stan Gallup George Mooney Chuck Thompson Bob Hudson Ray Scott John Carmichael



James Coggins Les Biederman Carl Walters Craig Slotze John Steadman Blackie Sherrod



Furman Bisher Jimmy Dudley Jim Simpson Bob Collins Tony Adams Bill Currie



Jake Penland Tom Hamlin Ed Thilenius Ray Soldan Claude Sullivan Jack MacKenzie

ROSSELL DAILY RECORD SUN., MAR. 20, 1960

Gallup Named State's Top Sports-caster

SALISBURY, N. C.—Stan Gallup of KGFL Radio, Roswell, and Carlos Salazar of the Albuquerque Tribune, Albuquerque, have been voted as the outstanding sports-writer and sports-caster of the year in the state of New Mexico.

Voting was conducted by the National Sports-writer-Sports-caster Awards Committee in Salisbury. The Carolina group conducted balloting of the sports staffs of newspapers, radio and TV stations in cities of 10,000 or larger in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to determine the winners in both professions. All these winners have been invited to an Awards Banquet in Salisbury on April 12.

Gallup is manager and sports director of Radio Station KGFL in Roswell. He was born May 27, 1922 in San Juan, N. M., graduated from St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe and attended the University of New Mexico for two years.

Gallup served in the U. S. Army Air Force in China, India and Burma during World War II, is married and has one son.

He lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track in high school and in football and basketball in college. He has been broadcasting high school and college football and basketball since 1952 and does play-by-play accounts of the Little League, Babe Ruth, American Legion, Semi-Pro and professional baseball. He also covers boxing matches including the Golden Gloves. He has been in the radio and newspaper business since 1946.

Sportswriters, Sports-casters Welcome - Have

SALISBURY EVENING

AP-NEA Service

SALISBURY-SPENCER-EAST SPENCER, N. C., MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1960

Yourself A Ball

POST

Awards Headliners Begin Arriving Here



WELCOME, WINNERS — Host Hank Palmer hands a Welcome to Salisbury-Rowan banner to Welch, baseball writer for the Pittsburgh Press. The Pennsylvania winner was among the early arrivals for the National Sports-writers and Sports-casters Banquet here tomorrow. (Post Staff Photo).

Citation Ceremonies Tomorrow

(More details on page 16 today)

Sports-writers and sports-casters began arriving yesterday afternoon for the first annual national awards event which will take place here tomorrow.

Four state winners arrived yesterday and another came by train early this morning. The majority of award winners are expected later today. Many are driving here from the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga., and should begin arriving en masse by mid-afternoon.

The two national winners, Red Smith of the New York Herald-Tribune and Lindsey Nelson of the National Broadcasting System, are due in at Douglas Airport in Charlotte at 2:01 this afternoon.

Forty-three winners plan to attend the event.

FIRST ARRIVAL
First to arrive for the event was Bud Levitt, sports editor and outdoor editor of the Bangor, Maine, Daily News. Levitt ar-



ATIONAL AWARDS — Harry Welch, left, and Hank Palmer of the local Chamber of Commerce in-ect plaques that will be presented to the nation's top sports-writers and sports-casters at the awards nquet here Tuesday. Forty-one state winners and the two national winners, Red Smith and Lindsey son, will attend the event. (Post Staff Photo).



2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DOUG RICE

For more than three decades, Doug Rice could be heard calling races or hosting talk shows on Performance Racing Network (PRN), where he was president and lead anchor. He retired after the 2024 season with 36 years under his belt. The Salisbury, N.C. resident was a member of the NSMA board of directors from 2012 to 2017.

Born in Asheville, N.C., Rice attended Appalachian State University, where he worked as a disc jockey at the student radio station, WASU-FM. On weekends, he worked for WSTP/WRDX in Salisbury, mostly as an engineer for ball games and races. He graduated from ASU in 1977.

His motorsports broadcasting career began in 1980 with the Capitol Radio Network, calling Busch Series races at South Boston (Virginia) Speedway. He started as a pit reporter before moving into the booth.

In 1988, Rice joined Speedway Motorsports as Program and Affiliate Director for PRN, and in 1992, he moved into the booth as anchor, calling more than 200 NASCAR Cup Series races through 2024. In 2005, he was promoted to President.

A three-time National Motorsports Press Association (NMPA) Broadcaster of the Year (2007, 2022 and 2023), Rice has also been honored with:

- 2022 NMPA Joe Littlejohn Award for service to the NMPA.
- 2020 North Carolina Motorsports Association Jim Hunter Memorial Media Award.
- 2017 Horace Billings Lifetime Achievement Award and Salisbury-Rowan Sports Hall of Fame Inductee.

Among Rice's career highlights:

- Jeff Gordon's first win in the 1994 Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.
- Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s first wins in the Xfinity and Cup Series at Texas Motor Speedway.
- Tony Stewart's first win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the 2005 Brickyard 400.
- The only broadcaster to date to call the Indianapolis 500 and Coca-Cola 600 on-site on the same day (the "Doug Double").
- Served as lead on more than 1,000 PRN "Fast Talk" shows, providing in-depth coverage, driver interviews, and memorable stories from countless motorsports personalities.




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CONGRATULATIONS
JIM WYATT
 FOR WINNING 2024 NSMA TENNESSEE
 SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS



TO THE VOICE OF THE RAVENS

GERRY SANDUSKY

ON BEING NAMED THE
2024 NSMA MARYLAND SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

#RAVENSFLOCK

Congratulations



Duane Kuiper

2024 NSMA CALIFORNIA CO-SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR



THANK YOU!

The National Sports Media Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that depends on its sponsors, donors, and members. Thanks to all who have supported our dual mission in the last year!

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Dick Vitale
Ian Eagle

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Mike Sielski
Mike Wilbon
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NSMA NATIONAL SPORTSCASTER
OF THE YEAR

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HALL OF FAME.

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DAN SHAUGHNESSY

CHARLIE JONES

WENDELL SMITH

