





# LEARFIELD

## *Congratulations To Our Family Of Broadcasters*



**Idaho - Abe Jackson**  
1st NSMA Award - Boise State Broncos



**Indiana - Rob Blackman**  
1st NSMA Award - Purdue Boilermakers



**Missouri - Art Hains**  
1st NSMA Award - Missouri State Bears



**New York - Matt Park**  
1st NSMA Award - Syracuse Orange



**North Dakota - Sam Neidermann**  
1st NSMA Award - North Dakota State Bison



**Texas - Andrew Monaco**  
1st NSMA Award - Texas A&M Aggies



**Vermont - Brian McLaughlin**  
1st NSMA Award - Vermont Catamounts



**Illinois - Brian Barnhart**  
2nd NSMA Award - Illinois Fighting Illini



**Mississippi - Bart Gregory**  
3rd NSMA Award - Mississippi State Bulldogs



**Arkansas - Phil Elson**  
4th NSMA Award - Arkansas Razorbacks



**Montana - Riley Corcoran**  
4th NSMA Award - Montana Grizzlies



**Minnesota - Mike Grimm**  
5th NSMA Award - Minnesota Golden Gophers



**Wyoming - Keith Kelly**  
5th NSMA Award - Wyoming Cowboys



**New Hampshire - Mike Murphy**  
10th NSMA Award - UNH Wildcats

## *Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award*



**Tony Caridi**



*It's a great night to be a Mountaineer,  
wherever you may be!*



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2025 NSMA Awards Photos by Daniel Coston and Brian Westerholt  
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University, University of Miami, Winston-Salem State University

# WELCOME

*from the NSMA Executive Director*

To all of our winners, members, and guests, we welcome you to "Tournament Town."

Over the years, Greensboro has earned its nickname, as host to hundreds of tournaments. From the early days of ACC men's basketball to today's competitions at the Greensboro Aquatic Center, "Tournament Town" has been in leader in high-profile sporting events.

And our 66th NSMA Awards Weekend & National Convention fits right in.

Congratulations to all of our winners! You should be proud of your accomplishments, especially earning the respect of your peers. We invite you to take advantage of all the opportunities this weekend provides. Our spectacular host hotel, Grandover Resort & Spa, has been a wonderful hospitality partner the past three years. Make sure to meet as many people as you can. Some of the people you meet here will become lifelong friends.

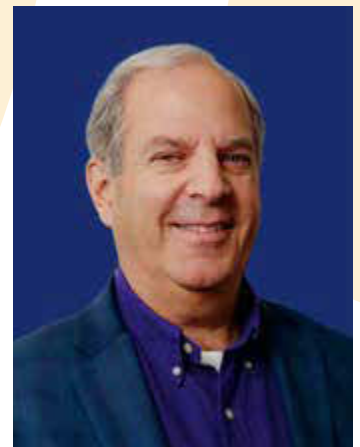
The same goes for the students and young professionals who are attending. In addition to learning at the Sports Media Convergence Summit and Feedback Workshop, make sure to connect with as many industry people as you can. In a business that is all about "who you know" and "who knows you," you don't want to leave here without expanding your network.

To all of our other guests, we invite you to bask in the glow of some of our country's most successful sports media practitioners. Some of them may be friends. Some may acquaintances. But we are all family when we're here.

Lastly, if there's anything you need while you're here, please find anyone wearing a name badge with a black box that reads "Program Committee." Like the Grandover staff, we're here to make sure that you have a rewarding and fulfilling experience. And that once you leave, you'll want to turn right around and come back to "Tournament Town."

Sincerely,

Dave Goren,  
NSMA Executive Director





2025 NSMA CO-SPORTSCASTERS OF THE YEAR

# CONGRATS

TOM CARON

DAVE O'BRIEN





**GRANDOVER**  
**RESORT & SPA**  
A WYNDHAM GRAND HOTEL

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

*(Editorial from Salisbury Post, April 6, 1964)*



**LIKE THE ASH ON HIS CIGARETTE, PETE'S PARTY DEFIED ALL THE ODDS**

It was back in the winter of '57 that we first heard Pete Dimizio explain his grandiose plan for a National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Awards program.

We weren't listening too closely because, for us, it was a special occasion. Rowan had a new assistant home demonstration agent, prettiest little thing we'd ever seen, and as The Post's farm editor, we were digging for news. Personal news.

"Whadda ya think?" asked Pete who, despite years in the South, still spoke Newark-ese.

"I think," replied the home agent, "that I'd put the NSSA in the same category as the ash on your cigarette. It doesn't have a chance!"

Funny thing about Pete and his cigarettes. He smoked all the time. He never took the cigarette out of his mouth. As words came forth, the cigarette bobbed up and down but the ash, defying the law of gravity, never seemed to fall. It just curled and curled.

Pete Dimizio was a sports buff — boxing promoter, the athlete's friend, the sports reporter's benefactor. If he made any money, it must've been in the earlier years when he ran the Genesee Beer Garden on Council Street.

When Pete started his restaurant after the war, he started anew. Nothing but the best for his beloved Salisbury. He brought in a high-priced Italian chef and a higher priced band. Within a

month or two, the band, like the chef, was gone, but Pete's wife Becky was making better pizzas and lasagna than the chef ever did.

The biggest thing that came out of Pete's restaurant, as far as promotions go, was the big fall banquet for sports reporters. Even the dean, Frank Spencer of Winston-Salem Journal, never before had feasted upon an 11-course meal.

Pete's party was such a success that he wondered: Why not pitch a wingding for sportswriters from all over the country? They make the All-Americans, but they never get any credit for it.

Everybody told Pete it'd cost too much, that no one would come. Who ever heard of a restaurateur putting on a \$10,000 party in a podunk town like Salisbury without a gimmick? There was no gimmick, but Pete tried anyway.

With the help of Post Sports Editor Horace Billings, his wife Becky and a few others, he'd spent months putting together a mailing list. He'd sent out 6,000 ballots at no small cost. The banquet had been planned. And winners were being tabulated when Pete died of cancer. The banquet wasn't postponed. It was cancelled in 1958.

Salisbury was in the doldrums in the '50s. Our biggest industry, the Spencer Shops, was being closed, and the new plants were going to neighboring cities.

Jim Cobb, 34-year old general manager of Owens-Illinois, purposely was made president

of the Chamber of Commerce to pump enthusiasm into the city and county. He was a hard worker, an unwavering optimist and an industrialist highly respected by the entire community.

He exuded confidence. He urged city-county unity. He urged the county to tackle big projects. Cobb's enthusiasm rubbed off on young Ed McKenzie, a local surgeon, as the two hacked around the front side of the Country Club course one Sunday afternoon.

McKenzie told Cobb he'd joined the Chamber of Commerce, but "they've never asked me to do anything."

"Don't wait to be asked," replied Cobb. "Just sink your teeth into something and ask others to help."

The abandoned NSSA program was what McKenzie sunk his teeth into.

When Red Smith said he couldn't come, McKenzie called him. He kept calling long distance until Red agreed to come. When Lindsey Nelson said he couldn't come, McKenzie went over his head. He took a train to New York and saw to it that Lindsey's boss made him come.

McKenzie's personal expenses mounted and his practice suffered. But he succeeded in generating some hope for the NSSA at home. He even changed the atmosphere.

Salisbury was like a high school where athletics are supreme, where any boy who doesn't go

out for football is a sissy and not a girl will date him. People who could but wouldn't pay \$100 to host the first NSSA program weren't blackballed; they were merely placed on probation.

More than 100 people became hosts for the first affair in 1960. After dozens of phone calls, several trips to New York and other distant points, McKenzie sighed with relief when 41 state and national winners accepted invitations to the first banquet. We'd bet him there wouldn't be 14.

When the ex-home agent and the ex-farm reporter rubbed sleepers out of their eyes the morning after, we knew, like all who participated in the first affair April 10-12, 1960, that the NSSA was here to stay.

It was like the ash on the tip of Pete's cigarette. The ash defied gravity and never fell. The NSSA defied perhaps greater odds and became a success.



By Ron Morris and Dave Goren



### 67 Years Old And Still Going Strong

Going back to that first awards banquet, the inaugural event was smashing. Governor Luther 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 the organization has ever since gone 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 NSMA 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, NSMA 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: Charles Barkley, Yogi Berra, Terry Bradshaw, Rod Brind'Amour, Jerry Clower, John Elway, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Whitey Ford, Roman Gabriel, Andy Griffith, Lewis Grizzard, Bob Hope, Larry King, Bobby Knight, Bowie Kuhn, Andy Griffith, 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 re-branded Awards Weekend and National Convention to Winston-Salem. The organization's headquarters followed suit that October.

In 2024, the NSMA expanded its North Carolina footprint, moving the Awards Weekend to Greensboro.

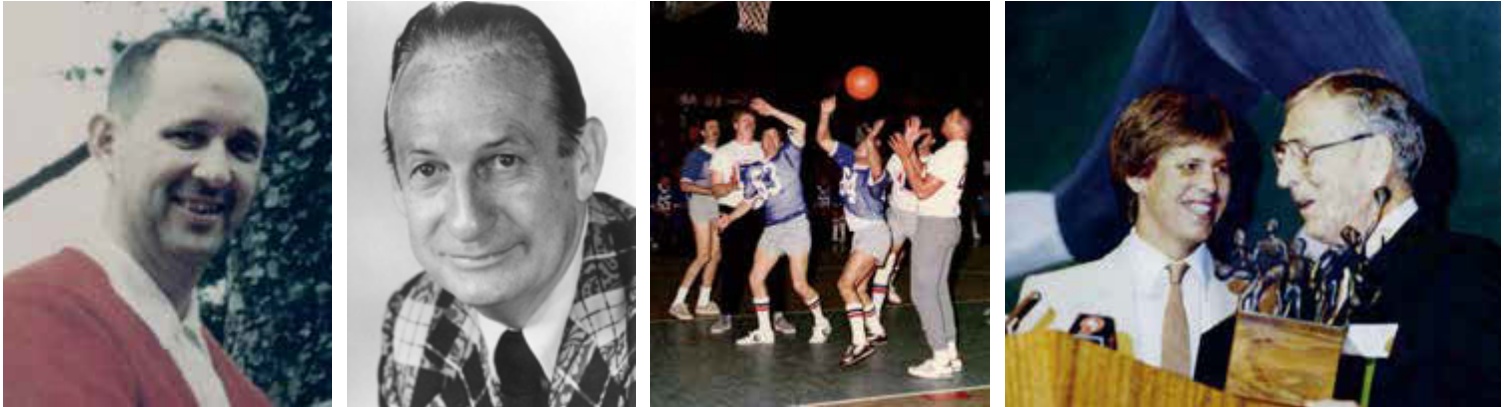
Called Tournament Town, Greensboro has hosted more Atlantic Coast Conference men's and women's basketball tournaments than any other city. And until last May, the ACC headquarters were located just down the street from Grandover Resort.

Greensboro Coliseum (capacity 22,000) is the longtime host to the ACC Tournaments. Just outside the Coliseum is the Greensboro Aquatic Center, home to many national and top-level college swimming and diving championships. Also adjacent to the Coliseum is Novant Health Fieldhouse, home to the NBA G-League's Greensboro Swarm.

In addition, Sedgefield Country Club is home to the PGA's Wyndham Championship, the Pittsburgh Pirates' High-A affiliate, the Greensboro Grasshoppers play at First National Bank Field. And Greensboro's college teams – UNC Greensboro, North Carolina A&T, Bennett College, Guilford College, and Greensboro College – provide sports entertainment during the school year.

There are also plenty of year-round opportunities for youth sports in and around Greensboro, with several city and private parks and recreation centers throughout the area.

And now, for a few days in June, the NSMA and its slate of celebrities has added its excitement to Tournament Town.



# National Sports Media Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Winston-Salem, NC

**mash** CONGRATULATES

*Melanie Newman AND Bob Carpenter*

**2025 NSMA MARYLAND SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR AND  
2025 NSMA D.C. CO-SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR**



## GREG GUMBEL



Greg Gumbel served as a play-by-play announcer and studio host for CBS Sports.

Gumbel worked for CBS Sports from October 1989 through May 1994. He hosted *The NFL Today*, the Network's NFL pre-game, halftime, and post-game studio show (1990-93, 2004-05), including Super Bowl XXVI (1992), as well as Super Bowl XLVII (2013) and Super Bowl 50 (2016). He served as primetime anchor of CBS Sports' coverage of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games and as co-anchor of the Network's weekday-morning broadcasts of the 1992 Olympic Winter Games. Gumbel also served as host of the Network's coverage of "Speedweeks" from Daytona International Speedway in 1999, as well as host/play-by-play announcer for the College World Series (1989-93 and 2000-02). His other roles have included play-by-play announcer for regular-season and postseason Major League Baseball, host of the 1990 All-Star Game at Wrigley Field in Chicago, and college football broadcasts for CBS Sports.

Gumbel had worked for NBC Sports (1994-98) as a host and play-by-play announcer. He served as host of "The NFL on NBC" pre-game show and NBC's Super Bowl pre-game shows in 1996 and 1998. In addition, he served as host of the pre-game show for the 1994 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and as a play-by-play announcer on NBC's "Baseball Night in America" regular-season and postseason games. Gumbel also served as a play-by-play announcer for "The NBA on NBC." He was the host of the 1995 World Figure Skating Championships and of NBC's daytime coverage of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Gumbel returned to CBS Sports in January 1998 as host and play-by-play announcer for college basketball and *The NFL on CBS*. He teamed for six seasons (1998-2003) with analyst Phil Simms to form the CBS Television Network's lead NFL announce team. He called CBS's coverage of Super Bowls XXXV and XXXVIII, at the time making him the first network broadcaster to call play-by-play and host a Super Bowl. Gumbel then hosted *The NFL Today* for two seasons (2004, 2005), before returning to the booth to team with Dan Dierdorf for eight seasons (2006-13). Gumbel served as host of *Inside the NFL* on Showtime in 2014 alongside analysts Phil Simms, Boomer Esiason, Ed Reed, and Brandon Marshall. In 2022, he celebrated his 50th year of broadcasting.

While at CBS, Gumbel also provided play-by-play for regular-season college basketball and the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, NBA regular-season and playoff games, and College World Series championship games. He worked for the Network on a part-time basis in September 1988 as a play-by-play announcer for NFL games.

Gumbel's pre-CBS experience included hosting and play-by-play duties for New York Knicks basketball and New York Yankees baseball for the Madison Square Garden Network, as well as three other weekly MSGN programs. He won a local Emmy Award while there. He also worked for ESPN, WMAQ-TV (where he won two local Emmys), and WFAN Radio in New York City. Gumbel was the recipient of the 2007 Pat Summerall Award for excellence in sports broadcasting.

Away from the studio, Gumbel enjoyed a 30-year relationship with the March of Dimes. Having completed the maximum two-six-year terms allowed as a member of the March of Dimes Board of Trustees, he continued to serve the organization for an additional 18 years as a member of the March of Dimes National Board of Advisors. And for 16 years, Gumbel was a member of the Sports Council for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, which provides direction and guidance for the mission of that organization.

Gumbel was born May 3, 1946, in New Orleans and grew up in Chicago. He graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1967 with a degree in English and was a longtime member of the school's Board of Regents. He lived in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., before his death in December 2024.



## JAMES BROWN

James Brown, three-time Emmy Award-winner, serves as host for the CBS Television Network's NFL pregame show, *The NFL Today*. He anchors *The NFL Today* along with analysts Bill Cowher, Nate Burleson, and Matt Ryan.

Brown was elected to the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in August 2020 and named the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 45th Annual Sports Emmy Awards. Brown has hosted CBS's Super Bowl pregame show for its coverage of Super Bowl LVIII (2024), Super Bowl LV (2021), Super Bowl LIII (2019), Super Bowl 50 (2016), Super Bowl XLVII (2013), Super Bowl XLIV (2010), and Super Bowl XLI (2007). Brown's hosting of the Network's Super Bowl LV coverage in February 2021 marked his record-setting 10th time hosting the Super Bowl, including four previous appearances for Fox Sports.

Brown also previously served as host of *Inside the NFL* on Paramount+. He hosted ITNFL with Phil Simms and Cris Collinsworth for six years (2008-13). In 2012, he was named Special Correspondent for CBS News, contributing to programs such as *60 Minutes*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *48 Hours*, *CBS This Morning*, and *CBS Evening News*.

Brown is also a founding partner of Major League Baseball's 2019 World Series Champion Washington Nationals.

Brown's previous broadcasting roles include hosting *Thursday Night Football* on CBS and The NFL Network, co-hosting "Fox NFL Sunday," correspondent for "Real Sports" with Bryant Gumbel on HBO, and hosting a nationally syndicated radio show on *Sporting News Radio*. In 2009, his first co-authored book, titled "Role of a Lifetime: Reflections on Faith, Family and Significant Living," was released.

Among numerous honors, Brown received the 2016 Pete Rozelle Award by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, which recognizes "longtime exceptional contributions to radio and television in professional football," and "The Uncommon Award" from Tony Dungy for his "uncommon leadership through character and faith." He was named "Best Studio Host of the Decade" by *Sports Illustrated.com* in 2010, was honored with the 2009 Dick Schaap Memorial Award for Media Excellence, the 2007 Maxwell Football Club's Excellence Award for Broadcasting, and the Dallas All Sports Association Award for Excellence in Sports Journalism. Brown was the first recipient of the annual Pat Summerall Award in 2006, at Super Bowl XL in Detroit. In 2005, he was honored with the Director's Award for Broadcasting from *The 100 Black Men of America* and the Greater Washington Urban League's Sam Lacy Award 2005. Brown was a 2010 honoree as one of the "Faces of Black History" celebrating Black Media Legends who have impacted the Black community through their achievements and positive examples, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks. He was the 2002 recipient of the International Black Broadcasters Association's Broadcasting Excellence Award and was chosen as 1999 Sportscaster of the Year (Studio Host) by the American Sportscaster Association. Brown was also awarded the Golden Mike Award (1998) by the Black Broadcasters Alliance.

Brown, a Washington, D.C. native, is a graduate of Harvard University, where he was a three-time All-Ivy selection in basketball and is in the Harvard Basketball Hall of Fame. He is involved in several charitable organizations, including GENYOUth, of which he is a Board Member, the Ron & Joy Paul Kidney Center at George Washington University, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Brown is also an ordained minister and is actively involved in speaking at churches and conferences around the country.

**ESPN**



**CONGRATULATIONS, WOJ!**

NSMA Hall of Fame Class 2026

From your colleagues and friends at ESPN



## ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

Adrian Wojnarowski was named the first-ever general manager for St. Bonaventure men's basketball on Sept. 18, 2024, announcing his retirement from an award-winning career as ESPN's Senior NBA Insider.

Wojnarowski joined ESPN in July 2017 and worked at the network for more than seven years, becoming one of the most well-known and respected names in the industry and the sports world as a whole.

In his role as general manager, Wojnarowski serves the coaching staff in managing a wide range of responsibilities, including name, image, and likeness (NIL) opportunities and as a liaison with collectives; transfer portal management; recruit, family, and alumni player relationships; professional player programs; and program fundraising.

Recognizing the rapidly evolving landscape of college athletics, many power conference and mid-major schools have added the role of general manager since 2022, especially for their football and men's basketball programs.

Former Bonnies head coach Mark Schmidt called the decision to add Wojnarowski to his staff a "home run."

"This move is critical to navigate the new landscape of college basketball in NIL, recruiting, and retention," said Schmidt, the winningest men's basketball coach in school history. "Woj is as connected as anyone in the basketball world, and his decades-long network of relationships can only help our program remain among the top teams in the Atlantic 10 going forward."

In walking away from a lucrative contract extension he signed with ESPN in 2022, Wojnarowski now wants to give back to a university that has made an indelible impression on his life. He and his wife, Amy, '92, have been major benefactors to the basketball program and the Jandoli School of Communication.

Wojnarowski, recognized for transforming NBA newsbreaking and reporting across the past decade-plus, was central in ESPN's multimedia coverage of the NBA throughout the year — covering the league, its teams, players, trade deadline, free agency, the NBA Draft, the NBA Summer League and more. His reporting, insights and analysis appeared on ESPN.com and in the ESPN app, featured on SportsCenter, NBA Countdown, NBA Today, Get Up, Outside the Lines and other programs.

Wojnarowski hosted The Woj Pod, which regularly featured the biggest stars and newsmakers in the NBA. Wojnarowski also hosted "The Woj Report" on ESPN's YouTube page.

Wojnarowski's peers voted him the National Sports Media Association's National Sportswriter of the Year in three consecutive years — 2017, 2018, and 2019. Wojnarowski joins past NSMA winners Tom Verducci, Rick Reilly, Frank Deford, Jim Murray, and Red Smith as winners in three successive years. He was the first digital reporter to win the award.

Wojnarowski is the New York Times best-selling author of "The Miracle of St. Anthony: A Season with Coach Bob Hurley and Basketball's Most Improbable Dynasty."

Prior to his work for ESPN, Wojnarowski worked for Yahoo Sports, where he spent nearly 10 years, including two as editor of The Vertical. His standout career in journalism also includes 10 years at The Record of New Jersey (where he

WOJNAROWSKI *continued on page 19*

the  
montag  
group

# Congratulations



*James Brown*  
HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026



*Greg Gumbel*  
HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026  
*posthumous*



*Sam Neidermann*  
NORTH DAKOTA  
SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR



*Dave O'Brien*  
MASSACHUSETTS  
SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

We are endlessly proud of your passion,  
precision, and dedication to your craft.



## SID HARTMAN

Sid Hartman was born on March 15, 1920, on the north side of Minneapolis, the oldest of four children in a family navigating the hardships of the Great Depression. His father, Jack Hartman, worked as a delivery driver, while his mother, Celia, ran a small apparel shop. Young Sid began selling newspapers at age nine, hustling copies of the Minneapolis Tribune off the back of his bicycle and developing the competitive drive that would define his entire career. By his early teens, he had become the family's primary breadwinner. He attended Minneapolis North High School but dropped out in his junior year to take a full-time news delivery job with the Tribune — a decision that set him on a path that spanned more than eight decades.

Hartman broke into print journalism in 1944 with the Minneapolis Daily Times, where he was hired by sports editor Dick Cullum. He filed his first column for the Star Tribune on September 11, 1945, and continued doing so for the rest of his life, ultimately accumulating 21,235 bylined stories — an unofficial record in American newspaper history. His column ran three times a week, four during Vikings season, and his final piece — an interview with Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen — was published the very day he died.

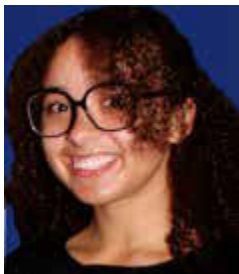
Beyond the press box, Hartman became an extraordinary power broker in Minnesota sports. In 1947, he famously flew to Detroit with a \$15,000 check and returned with a professional basketball franchise, helping relocate the Detroit Gems to Minneapolis, where they became the Lakers. He served as the team's de facto general manager, drafting and signing players while simultaneously covering them in the newspaper — a dual role that would be unthinkable in modern journalism. The Lakers won six championships before relocating to Los Angeles in 1960. Hartman also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring Major League Baseball and the NFL to Minnesota, lobbying league owners and leveraging his vast network of relationships to shape the state's entire sports landscape.

His media reach extended far beyond print. Beginning in 1955, Hartman was a fixture on WCCO Radio, co-hosting the long-running Sunday morning program Sports Huddle and conducting thousands of interviews with the athletes and coaches he famously called his "close personal friends" — a phrase affectionately coined by radio colleague Steve Cannon to capture Hartman's signature insider access. He was also a panelist on the television program Sports Show for 20 years. His relationships with figures like Bud Grant, Bobby Knight, Lou Holtz, Rod Carew, Fran Tarkenton, and Ted Williams were not merely professional — they were genuine bonds built over decades of loyalty and trust.

Hartman was also a successful businessman, co-founding Sidal Realty in 1957 with partner Al Rubinger. His legacy was honored throughout Minneapolis: the Minnesota Vikings named a media entrance at U.S. Bank Stadium after him, the Twins dedicated a media room in his name, and a bronze statue stands in his likeness outside Target Field. He turned 100 in March 2020 and was still filing columns weekly when he passed away peacefully on October 18, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was survived by his son, Chad, daughter Chris, several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, team owners, Hall of Famers, and fans across the state mourned the passing of the man who, for generations, simply went by one name: Sid.

# INTERN STORY

By Tariana Williams, Summer 2025 NSMA Intern and High Point University '28



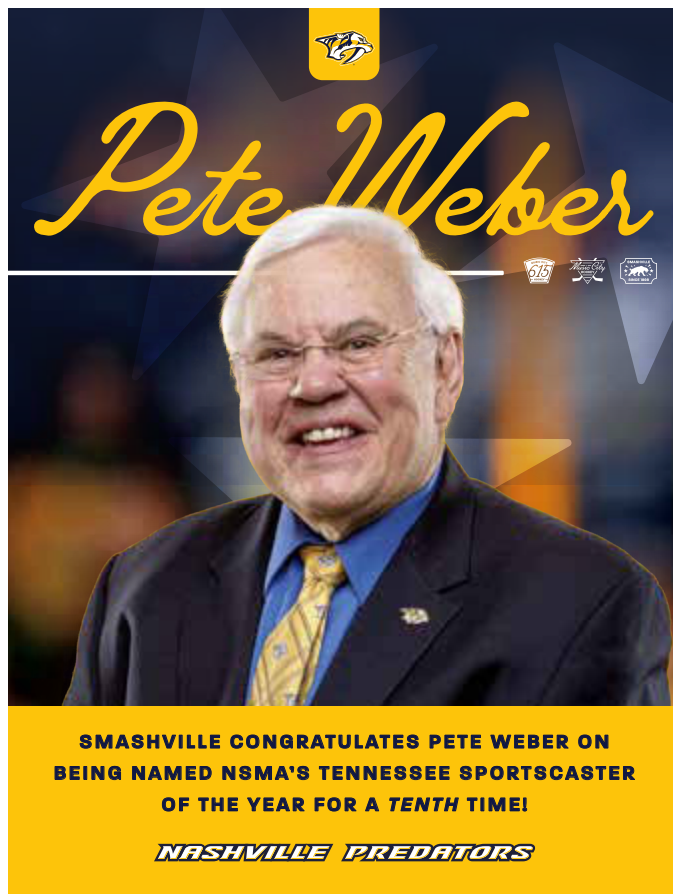
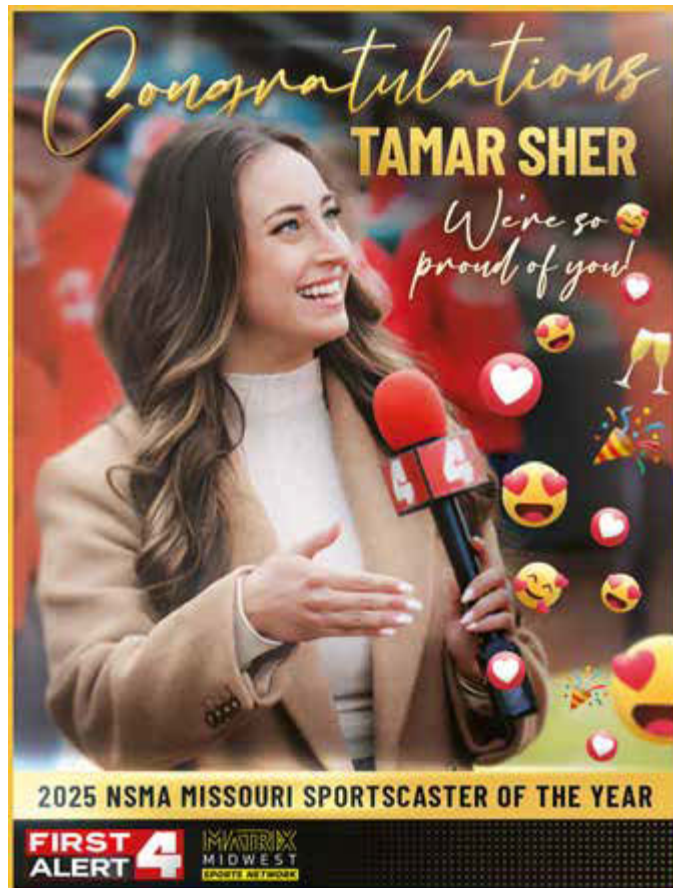
I am so fortunate that my first internship experience was with the National Sports Media Association. I applied to NSMA for the love of writing, with no prior knowledge of sports or the journalism world whatsoever. Thankfully, the NSMA took a chance on me, and I can confidently say that my experience

there has shaped me as an aspiring journalist, a writer, a learner, and a human.

During my two months here, I spent the majority of my time proofing the program for the 65th NSMA Awards & Convention—and am editing the program that you are reading now! As an English major, when Dave Goren tasked me with this, I was overjoyed to have a project that required as much attention to detail and care as this. I was quite proud of the program that was produced and honored to be able to create something that honored the amazing sportscasters and sportswriters that NSMA honors every year—and through everything they do.

I was also given the chance to interview a handful of sportscasters and sportswriters. I was able to grow confidence in my interviewing skills and receive guidance from journalists who have already made a difference in the field.

I am still unsure what the future of journalism and the writing world hold for me, but I am grateful to have begun my professional experience with the National Sports Media Association and to Dave for giving me the chance to learn and grow!



WOJNAROWSKI *continued from page 15*

was twice named the APSE "Columnist of the Year"), as well as several years each at The Fresno Bee, The Waterbury (Conn.) Republican-American.

He is a 1991 graduate of St. Bonaventure University and a 1987 graduate of Bristol Central High School. He was named the 2019 Alumnus of the Year at St. Bonaventure and was inducted into the Russell Jandoli School of Communications Hall of Fame.

With the help of Gale Dickau, an English teacher of five decades at BCHS, Wojnarowski founded and funds the "The Writing Initiative." The multifaceted program encourages students at Bristol Central High School to write and helps them develop and hone their skills. It also funds scholarships for residential college summer writing programs and numerous educational trips in the Northeast, and it develops teacher enrichment programs for educators teaching writing.

Wojnarowski is also active in fundraising with the Bristol Boys and Girls Club and Family Center.



**REDS**<sup>TM</sup>

THE CINCINNATI REDS  
**CONGRATULATE**  
**JEFF**  
**BRANTLEY**  
NATIONAL SPORTS MEDIA ASSOCIATION  
2025 OHIO SPORTSCASTER  
OF THE YEAR

## 2025 NATIONAL SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

# SEAN MCDONOUGH

Sean McDonough is one of sports television's most versatile broadcasters. He is a leading play-by-play commentator for ESPN college football and basketball games in addition to calling the NHL, the PGA Championship, and the annual Par 3 Contest at The Masters. McDonough has covered the World Series, NCAA Final Four, the Olympic Games, Monday Night Football, and all four major golf championships, among other marquee events, during his accomplished career.

In 2021, McDonough was named lead play-by-play announcer for the NHL on ESPN and ABC, providing commentary for regular season and playoff games (including the Stanley Cup Final) as part of The Walt Disney Company's return to the sport.

A longtime voice on ESPN college sports, McDonough calls a premier ESPN/ABC college football game each week, as well as one of the College Football Playoff Semifinals, and the National Championship on ESPN Radio.

From 2016-17, McDonough spent two seasons as the voice of Monday Night Football. He became just the fifth person to occupy the coveted MNF play-by-play position, following broadcasting stalwarts Keith Jackson, Frank Gifford, Al Michaels, and Mike Tirico.

During the college basketball season, McDonough calls ACC Big Monday games. He has also called the NCAA Final Four on four occasions for ESPN International, including the past five years alongside Dick Vitale and Jay Bilas. For many years, McDonough, Bilas, and Bill Raftery called Big Monday Big East games for ESPN. Their work included the historic six-overtime Syracuse-UConn Big East Tournament game at Madison Square Garden in 2009. The telecast won the Global Media Award for "Best Live Game or Event" as presented by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that year.

McDonough has been with ESPN since 1989 – except for of 1996-99, when he worked exclusively for CBS. Before being named to the MNF booth, he called Saturday afternoon ABC college football games from 2000 to 2015. In 2015, he had arguably the signature call of the season on the game-winning punt block and touchdown return as time expired in Michigan State's miraculous victory over archrival Michigan. For 2015, Sports Illustrated named McDonough and partner Chris Spielman the Broadcast Team of the Year in the annual SI Media Awards.

A leading voice in ESPN's golf coverage, McDonough serves as a hole announcer and host for the annual PGA Championship and is the voice of the annual Par 3 Contest at The Masters. He was also part of ESPN's presentation of the U.S. Open, The Open Championship, and other golf events.

Throughout his three decades with ESPN, McDonough has also voiced Major League Baseball's Monday Night Baseball telecasts and provided play-by-play for tennis, the College World Series, and national championship games in college lacrosse, soccer, and hockey. From 2013-15, he also called NFL games for ESPN Radio.

McDonough was the television play-by-play announcer for the Boston Red Sox from 1988-2004, during which time he was honored four times with the New England Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Play-by-Play. In 2019, he rejoined the Red Sox as a member of their radio broadcast team.

McDonough spent 10 years at CBS Sports and was the lead college football play-by-play announcer from 1997 to 1999. In 1992 and 1993, he and Tim McCarver formed the network's lead Major League Baseball broadcast team, calling the All-Star Game, the National League Championship Series, and the World Series. He provided historic calls, including Atlanta's Sid Bream's scoring of the winning run in game 7 of the '92 NLCS and Joe Carter's series-ending walk-off home run in game 6 of the 1993 World Series for the Toronto Blue Jays.

During his decade at CBS, McDonough provided commentary for a diverse array of sporting broadcasts, including men's and women's college basketball, NFL, The Masters and PGA Championship, and US Open Tennis. He worked 10 NCAA



men's basketball tournaments and contributed to CBS's coverage of the Olympic Winter Games, calling the bobsled and luge competitions in 1992 and 1994 and ice hockey in 1998.

A native of Boston, McDonough graduated cum laude from Syracuse University in 1984 with a degree in broadcast journalism. In May 2007, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Southern Vermont College in recognition of his career, community service, and personal achievements. He was also the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony.

In 2014, McDonough was named to the Hall of Fame for WAER, Syracuse University's noncommercial radio station, where he began his sports broadcasting career as a student. The Sports Media Center at Syracuse's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications also honored McDonough in July 2016 with the Marty Glickman Award. Presented annually to a Newhouse alum, "The Marty" recognizes excellence in sports media. In 2019, he received the George Arents Award, Syracuse University's highest alumni honor. In 2021, he was selected for induction into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In 2024, he was appointed to the Folds of Honor Boston Board of Directors.

McDonough's father is the late Will McDonough, the legendary Boston Globe sportswriter and NSMA Hall of Famer, who also worked for NBC and CBS Sports. He also has two brothers who have had prominent roles in professional sports. Terry served as Senior Personnel Executive for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals, and Ryan was the general manager of the NBA's Phoenix Suns. HBO Real Sports profiled the three McDonough brothers in September 2017.

In 2012, McDonough was diagnosed with Superior Canal Dehiscence Syndrome (SCDS), a rare condition that required surgery to repair a hole in the bone near his left ear. After a successful procedure and recovery, McDonough continues to raise awareness for SCDS.

McDonough's annual "Sean McDonough Celebrity Golf Classic" has raised more than \$4.2 million for children's charities throughout Massachusetts and for a fund established at Brigham and Women's Hospital to support research into cardiac amyloidosis, the disease that claimed the life of Will McDonough in 2003.



Congratulations

**ROSS DELLENGER**

**2025 NSMA National Sportswriter of the Year**



Thank you for making college sports fans  
smarter every day.

**yahoo!sports**

# 2025 NATIONAL SPORTSWRITER OF THE YEAR

# ROSS DELLENGER

Ross Dellenger is a senior writer covering college football for Yahoo Sports.

He's one half of a two-member journalism couple living in Washington, D.C. His wife, Elizabeth, is a former White House and Congressional correspondent. Elizabeth and Ross live in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of the nation's capital after moving there in 2019 from the South.

Born in southern Louisiana and raised in Biloxi on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Ross is in his 20th year of sports writing, much of it spent covering SEC football programs such as Auburn, LSU, and Missouri. His coverage of LSU football from 2013 to 2018 led to a promotion as a national college football reporter for Sports Illustrated.

He left SI in July 2023 for Yahoo Sports, where he's the outlet's lead college football reporter, specifically focusing on the evolution of the college athletics industry. These days, he often finds himself writing more about court orders and Congressional hearings than touchdowns and field goals.

He's one of the country's leaders in reporting the off-the-field issues in the game - from NCAA governance to College Football Playoff changes; from NIL to a future athlete compensation model. He's embraced coverage of the business of college sports as the industry itself evolves from an amateurism product to a professional entity.

Ross, the son of a former longtime high school football coach, began covering games as a high school senior for the local Biloxi newspaper. He graduated from Mississippi State in 2006 with a degree in communications.

He began his sports writing career at the Decatur Daily, covering Coach Tommy Tuberville at Auburn in 2007-08. Now, he covers Senator Tommy Tuberville on Capitol Hill. He reported on high schools and Jackson State for The Clarion-Ledger before serving as a Missouri beat writer for The Columbia Tribune. He joined The Advocate in Baton Rouge in late 2013 to begin covering LSU football and baseball.

Despite his move to Washington, D.C., Ross remains true to his roots, often visiting the Gulf Coast a half-dozen times each year to see family and friends, boat to the barrier islands, and consume the best seafood in the world.



**Why Fans Care**  
A Press Box Guide to Winning Audience Trust in the Age of AI

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*Congratulations!!*

**Joseph "Mojo" Hill**  
2025 North Dakota  
Sportswriter of the Year

From your friends at

**ESPN**



**CONGRATULATIONS, SEAN!**

2025 NSMA National Sportscaster of the Year

From your colleagues and friends at ESPN

# CONGRATULATIONS SEAN

The Boston Red Sox  
congratulate  
**Sean McDonough**  
on being named the  
2025 NSMA National  
Sportscaster of the Year.





*National Sports Media Association*

# 2025 STATE WINNERS

## ALABAMA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Cole Cubelic



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Thomas Ashworth

## ARIZONA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Jon Bloom



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Doug Haller

## ARKANSAS



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Phil Elson



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Christina Long

## CALIFORNIA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Greg Papa



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Ann Killion

## COLORADO



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Dave Logan



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Kyle Newman

## CONNECTICUT



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Gabby Lucivero



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Dom Amore

## DELAWARE



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Matt Janus



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Andy Walter

## DC



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Bob Carpenter



**SPORTSCASTER**  
John Walton



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Nicki Jhabvala

# 2025 STATE WINNERS

## FLORIDA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Jamie Seh



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Rick Stroud



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Dave Hyde

## GEORGIA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Sam Crenshaw



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Steve Holman



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Ken Sugiura

## HAWAII

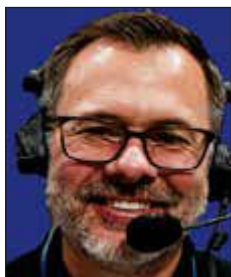


**SPORTSCASTER**  
Kanoa Leahey



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Stephen Tsai

## IDAHO



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Abe Jackson



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Shaun Goodwin

## ILLINOIS



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Brian Barnhart



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Kevin Fishbain

# 2025 STATE WINNERS

## INDIANA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Rob Blackman



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Chris Denari



**SPORTSWRITER**  
James Boyd

## IOWA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Shannon Ehrhardt



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Keith Murphy



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Tommy Birch

## KANSAS



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Mike Kennedy



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Kellis Robinett

## KENTUCKY



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Greg Stotelmyer



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Jon Hale

## LOUISIANA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Fletcher Mackel



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Jeff Duncan

## MAINE



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Jack Webb



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Drew Bonifant

## MARYLAND



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Melanie Newman



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Jacob Meyer

## MASSACHUSETTS



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Tom Caron



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Dave O'Brien



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Kevin Dupont

## MICHIGAN



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Brad Galli



**SPORTSWRITER**  
John Niyo

## MINNESOTA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Mike Grimm



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Phil Miller

## MISSISSIPPI



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Bart Gregory



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Rick Cleveland

## MISSOURI



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Art Hains



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Tamar Sher



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Blair Kerkhoff

## MONTANA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Riley Corcoran



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Braden Shaw

## NEBRASKA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
John Baylor



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Robin Washut

## NEVADA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Q Myers



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Ed Graney

## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Mike Murphy



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Bruce Wood

## NEW JERSEY



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Matt Loughlin



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Keith Sargeant

## NEW MEXICO



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Adam Diehl



**SPORTSWRITER**  
James Yodice

## NEW YORK



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Chris Carrino



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Matt Park

## NEW YORK



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Rich Cimini



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Steve Serby

## NORTH CAROLINA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Mike Maniscalco



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Aaron Beard

## NORTH DAKOTA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Sam Neidermann



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Mojo Hill

## OHIO



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Jeff Brantley



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Rob Oller

## OKLAHOMA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Mark Rodgers



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Jenni Carlson

## OREGON



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Travis Demers



**SPORTSWRITER**  
John Canzano

## PENNSYLVANIA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
John Clark



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Matt Gelb

## RHODE ISLAND



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Nick Coit



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Brendan McGair

## SOUTH CAROLINA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Reggie Anderson



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Larry Williams

## SOUTH DAKOTA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Jay Elsen



**SPORTSWRITER**  
James Cimburek

## TENNESSEE



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Pete Weber



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Gentry Estes

## TEXAS



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Andrew Monaco



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Cedric Golden

## UTAH



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Sam Farnsworth



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Jay Drew

## VERMONT



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Brian McLaughlin



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Michael Beniash

## VIRGINIA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Bill Roth



**SPORTSWRITER**  
David Teel

## WASHINGTON



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Aaron Goldsmith



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Ryan Divish

## WEST VIRGINIA



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Travis Jones



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Greg Carey

## WISCONSIN



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Tim Van Vooren



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Todd Rosiak

## WYOMING



**SPORTSCASTER**  
Keith Kelley



**SPORTSWRITER**  
Cody Tucker

## 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.



**CHRIS DENARI**  
**2025 NSMA Indiana Sportscaster of the Year**



**PACERS**  
SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Congratulations on your second Sportscaster of the Year honor.  
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-Your Family at Pacers Sports & Entertainment**

# 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*



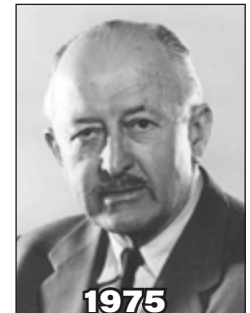
**1974**  
*Bill Stern*



**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*



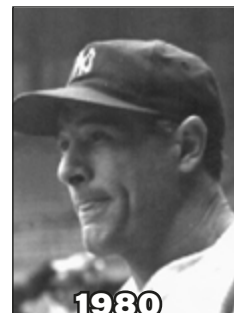
**1979**  
*Lindsey Nelson*



**1979**  
*John Wayne*



**1980**  
*Bob Considine*



**1980**  
*Lou Gehrig*



**1981**  
*Curt Gowdy*

# HALL OF FAME GALLERY



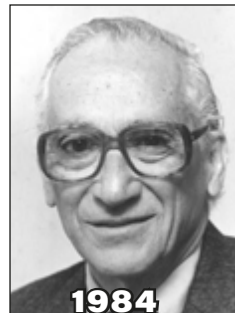
**1981**  
*Chris Schenkel*



**1982**  
*Ray Scott*



**1983**  
*Jack Brickhouse*



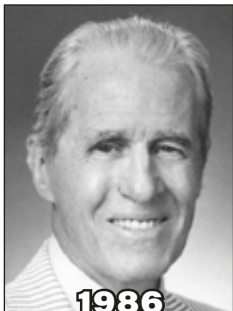
**1984**  
*Shirley Povich*



**1985**  
*Si Burick*



**1986**  
*Jimmy Cannon*



**1986**  
*Don Dunphy*



**1986**  
*Bob Prince*



**1987**  
*Will Grimsley*



**1987**  
*Jim McKay*



**1988**  
*Harry Caray*



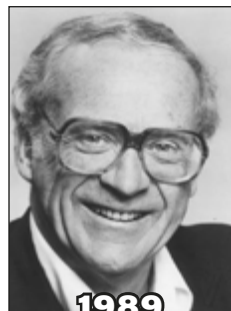
**1988**  
*Fred Russell*



**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*

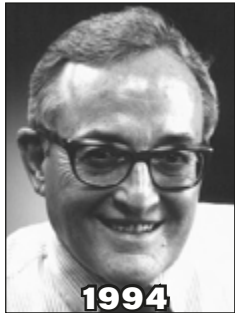


**1993**  
*Marty Glickman*



**1993**  
*Murray Olderman*

# HALL OF FAME GALLERY



**1994**  
*Edwin Pope*



**1994**  
*John Carmichael*



**1994**  
*Pat Summerall*



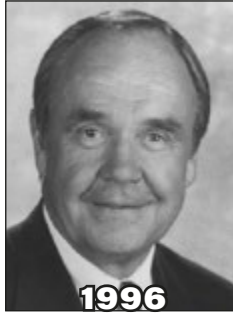
**1995**  
*Keith Jackson*



**1995**  
*Mel Durslag*



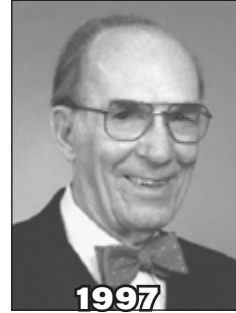
**1996**  
*Dan Jenkins*



**1996**  
*Dick Enberg*



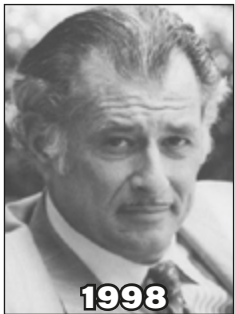
**1997**  
*Francis Dayle 'Chick' Hearn*



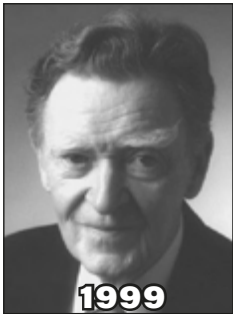
**1997**  
*Robert Wiley Broeg*



**1998**  
*Al Michaels*



**1998**  
*Frank Deford*



**1999**  
*John Steadman*



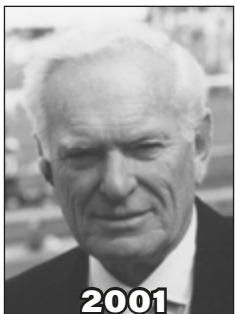
**1999**  
*Jon Miller*



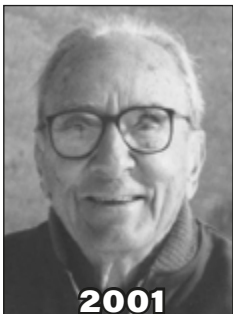
**2000**  
*Jim Simpson*



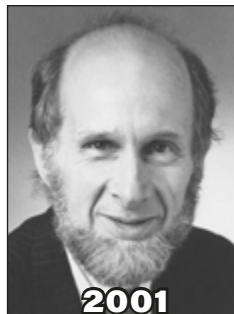
**2000**  
*Jerry Izenberg*



**2001**  
*Jack Whitaker*



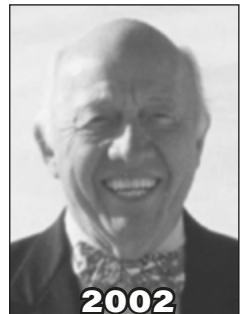
**2001**  
*W. C. Heinz*



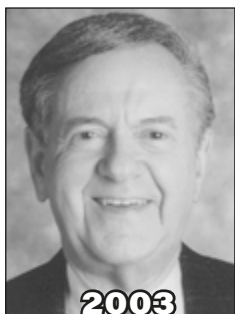
**2001**  
*George Vecsey*



**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*



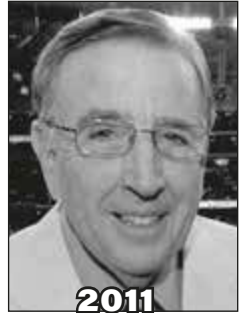
**2009**  
*Leigh Montville*



**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*



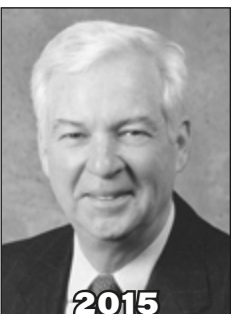
**2014**  
*Rick Reilly*



**2015**  
*Dick Schaap*



**2015**  
*Hal McCoy*



**2015**  
*Bill Raftery*



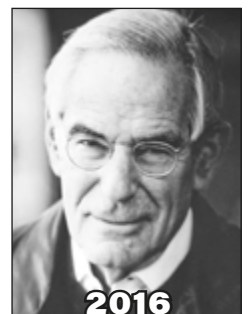
**2015**  
*Lesley Visser*



**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*



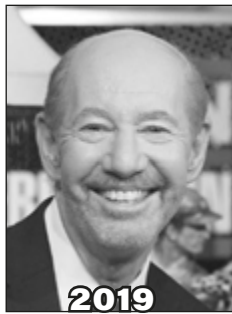
**2019**  
*Bob Ley*



**2019**  
*Mike 'Doc' Emrick*



**2019**  
*Peter King*



**2019**  
*Tony Kornheiser*



**2020**  
*Cawood Ledford*



**2020**  
*Dan Patrick*



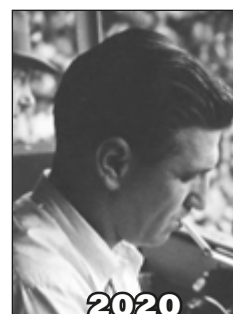
**2020**  
*Michael Wilbon*



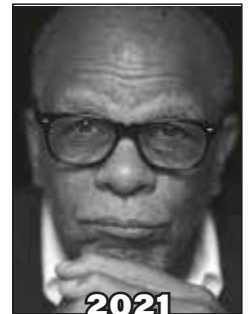
**2020**  
*Skip Caray*



**2020**  
*Tom Verducci*



**2020**  
*Dick Young*



**2021**  
*William C. Rhoden*



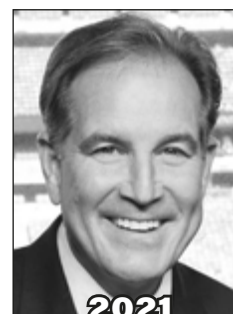
**2021**  
*William Nack*



**2021**  
*Rick Telander*



**2021**  
*Larry Merchant*

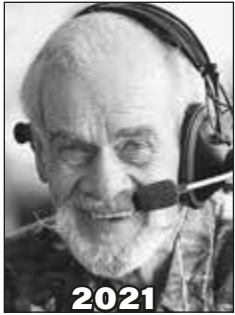


**2021**  
*Jim Nantz*



**2021**  
*Dick Stockton*

# HALL OF FAME GALLERY



**2021**

*Bill King*



**2022**

*Curry Kirkpatrick*



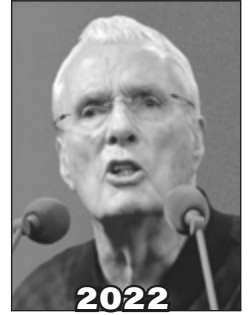
**2022**

*Stuart Scott*



**2022**

*Jackie MacMullan*



**2022**

*Hubie Brown*



**2023**

*Lee Corso*



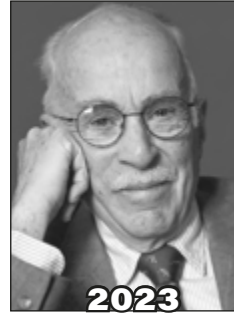
**2023**

*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*



**2026**

*James Brown*



**2026**

*Greg Gumbel*



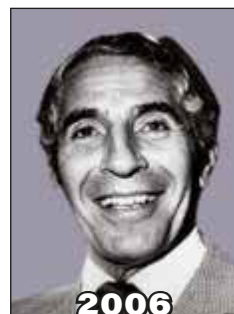
**2026**

*Sid Hartman*



**2026**

*Adrian Wojnarowski*



**2006**

*Phil Rizzutto*



**2006**

*W. O. McGeehan*

# 66th National Sports Media Association SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

## SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH

- 3:00-6:00pm      **Registration**, Hotel Lobby
- 5:00-7:00pm      **Welcome Reception**, Griffin Room  
Light hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soft drinks  
Dress: Business casual

## MONDAY, JUNE 29TH

- 9:00am-6:00pm      **Registration**, Hotel Lobby
- 9:30-11:30am      **Feedback Session (for Summit registrants only)**  
19 & Timber Lounge; Dress: Business or business casual
- 12:30-4:30pm      **Sports Media Convergence Summit**  
Carlisle Ballroom; Dress: Business or business casual
- 5:00-6:00pm      **66th NSMA Awards Reception**  
Grandville Ballroom; Dress: Business/cocktail
- 6:00-9:00pm      **66th NSMA Awards Banquet**, Grandville Ballroom  
(Ceremony begins promptly at 6:00)  
Dress: Business for men; business or cocktail for women
- 9:00pm      **After Party** (Cash Bar)



This is the 14th year that NSMA has presented the Sports Media Convergence Summit. Our in-person event on June 29 kicks off a series that will include several Virtual Summits during the 2026-27 academic year.

In addition to thanking this year's panelists and those working the feedback session, the NSMA would thank the panelists who participated in our 2025-26 Virtual Summits: Nicole Auerbach, Tom Boman, Leon Carter, Howard Deneroff, Brandon Gaudin, Joon Lee, Andrew Marchand, Ryan McGee, Jim Phillips, Brad Radtke, Jourdan Rodrigue, and Jason Ross Jr. Their time, energy, and enthusiasm to impart their wisdom on the next generation is profoundly appreciated!

---

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

With Aaron Beard, Chuck Cooperstein, Riley Corcoran, Mike Grimm, Chris Lewis,  
Andrew Monaco, Keith Murphy, Matt Park, Mike Rosenstein, and Bill Roth

*Bring your reel or clips. Get feedback from industry veterans in a small-group setting. \*For in-person attendees only.*

## PANELS

**12:30**

**Covering Games in a Digital Era**

Kevin Fishbain/The Athletic  
Larry Williams/Tiger Illustrated



**1:30**

**Attacking 1st Job Out of College**

Jack Webb/WVII-TV Bangor  
Tamar Sher/KMOV-TV St. Louis



**2:30**

**PxP/Color Teams**

Jeff Brantley/Cincinnati Reds  
Bob Carpenter/ex-Washington Nationals  
Matt Loughlin/New Jersey Devils



**3:30**

**Ask the Pros**

Ross Dellenger/Yahoo Sports  
Sean McDonough/ESPN  
Adrian Wojnarowski/ex-ESPN



# National Sports Media Association **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**



Started in July of 2024, the NSMA Mentorship Program has served dozens of students and young professionals

As with the Convergence Summit and Feedback Session held during our Awards Weekend & National Convention, the mentorship program is part of our mission to help those aspiring sports media practitioners.

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

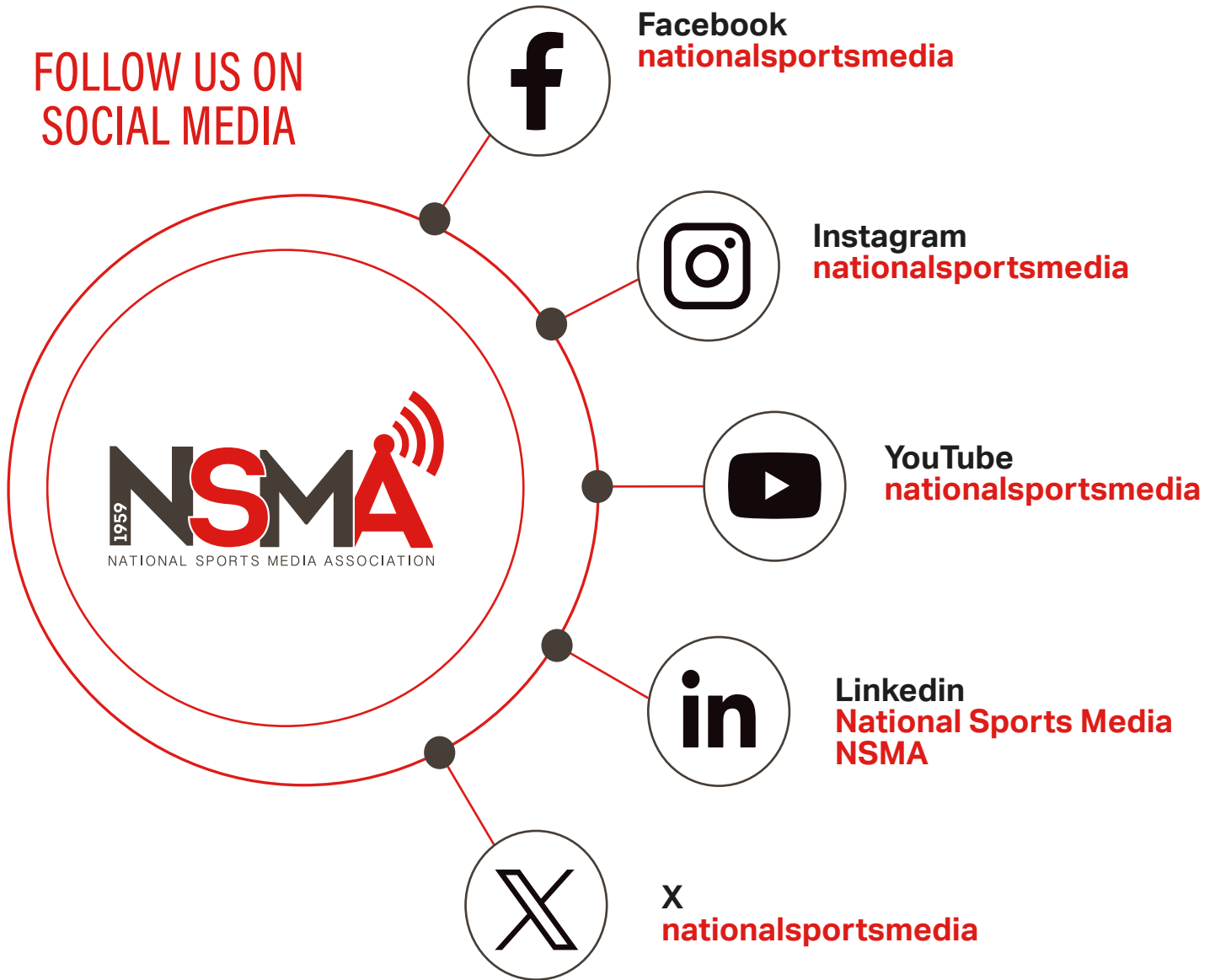
A sampling of the feedback from one of the mentees:

**"I just wanted to thank you for connecting me with my mentor. Her mentorship, insight, and candor have been very helpful in my job search journey and growing in the industry overall. I'll keep you posted on our progress, but I just wanted you to know I greatly appreciate all you do on behalf of members of NSMA!"**

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.

If you're interested in being a mentor or a mentee, please look for the mentor form on our website, or email [dgoren@nationalsportsmedia.org](mailto:dgoren@nationalsportsmedia.org)

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SOCIAL MEDIA**



# HELP US TO HONOR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS MEDIA

*Donate by scanning the QR code with your phone or visiting:  
[www.NationalSportsMedia.org](http://www.NationalSportsMedia.org)*

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**





# SPOTLIGHT

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.



## AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY - Clarksville, TN

The National Sports Media Association Student Chapter at Austin Peay State University just completed its 11th year as a registered student organization on the APSU campus. This past year, chapter members continued the broadcast production of APSU Gobs Hockey games with historic matchups against SEC foes Ole Miss and LSU. Student members also provided play-by-play coverage of APSU football and women's basketball on WAPX-FM.

The chapter attended the Memphis Grizzlies Career Fair at the FedEx Forum on November 20, 2025. Following the event, the students interviewed members of Grind City Media and attended the Grizzlies vs. Sacramento Kings game.

Chapter members have been attending the NSMA Hall of Fame Weekend since 2014. Eleven members, our largest contingent ever, will attend the 2026 event this year in Greensboro.





# SPOTLIGHT



## JIM NANTZ AWARD

COLLEGIATE  
SPORTSCASTER  
OF THE YEAR

Presented by STAA

### 2026 Winner



**TYLER REIDY**  
Senior - Notre Dame University

This marks the 15th 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 Jon Chelesnik says the organization'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 2026 Jim Nantz Award winner is Notre Dame University senior Tyler Reidy. Congratulations, Tyler!



Jim Nantz

## PREVIOUS WINNERS



Jack Smith



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

# JIM NANTZ AWARD

## PREVIOUS WINNERS

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2025 - Jack Smith - Sr. - University of Southern California	Radio Play-by-Play - Frisco RoughRiders (AA)
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 - University of Notre Dame	Reporter and Associate Producer - 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 - Bally Sports North, Minneapolis
2017 - Nate Gatter - Jr. - University of Missouri	Westwood One/ESPN/KMOX/Freelance
2016 - Josh Appel - Sr. - University of South Florida	Radio Play-by-Play - Sports USA Media, NEP Group
2015 - Eric Gallanty - Sr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - PWHL/NESN/Hockey East/Boston College
2014 - Kevin Fitzgerald - Sr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - ESPN
2013 - Ross Lippman - Sr - Emerson College	Arts & Culture Producer - Rhode Island PBS
2012 - Bill Spaulding - Jr. - Syracuse University	TV Play-by-Play - ESPN/NBC/Freelance
2011 - Alex Faust - Jr. - Northeastern University	Radio Play-by-Play - NY Rangers; TV Play-by-Play - TNT/AppleTV - NSMA Board Member
2010 - John Twork - Sr. - Eastern Illinois University	Editorial Director - Illinois State University
2009 - Adam Cavalier - Sr. - Marshall University	Assoc. AD, Athletic Comms/External Affairs - Carson-Newman University



**Atlanta's #1 tennis journalist**  
Former host of *Talking Tennis Southern Style*



**USTA Georgia Presidential Appointee**  
Volunteer Master of Cermonies



**USTA Southern & USTA Georgia**  
congratulate Sam Crenshaw  
as 2025 NSMA Georgia  
Co-Sportscaster of the Year  
and for his years-long,  
exceptional coverage of tennis!

USTA SOUTHERN USTA GEORGIA

# BIG HOUSE GAINES AWARD



**JAI LUCAS**

**DIVISION I • UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

Jai Lucas was named the 14th head coach of the University of Miami men's basketball program on March 6, 2025, and is in his second season at the helm.

In his first season, Lucas led one of the most remarkable turnarounds in college basketball as he guided the Hurricanes to a 26-9 record and a No. 3 seed in the ACC Tournament following a 13-5 mark in league play. Miami's 19-win improvement from the previous season tied the NCAA record for largest turnaround.

The Hurricanes finished the regular season with 24 wins, matching a program record, and posted 15 victories at the Watsco Center, the second-most in school history.

Lucas also became the fastest first-time head coach in the ACC to reach 20 wins since Bill Guthridge (North Carolina, 1997-98) and led Miami to its 13th NCAA Tournament appearance in program history.

Lucas took over the reins of the Miami men's basketball program after spending the past three seasons at Duke, where he served as assistant coach for one campaign before being elevated to associate head coach in 2023.

One of the nation's most respected assistant coaches and recruiters, Lucas has spent 12 overall seasons on the staffs at Duke, Kentucky and Texas, helping those programs to seven NCAA Tournament appearances.

While at Duke, Lucas played a pivotal role in helping the Blue Devils secure the nation's top recruiting class in both 2024 and 2025. As associate head coach, he served as the program's defensive coordinator. The Blue Devils finished the 2024-25 season ranked seventh in the nation in scoring defense (62.8 points per game) and fourth nationally in field goal percentage defense (38.4).

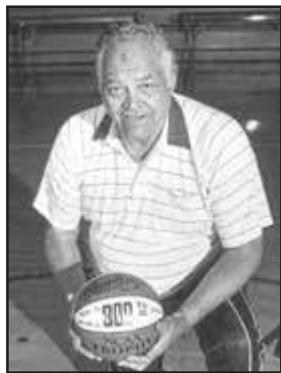
Before arriving in Durham, Lucas was on staff at Kentucky for two seasons.

Lucas began his coaching career at his alma mater Texas, where he spent seven seasons on staff. The Houston native began as a special assistant with the program from 2013-15 before serving as director of basketball operations in the 2015-16 season. He was promoted to assistant coach in June 2016 and, in his first year, helped the Longhorns win 20 games and earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

In his first two recruiting cycles as an assistant coach, Lucas helped the Longhorns ink two Top-10 signing classes. The 2017 class was rated No. 5 nationally by Rivals while the 2018 class was tapped No. 8 in the country by ESPN and 247Sports.

Lucas played two seasons at Texas, helping the Longhorns earn back-to-back NCAA Tournament bids. He played at Florida as a freshman in 2007-08 earning SEC All-Freshman Team. Lucas later spent three seasons in the professional ranks, in places such as Latvia and the NBA Development League.

Lucas graduated from Texas in 2011 with a degree in corporate communication. He and his wife Kori have two sons, Jaxin and Kalib, and he has a son, Xavier. His father, John II, is a former head coach of the San Antonio Spurs, Philadelphia 76ers and Cleveland Cavaliers who most recently served as an assistant coach for the Houston Rockets. The elder Lucas played 14 seasons in the NBA after earning All-America honors in both basketball and tennis at Maryland.



## 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.

# BIG HOUSE GAINES AWARD



**TIERRA TERRY**

**DIVISION II • WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Winston-Salem State University Department of Athletics announced the hiring of Tierra Terry as the 12th head women's basketball coach in school history in April 2025.

Terry was a four-year member of the Winston-Salem State women's basketball team and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, while minoring in sociology in 2008.

Under her leadership, WSSU has reemerged as a contender in the CIAA, highlighted by postseason appearances and a return to the NCAA Division II Tournament. In the 2025-26 season, Terry led the Rams to one of their most successful campaigns in recent history, earning CIAA Coach of the Year honors while mentoring multiple all-conference (Maia Charles, Neveah Farmer and Makayla Waleed) and all-rookie selections (Breonna Roaf and Ah'Kiya Pye). Her ability to develop talent and maximize team performance has been a cornerstone of the program's resurgence. The Rams finished the season 28-4, named Southern Division Co-Champs, and claimed the 2026 CIAA Women's Basketball title. Terry and the Rams advance to the Sweet 16 of the Atlantic Region Tournament. She was

named a finalist for WBCA Coach of the Year.

Terry comes to Winston-Salem State after spending five seasons with Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) member Virginia Union where they went 60-51 during her tenure. The Lady Panthers finished this last season 21-9 and saw Maia Charles be named the CIAA Rookie of the Year. During her time there she coached two All-CIAA Frontcourt athletes, four Preseason All-CIAA, two All-Rookie, one Rookie of the Year, one HBCU All Star MVP, and was selected to the inaugural BCIC Tournament. They also finished second in the Northern Division, ranked second in offense in the CIAA and third in defense, third in blocked shots, second in assists/game and second in team field goal percentage.

Prior to Virginia Union, Terry spent three seasons as an assistant coach at The College of William and Mary. The 2019-20 season was one to remember posting a school record 21 wins: 12 in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), 11 wins on the road, and ranking its highest seed in the CAA Tournament (third). Prior to William & Mary, Terry was a recruiting coordinator at Western Carolina. She began her coaching career at her alma mater, Winston-Salem State University.

She went on to earn her master's in psychology with a specialization in counseling from the University of West Florida in 2011. She is a member of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity Incorporated, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, and the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Terry is very active in the community, including volunteering with Upward Basketball, the YMCA, Latin Flavor Ent, Boys and Girls Club, Women's Basketball Mentor Program, Joy Prom, and the Annual Cullowhee Valley Festival in North Carolina.

**WHAT?!?!?!?!?!  
YOU'RE NOT AN NSMA MEMBER?**

*Join today to stand  
shoulder-to-shoulder with those  
who have built this industry.*



Use the QR Code for more information





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONORED ALUMNI

**Sean McDonough '84**  
*National Sportscaster of the Year*

### HONORED IN STATE CATEGORIES

Jon Bloom '97, Rich Cimini '85, Matt Gelb '09,  
Mike Murphy '95, Dave O'Brien '86, Greg Papa '84,  
Matt Park '97, Bill Roth '87 and Jamie Seh '98

**S** Syracuse University  
Newhouse School of  
Public Communications

*Proudly celebrating the Newhouse School's  
tradition of excellence in sports media.*



## THE SPORTS LEADER

CONGRATULATIONS  
**GREG PAPA**

**2025 California  
Sportscaster of the Year**

LISTEN TO PAPA & SILVER LIVE WEEKDAYS  
10AM-2PM ON THE SPORTS LEADER

THESPORTSLEADER.COM



# Woody Durham

# VOICE OF COLLEGE SPORTS AWARD

## ALL-TIME DURHAM AWARD WINNERS

2025 RAY GOSS  
Duquesne

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



Tony Caridi has provided the soundtrack to many of the greatest moments in Mountaineer sports history.

Caridi has described West Virginia University football and men's basketball since 1996, though his WVU career began in 1984 when he arrived in Morgantown as an afternoon news reporter for WAJR-AM. With the creation of the MetroNews Radio Network, Caridi was promoted to sports director and became host of the popular statewide program Sportsline.

Caridi's first role with the Mountaineer Sports Network came in 1987, when he teamed with the late Tom Mees on football broadcasts. That partnership eventually led to television assignments covering college basketball on the Mountaineer Sports Network, the Atlantic 10 Television Network, and ESPN.

In 1992, Caridi joined the Mutual Radio Network as an announcer for its College Football Game of the Week.

He was named the lead play-by-play voice of West Virginia University in 1997 and has since called many of the program's most iconic victories, including wins over Georgia in the 2006 Sugar Bowl, Oklahoma in the 2008 Fiesta Bowl, and Clemson in the 2012 Orange Bowl.

Caridi's memorable basketball calls include West Virginia's victory over Kentucky to clinch a Final Four berth and a double-overtime win against No. 2-seeded Wake Forest in the 2005 NCAA Tournament.

During the 2005 season, Caridi coined his popular catchphrase, "It's a great night to be a Mountaineer, wherever you may be!"

His current radio work includes serving as lead announcer of the Mountaineer Sports Network.

A Syracuse University graduate, Caridi became a founding member of PikeWood Creative in 2002, an Emmy Award-winning video production company based in Morgantown.

A past recipient of the West Virginia Broadcaster of the Year award, Caridi was inducted into the West Virginia Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2022 and Syracuse University's WAER Hall of Fame in 2023.

Caridi has authored two children's books: "Where, Oh Where, Oh Where Could We Go? Traveling West Virginia High and Low" and "Watch Where You Put Your Feet," inspired by his volunteer work with Monongalia County's Read Aloud program.

A native of Lockport, New York, Caridi and his wife, Joan, have three sons—Michael, Andrew, and Matthew—and two grandchildren, Luca and Noah. They reside in Morgantown.



## 2026 Winner **TONY CARIDI** Mountaineers

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.



THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

*congratulates*

# TONY CARIDI

2026 NSMA WOODY DURHAM "VOICE OF COLLEGE SPORTS" AWARD WINNER



# CONGRATULATIONS NSMA IDAHO SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

FROM THE ENTIRE BOISE STATE ATHLETICS TEAM!



ABE  
JACKSON

A promotional graphic for Super Bowl LVII. The background features a night cityscape with palm trees, a Ferris wheel, and fireworks. A banner at the top reads "LOS ANGELES 2027". The main text, in large, bold, white letters with a red and green outline, says "WE'RE GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL". Below this is the Super Bowl LVII logo, which includes the Vince Lombardi Trophy and the Roman numeral "LVII". At the bottom, there are logos for ESPN and ABC, with the text "Part of The Walt Disney Company" underneath. The ABC 45 NEWS logo is prominently displayed at the bottom center.

# COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Curt Cignetti of Indiana was voted the winner of this year's Paul "Bear" Bryant College Football Coach of the Year Award. The Hoosiers completed a perfect 16-0 season, following a perfect 12-0 regular season with CFP wins over Alabama and Oregon, before defeating Miami in the National Championship game.

For 40 years, the Houston, Texas chapter of the American Heart Association has presented the Bryant Award as a salute to 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.

The Heart Association also presents a Lifetime Achievement to a former coach who excelled at his craft. Phillip Fulmer of Tennessee was the 2026 winner.

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



NSMA executive director Dave Goren (far left) and board member Jimmy Quander (far right) join 2026 Bryant Award winner Curt Cignetti (second from left) of Indiana and Marc Bryant Tyson (second from right), grandson of Bear Bryant, at presentation of Bryant Award, Jan. 21, 2026, in Houston. (American Heart Association Photo)

## Bear Bryant

### COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS

#### 2025: Curt Cignetti, Indiana

2024	Marcus Freeman	Notre Dame
2023	Mike Norvell	Florida State
2022	Sonny Dykes	TCU
2021	Luke Fickell	Cincinnati
2020	Nick Saban	Alabama
2019	Ed Orgeron	LSU
2018	Dabo Swinney	Clemson
2017	Scott Frost	Central Florida
2016	Dabo Swinney	Clemson
2015	Dabo Swinney	Clemson
2014	Gary Patterson	TCU
2013	Gus Malzahn	Auburn
2012	Bill O'Brien	Penn State
2011	Mike Gundy	Oklahoma State
2010	Gene Chizik	Auburn
2009	Chris Petersen	Boise State
2008	Kyle Whittingham	Utah
2007	Mark Mangino	Kansas
2006	Chris Petersen	Boise State
2005	Mack Brown	Texas
2004	Tommy Tuberville	Auburn
2003	Nick Saban	Louisiana State
2002	Jim Tressel	Ohio State
2001	Larry Coker	Miami
2000	Bob Stoops	Oklahoma
1999	Frank Beamer	Virginia Tech
1998	Bill Snyder	Kansas State
1997	Lloyd Carr	Michigan
1996	Bruce Snyder	Arizona State
1995	Gary Barnett	Northwestern
1994	Rich Brooks	Oregon
1993	Terry Bowden	Auburn
1992	Gene Stallings	Alabama
1991	Don James	Washington
1990	Bobby Ross	Georgia Tech
1989	Bill McCartney	Colorado
1988	Lou Holtz	Notre Dame
1987	Dick MacPherson	Syracuse
1986	Joe Paterno	Penn State

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

### 2026: Phillip Fulmer

2025	Grant Teaff	2012	Hayden Fry
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

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



# what they were

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 65th NSMA Awards Weekend & National Convention.



“

*This weekend was so much fun... it was awesome to be surrounded by so many talented people in the industry*

”

**- Emma Tiedemann**

*2024 Maine Sportscaster of the Year*

*"A 2-hour program? Perfect. The sweet spot has been found."*

**- Chuck Cooperstein**

*Dallas Mavericks Radio*



“

*The reception and banquet were big league!*

”

**- Jermaine Ferrell**

*2024 Virginia Sportscaster of the Year*

*"We loved how engaging and fast-paced the banquet was. It never dragged, but didn't feel rushed. Perfect pace!"*

**- Marc Whiteman**

*2024 South Carolina Sportscaster of the Year*

*"I loved the format. Having Q&A is a much better way to go than speeches. Feels more laid back, which I appreciate."*

**- Pat Strathman**

*2024 Kansas Sportscaster of the Year*

*"Thanks so much for everything. It is always such a nice night - and the new format was a hit! Appreciate everything you guys do."*

**- Ken Rosenthal**

*2024 National Sportswriter of the Year*

“

*It was a fabulous feat you pulled off this past Sunday and Monday. To be in the presence of so many people I admire created memories that will last forever for Lisa, Elijah, and me. In the end (and I am at the END of my career), it is all about the people you meet and with whom you work.*

”

**- Jack Edwards**

*2024 Massachusetts Sportscaster of the Year*



“

*It's amazing when you've got people who are at the apex of this industry and people who are still in college and just starting out, and everyone else in between, all mixing and mingling safely in the same environment. It's a really cool thing to experience, and it creates great opportunities for networking, feedback, professional development, and many other things...or just for telling old stories, meeting new friends, and reconnecting with older ones. Every time I've attended one of these, I've left feeling glad that I did.*

”

**- Eric Little**

*NSMA member*



# saying...



“What a tremendous event. Thanks for everything you do to put on such a great night.”

**- Joe Danneman**  
2024 Ohio Sportscaster of the Year

“Another phenomenal job by you and your staff. Thank you so much!”

**- Lance Allan**  
2024 Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year

“The weekend was fantastic from top to bottom. Endless thanks to you and everyone for putting on such a fantastic show.”

**- Michael Dugan**  
2024 Vermont Sportscaster of the Year

“I wasn’t fully aware of all the important work you do with all the young journalists. I had a great time interacting with them in the morning session. Thanks again for putting on such a great event. I know from our Hall of Fame dinners how much work it is.”

**- Ken MacLeod**

2024 Oklahoma Sportswriter of the Year and Executive Director, Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame



Thanks to you and everyone else involved in NSMA for an unforgettable night and experience.”

**- Chapel Fowler**  
2024 South Carolina Sportswriter of the Year



“...just wanted to thank you for all you and your staff did to make this a perfect weekend for the Rains family. Everything was done in a first-class manner, and last night’s dinner and program could not have been better.”

**- Rob Rains**  
2024 Missouri Sportswriter of the Year

“It was a very well-organized banquet.”

**- Bill Wagner**  
JTF Publications,  
Owner of the Baltimore Sun and Capital Gazette newspapers

“Great job on the weekend. Terrific program.”

**- Bob Kesling,**  
2024 Tennessee Sportscaster of the Year

“Thanks so much! It was a wonderful night that neither I nor any of my family members will ever forget. Truly one of the greatest honors of my 36-year career. Thanks so much for all you do!”

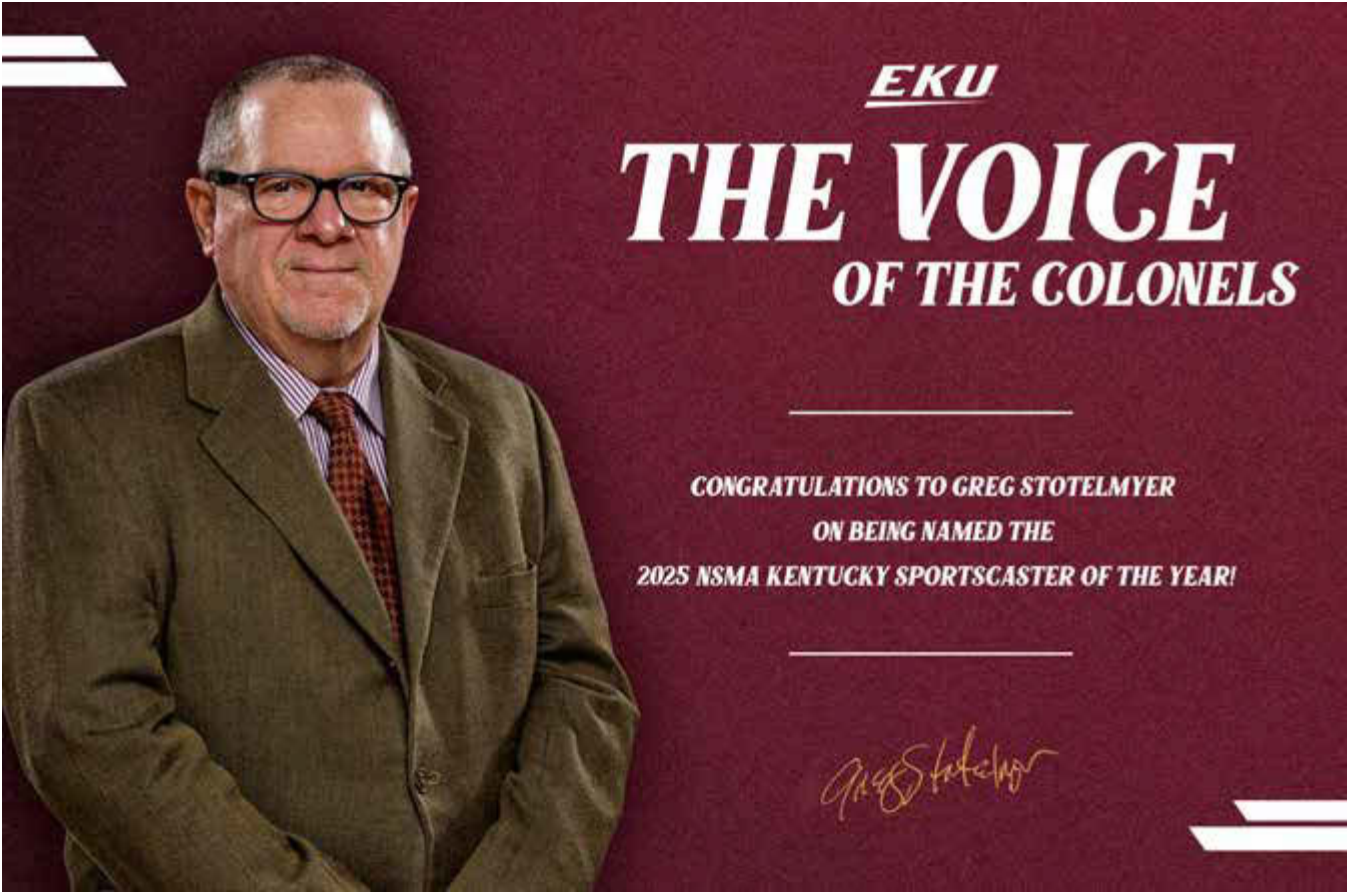
**- Bill Wagner**

2024 Maryland Sportswriter of the Year



National Sports Media Association  
**AWARDS 2025**





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CONGRATULATIONS TO GREG STOTELMYER  
ON BEING NAMED THE  
2025 NSMA KENTUCKY SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR!

*Greg Stotelmyer*



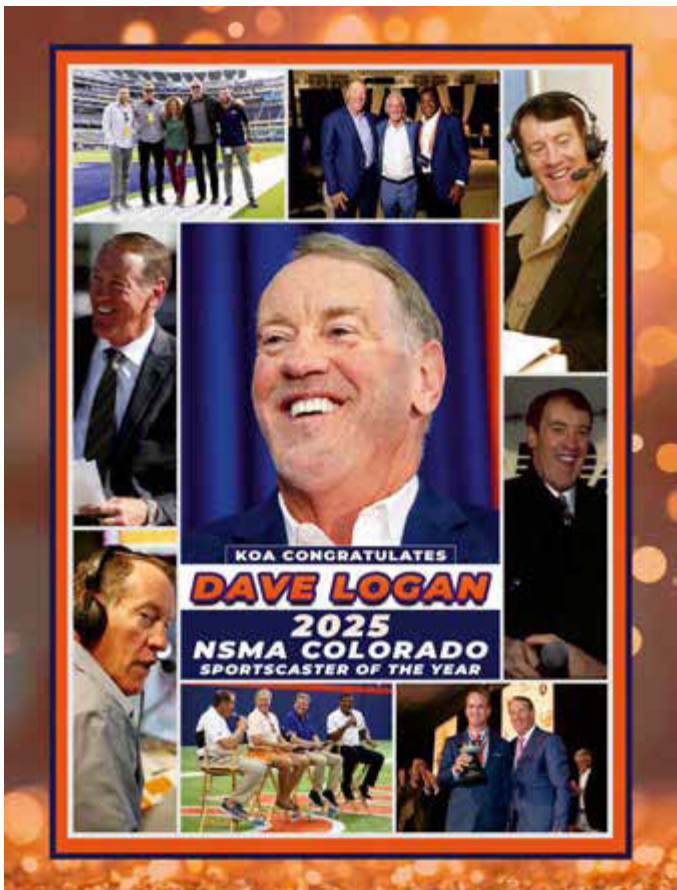
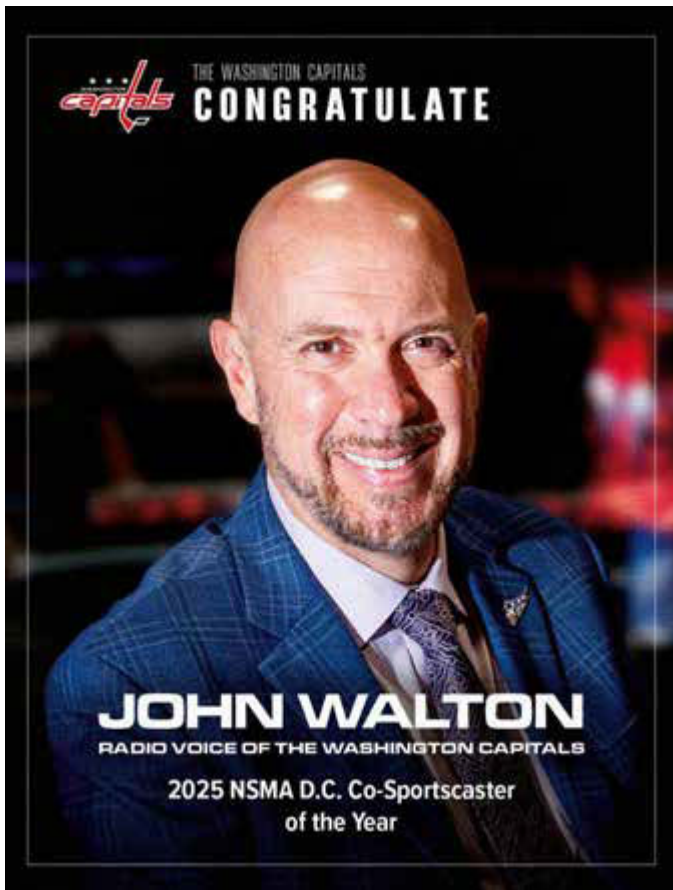
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## The National Sports Media Association

# 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.*



**LARRY BROOKS**

**Larry Brooks**, Hall of Fame hockey writer for the *New York Post* and 2024 *New York Co-Sportswriter of the Year*.

**Lou Holtz**, Hall of Fame college football coach who became a fixture as an analyst on ESPN college football telecasts.

**Ray Lane**, legendary Detroit TV and radio sportscaster. He was a two-time Michigan Sportscaster of the Year.

**Bill Livingston**, longtime sports columnist for *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, spent more than three decades covering major sports in Cleveland.

**Phillip Marshall**, longtime college football sportswriter and two-time Alabama Sportswriter of the Year.

**Geoffrey Mason**, Emmy-winning television sports producer, spent decades producing major events, including Olympic Games, World Cups, and a Super Bowl for networks such as ABC Sports.

**Troy Murray**, former Chicago Blackhawks player, provided color commentary for more than 20 years on the team's radio broadcasts after his NHL career.

**Charlie Neal**, pioneering play-by-play announcer for HBCU games on television.

**Wes Rucker**, longtime Knoxville sports journalist and reporter, was known for covering University of Tennessee athletics across radio, digital media, and newspapers.

**John Sterling**, best known as the longtime radio voice of the NY Yankees. Also called games for the Atlanta Hawks and Braves, and the New York Islanders, among others.

**Bob Trumpy**, former NFL tight end, worked as a television color analyst for NBC and called multiple Super Bowls during his broadcasting career.

**Ted Turner**, created SuperStation WTBS, which, through satellite distribution, made every Atlanta Braves game available to most of the US. Also created CNN, which birthed CNN Sports, for several years a competitor to ESPN.

**René Cárdenas**, the first Spanish-language broadcaster for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Houston Astros and Texas Rangers, and was inducted into the Broadcasters Wing of the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame in 2002.

**Christina Chambers**, former television sports reporter for WBRC-TV in Birmingham, AL. Covered high school and college sports.



**RAY GOSS**

**Harry Donahue**, Philadelphia sports radio broadcaster, served for decades as the play-by-play voice of Temple University.

**Howard Fendrich**, National sportswriter for the Associated Press, who covered the biggest tennis grand slams and Olympic alpine ski finals.

**Mark Freidinger**, longtime Wake Forest basketball radio analyst, spent more than three decades providing commentary on Demon Deacons broadcasts.

**Ray Goss**, 58-year radio voice of Duquesne University men's basketball. Recipient of the 2025 Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award.

**Craig Heist**, longtime Baltimore/Washington, D.C. sports broadcaster and two-time Maryland Sportscaster of the Year.

**David Halberstam**, first radio voice of the Miami Heat. Also ten years as St. John's radio voice and EVP/GM of Westwood One Sports.

**PAYTON MANNIE**

**KEVIN CONNOLLY**

**DANNY HARNDEN**

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1980 - 2026

2025 NSMA KANSAS SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR

# 1987



The 28th National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Awards Weekend was held in Salisbury, NC, April 5-7, 1987.

It was another star-studded event that featured Hall of Fame inductees Will Grimsley (Associated Press) and Jim McKay (ABC Sports), National Sportscaster of the Year Al Michaels, and National Sportswriter of the Year Frank Deford.



The weekend tipped off with a celebrity basketball game between the NSSA All Stars and members of the NFL Players Association. Among the former NFL players who suited up were former Oakland Raiders and Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Drew Buie, who starred at Catawba College, and former Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Dino Hackett, who played at Appalachian State University.



Among the guest speakers were two-time Olympic gold medal swimmer Donna de Varona, who had become an ABC commentator, the head of the NFL Players Association, Gene Upshaw, and former Wake Forest University basketball coach Bones McKinney.



## A LOOK BACK

Hall of Famer Chris Schenkel was the master of ceremonies.



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The National Sports Media Association would like to thank all of those who have supported us through the past year. Whether you donated, sponsored, or bought a program ad, our initiatives don't happen without you.

Think of all of the young people you have enabled us to mentor, the industry legends we have honored, and the current practitioners we recognize at tonight's Awards Banquet.

*You help us perpetuate the sports media industry through your generosity.  
And we cannot thank you enough!*

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