

## Bradley, Burwell: Class of 1977 to Hall of Fame

By PAT FORDE

It might not have been clear at the time, but 1977 was a very good year for college basketball journalism.

That's when Mark Bradley and Bryan Burwell both graduated from college and began their careers as sports writers. Bradley graduated from Kentucky and Burwell from Virginia State, and what followed were decades of insightful, thought-provoking, picture-painting stories by the two men. They both became prominent general columnists at major metropolitan newspapers, covering a wide array of topics – but as their careers expanded, both still held a special passion for college basketball.

They have covered the sport with humor, with wonder, with enjoyment, and when necessary with caustic fearlessness. Those who deserved praise received it from Bradley and Burwell; those who deserved criticism received that as well. They wrote with distinction.

For that reason, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association is proud to announce them as the USBWA Hall of Fame Class of 2014. Thirty-seven years after graduation, it's high time for an induction.

There are no words to adequately express the sadness in the USBWA community over the fact that Bryan will not be present at the Final Four for his induction. Cancer claimed him on Dec. 4 – robbing Dawn Burwell of her husband and Victoria of her father. Two months prior to that, it was decided that Burwell, a past USBWA president, was a slam-dunk Hall of Fame nominee. He richly deserves the honor of being the first African-American member of the USBWA Hall, and it is an immeasurable shame that his peers will not be treated in Indianapolis to his broad smile, deep laugh and good cheer.

As Burwell's colleague at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Bernie Miklasz, wrote: "Now that Bryan is gone, the press box will never be as warm again. It will be a



Mark Bradley



Bryan Burwell

much quieter place. ... This is impossible, and this is cruel, and this is crushing. But I do know this: The familiar echo of that sweet, soul-replenishing laughter will always live in our hearts. He'll never really leave us."

In a profession rife with complainers, Burwell didn't go there. He was excited about that day's assignment, always energized by the task of finding that day's story angle, always curious to learn what made that day's subject tick. He covered all the pro sports with that verve, but it also was there in equal measure when the topic was college basketball. Didn't matter if it was the Final Four or the Missouri Valley Conference tournament quarterfinals, Bryan was happy to be there – covering the game, ready to dive into the task of writing a compelling column.

Bradley shared a similar devotion to the craft, starting out at *The Cats' Pause* – a Kentucky fan magazine – for \$125 a week. He was fired after his first football sea-

son, ostensibly because publisher Oscar Combs couldn't afford Bradley's lavish salary at a start-up publication.

That launched Bradley into newspapers. The Maysville, Ky., native worked for the *Lexington Herald-Leader* for six years. He has worked for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for more than three decades.

"I was 26, and you kind of wonder whether you can hit big-league pitching," Bradley said of the move to Atlanta. "The AJC was one of the big places to go."

Bradley quickly found out he could hit big-league pitching to all fields, and with power. What started as a job writing takeouts with one column per week quickly became a full-time column gig, and Bradley excelled as translating his dry wit into print.

Living in a football hotbed, Bradley succeeded in doing the highly improbable – he got the South to care about college basketball. He opined on Georgia and Georgia Tech, and their respective conferences, in such an interesting manner that once-apathetic fans gravitated to him as the region's go-to voice on college hoops.

Married for more than three decades to wife Penny and with two daughters (Rachel and Elizabeth) and a granddaughter (Allison), Bradley spends most of his writing time chronicling Atlanta's pro sports teams and the local college football programs. But he still makes time for college basketball in his coverage schedule.

"When I go to a college basketball game, I kind of feel like this is what I grew up doing," he said. "It never feels like this is something unimportant. If I did ever make a reputation as a writer – and I'm still trying to do that – a lot of it has had to do with covering college basketball."

Mark Bradley and Bryan Burwell both have earned gilded reputations for their work covering the game. From the college graduating Class of 1977 to the USBWA Hall of Fame Class of 2015, they make a great pair.

## Michigan's Hatch: Most Courageous in so many ways

By DANA O'NEIL

Austin Hatch survived two plane crashes in the span of eight years – the first of which claimed the lives of his mother, older sister and younger brother; the second of which took his father and stepmother.

And yet neither of those tragedies is what makes Hatch courageous. The Michigan freshman is the USBWA Most Courageous Award winner because of how he has lived his life since, fighting to overcome both his own physical hardships and emotional challenges and also embracing his new opportunities.

Rather than be angry at what he has lost, Hatch instead prefers to celebrate what he's been given – a chance to honor his parents by becoming the man they dreamed he would be. Fiercely determined and impossibly positive, Hatch



Austin Hatch

believes he is only beginning to write the story of his life and that the tragedies, while a part of his tale, will one day merely be a footnote.

Hatch was only 8 when the first crash happened. He and his father, Dr. Stephen Hatch, were the lone survivors – Austin surviving largely because his father tossed him away from the wreckage. The two forged a new life together afterward, deciding to celebrate their late family members rather than mourn them.

Eventually, Stephen Hatch remarried. Together with his new wife, Kim, they formed a new family, merging Kim's three children with Austin. In June 2011, the family gathered to celebrate Austin's commitment to the University of Michigan.

The second crash came nine days later. Both Stephen and Kim were killed. Austin survived, but with a traumat-

ic brain injury so severe doctors wondered if he would make it. He spent two months in a coma and many more in intensive rehab, essentially relearning everything.

But every challenge and "can't" that the doctors presented, Austin answered with a "can." By the time he returned to his Fort Wayne, Ind., home in October, he was not just walking; he was climbing the stairs to his second-floor bedroom.

And this fall, just three years after the crash, he enrolled at Michigan, where John Beilein honored his scholarship. In December, he scored his first collegiate point, a free throw against Coppin State.

The lingering effects of the brain injury have slowed Austin's basketball progress some. He's unsure if he ever will be the player he was, but he's not worried. He has bigger goals and new dreams now – to share his story in the hopes that it will help and inspire others and to live the life his parents envisioned for him.

Stephen Hatch challenged Austin to be an uncommon man. He is already well on his way.

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# USBWA awards ceremony moving to Monday luncheon

For the first time in nearly three decades, the USBWA will hold its annual awards function at the Final Four at a luncheon rather than a breakfast.

The luncheon will be held at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis on Monday, April 6, starting at 12:30 p.m. on the day of the national championship game. The luncheon will follow the news conference to announce the latest inductees into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, also held at the JW Marriott.

The move away from a breakfast to a luncheon was spurred in part by a desire to attract more media and others to the event, hoping that a later start time will be more appealing than an early morning breakfast.

The USBWA agenda for the luncheon will remain the same as the breakfast. The USBWA will hand out awards for most courageous to Austin Hatch of Michigan; the Katha Quinn Award for service to the organization to Tom Jernstedt, formerly of the NCAA; the Rising Star Award recognizing journalistic excellence by USBWA members under the age of 30 to Michael Cohen of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*; and the Ray Marquette Award to Dana O’Neill of [espn.com](http://espn.com) for her leadership as president of the USBWA this year.

Two members will be inducted into the USBWA Hall of Fame: Mark Bradley of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and Bryan Burwell, posthumously, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

The USBWA will also present a Lifetime Achievement Award to sports photojournalist Rich Clarkson, honoring him for 60 years of covering the Final Four.

A short business meeting will follow the awards presentation. Plaques will be presented to the top five finishers in five categories in the best-writing contest; Dana will give a president’s report; and new officers and board members will be elected for the coming year.

**SPONSOR RECOGNITION.** The USBWA wishes to thank the corporate sponsors who have supported the organization through the years.

ESPN has been with the USBWA the longest of any sponsor, since the mid-1980s serving primarily as the main sponsor of the USBWA awards event. ESPN also sponsors the back cover of the annual USBWA membership directory.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is the main sponsor of the USBWA’s best-writing contest and also serves as a sponsor of the awards luncheon.

Recent sponsors include the National Association of Basketball Coaches and USA Basketball with full page ads in the membership directory.

Access Sports, a non-profit charitable organization based in Oklahoma City, also supports the USBWA by honoring the USBWA’s player, coach and freshman of the year recipients at the Devon Energy College Basketball Awards dinner the week after the Final Four in Oklahoma City.

**USBWA FINAL FOUR DINNER.** Former

Joe Mitch  
USBWA  
Executive Director



USBWA president Bill Benner, now a senior vice president for corporate, community and public relations for the Indiana Pacers, will host the association’s past presidents and current officers and board of directors at a dinner on Thursday, April 2, at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis. Benner served as president of the USBWA when he was a sportswriter for the *Indianapolis Star* in 1998-99.

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR NEWS CONFERENCE.** The recipient of the USBWA’s Oscar Robertson Player of the Year Trophy will be announced at the Final Four on Friday, April 3, at Lucas Oil Stadium, at a press conference starting at 10:15 a.m. Oscar Robertson, a two-time USBWA player of the year recipient when he played for Cincinnati, will appear at the press conference. The trophy will be presented to the winner at the Devon Energy College Basketball Awards dinner in Oklahoma City on April 14.

**SPORTSWRITING SEMINAR.** Past USBWA president Malcolm Moran, director of the National Sports Journalism Center at Indiana University, will serve as moderator of a sportswriting seminar at the Final Four for high school and college students. The seminar will take place on Friday, April 3, at 9 a.m. at the Lucas Oil Stadium and will precede the player of the year press conference at Lucas Oil Stadium.

**USBWA SCHOLARSHIP.** Applications are now being accepted for the USBWA’s college scholarship for the son or daughter of USBWA members. The scholarship is \$1,000 annually for four years and is open to students currently in college or planning to attend a junior college or four-year institution in the fall.

To qualify, students must take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester in college, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0, demonstrate academic excellence and show achievement in citizenship and leadership in a community service. The deadline to apply is May 1.

Applications are available on the USBWA website at [USBWA.com](http://USBWA.com).

## Himmelsbach moving to Boston

Adam Himmelsbach, a sports columnist for the Louisville Courier-Journalist for the past two and one-half years, announced that he is moving to the Boston Globe to cover the Boston Celtics.

*Lodge Notes*

# Past year reaffirms that USBWA is willing to fight the fight

So this has been fun.

No, seriously, it has. Maybe that's because we haven't gotten to the Final Four yet ...

But truthfully, serving this past year as USBWA president has renewed my hope that our business, though teetering on an ever-changing precipice, is in good hands. There are problems and worries, no doubt, but there are also very good, very smart people who genuinely care about the future of journalism, and more specifically, our little corner of the world as basketball writers.

And that's a very good thing.

Does that mean we've solved every problem? Nope. Wireless is still going to fail. Courtside seating at the NCAA Tournament remains a battlefield. But behind the scenes, there are people who are trying to do what's best for everyone.

This past year, we spent a great deal of time working in conjunction with the APSE, trying to navigate the new world of media. Our task force looked at websites to try to help universities discern which were legitimate news-gathering organizations and which were mere fan sites. It's a blurry line, but a critical one and not just because courtside real estate is harder to come by than an inexpensive New York apartment. Let's face it, too many readers aren't savvy enough or interested in understanding the difference between real journalism and fanboy propaganda, and the more those lines get blurred, the more it hurts all of us. Making sure true working media have access, then, affects us all.

We've also worked with the NCAA to create more media availability in between tournament rounds. Some local beat writers have complained that they had

no access to teams after leaving sub-regional sites. This year schools will be asked – thought not yet mandated – by the NCAA to make coaches and at least two players available to local media for 30 minutes in the week between the first weekend and regional weekend of the NCAA Tournament, as well as between the regionals and the Final Four. If simply making a request doesn't

force more access, we will revisit the issue again next year.

And perhaps most critical of all, we listened to those of you who are hungry and need more sleep. There will be food in the media room following both Saturday's national semifinals and Monday's title game. I only ask that you offer a "Salud, USBWA!" before taking your first bite and hunkering down over your laptops.



And our awards banquet on championship Monday is now a 12:30 luncheon, instead of a 9 a.m. breakfast. That means I expect to see every single one of you there. Too much celebrating the end of the season (ahem) on Sunday night is no longer an excuse.

I will say, on a personal note, it's been an honor to serve as the second female president of this organization, especially since the first, Robyn Norwood, is a woman whose talent, grace and professionalism I have long admired and hoped to emulate.

I am equally thrilled that there are more women taking active roles within our organization – Laura Keeley of the *News and Observer* and Nicole Auerbach of *USA Today* both currently serve as district reps – and I encourage more of you (because I know you're out there somewhere) to get involved.

I also know that I leave you in very capable hands.

My good friend and colleague, Pat Forde, takes over as USBWA president. He's as passionate about this profession as anyone I know and the perfect combination of smart and stubborn. He might even be able to get the media hospitality beverages reduced from their current Ritz rate to a more amenable Fairfield price.

Look, I don't mean to make light of the issues. There's no denying that we

are at an interesting, maybe even frightening crossroads in our business. Change is never easy and, very often, not a whole lot of fun. But if this past year has taught me anything, it's that this organization is here to help. We might not be able to solve every problem, but we will at least try, and having people willing to fight the fight is, without question, half the battle.

Cheers and happy hooping ...

*Serving this past year as USBWA president has renewed my hope that our business, though teetering on an ever-changing precipice, is in good hands.*

## Broadcasting's loss: Cohen is USBWA's Rising Star

The USBWA's next Rising Star emerged from the long shadows of ESPN.

Michael Cohen, a 24-year-old sports enterprise reporter for the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, grew up fewer than 10 miles from the ESPN campus in Bristol, Conn, and about 45 miles from Storrs, home of the UConn Huskies. Naturally, he was determined to become a sports broadcaster.

While still in high school, Cohen called play-by-play for games involving his own and other high schools on a local radio station. He hosted a sports talk show. He then enrolled at Syracuse University's renowned sports broadcasting program.

That's where he discovered that his heart was really in print journalism.

Cohen was "so hell-bent on broadcasting" that he had not written for the student newspaper at Lewis S. Mills High School in his hometown of Burlington, Conn. An instrumental AP English teacher, Nina Fournier, had drilled her students on the finer points of writing, but Cohen had ignored her encouragement to pursue a writing career.

But when Rece Davis, also a Burlington resident, was among a few from ESPN who advised Cohen that



Michael Cohen

writing was an essential skill to becoming a good broadcaster, Cohen began to listen. In his first week as a Syracuse freshman, Cohen wrote a trial story for the *Daily Orange* that was published. He was given his first beat, covering the now-defunct swimming and diving team.

"I just fell in love with it," said Cohen, who switched majors following his freshman year.

Davis and Fournier are just two of the guardian angels who have guided Cohen along his journalistic journey.

As a junior, Cohen was the sports editor of the *Daily Orange* when the Bernie Fine scandal broke. That's also when he met Syracuse alum Pete Thamel,

who had not yet moved from the *New York Times* to *Sports Illustrated*.

"Obviously, I had never dealt with anything like the (scandal) before, and I was totally overwhelmed and just treading water," Cohen said. "Then I got an email from Pete, whom I'd never spoken to before, and he basically said if I needed any help with this to feel free to give him a call.

"Ever since then, he has been the most crucial mentor I could ever imagine."

Thamel introduced Cohen to others, wrote

recommendations for him and continues to help him with stories.

"I owe him for just about everything in this business," said Cohen. "He is as kind and as friendly a person as I can imagine, considering that he reached out to someone who was essentially a total stranger and a 21-year-old kid."

Cohen also counts Dana O'Neil of *espn.com* and fellow Syracuse alum Greg Bishop of *SI* as mentors. They have seen the same things in Cohen that made Thamel so willing to help with his career.

"Michael has exhibited a confluence of story sense, investigative chops and flat writing ability that make him one of the best young writers in the country," Thamel said. "His work exhibits a relentless desire to make the extra phone call, dig a layer deeper and tell the story behind the story."

Cohen, who also covered Syracuse football for nearly a year at the *Post-Standard*, was still a student when one of those stories placed in the USBWA's best-writing contest.

"That was a surreal moment for me that made me want to work even harder, because I could see that I was close," he said. "There were definitely people on that list who can write circles around me, but I was making progress. That showed me that I was headed in the right direction and that my decision to leave broadcast behind was a good one."

# Donohoe receives first Haverbeck Award

By MEL GREENBERG

When the time came to start thinking about who would receive our first Mary Jo Haverbeck Award – named for the pioneering women’s SID at Penn State who passed away a year ago in January – there were several criteria to consider for the inaugural honor.

In no particular order, find someone who has been a similar trailblazer of sorts and earned respect opening doors.

Find someone who fits the same requirements in service to the media as is established in the equivalent Katha Quinn Award on the men’s side.

And, because it is the newest award from USBWA on the women’s side, find someone who knew Mary Jo well and was also known by her.

Ironically, unbeknownst to us at the time of the decision, we selected a worthy recipient who held the same responsibilities overseeing basketball at the NCAA as this year’s Katha Quinn winner, Tom Jernstedt, who is also no longer with the NCAA.

So we are proud to announce Sue Donohoe, the former NCAA vice president of Division I women’s basketball who is currently the executive director of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and also is serving as the current president of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame board of directors.

“I am really touched. I am truly honored,” Donohoe said recently when the call was made to give her the news. “I knew Mary Jo for a long time because she served on our media coordination committee every year at the Women’s Final Four. We always looked forward to having her with us.”

Donohoe, who also served a stint as the NCAA director of the Division I men’s basketball championship, will receive the Mary Jo Haverbeck Award at the USBWA Awards presentation ceremony in the arena several hours before the Women’s Final Four semifinals in April in Tampa.

A native of Pineville, La., Donohoe has also been on USA Basketball women’s selection committees, worked on the executive staff of the Southland Conference and in women’s athletics at Arkansas.

At Stephen F. Austin, she was an assistant coach to current Texas A&M coach Gary Blair and was also a grad assistant at Louisiana Tech.

Donohoe was also a head coach at Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, compiling a 124-24 record from 1983-90.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* once named her one of the “Top 10 Most Powerful People in College Sports.”

In her role at the NCAA, Donohoe reached out to the media covering the women’s game, holding a pow-

er mock selection exercises and, to date, the NCAA has had the opportunity to reach over 300 individuals with those exercises.

“She was also instrumental in forming the first large group discussions that brought the various women’s basketball stakeholders to the table to discuss the best future path for the game, including media, broadcast partners, head coaches and corporate entities.”

This past summer at the start of her term with the WBHOF – which is headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn. – Donohoe instituted a teleconference with the members of this June’s induction class soon after their announcement and the event produced several news items and some nice feature material to be written about the group.

“What strikes me about Sue is her boundless energy to not only do the mundane, but to do a really out-of-the-box thing, whether it’s with the media, whether it’s with things behind the scenes with the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, but maybe more than her boundless energy is her spirit when you’re with her and how she puts everybody at ease and everybody will follow her and work as hard as she is working,” said Carol Callan, director of USA Basketball women’s programs, who preceded Donohoe’s role with the WBHOF.

*“For all the years she put into the NCAA and growing the game to where we had 30,000 at the Alamodome, no one deserves (this honor) more than Sue (Donohoe, left). When you look at Sue and Tom (Jernstedt), there are two people who were driving forces behind the tournament. They were visionaries that the NCAA really needed at the time.”*

– UConn coach Geno Auriemma



wow one year with the national group to exchange views on how to help each other and she also instituted the same Mock Media Bracket Exercise as had been started with the men’s media.

“Being able to lift the curtain on the selection, seeding and bracketing process was and continues to be an important part of our championship mission and Sue had a key role in the NCAA starting that initiative,” said Rick Nixon, an NCAA associate director in the media and statistics departments who is our media guy with the organization for all things women’s basketball.

“Knowing that knowledge is power, Sue began the push to involve media and WBCA head coaches in

Since he has become a regular at the NCAA Women’s Final Four with nine titles and many other appearances, Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma has known both Donohoe and Jernstedt.

“For all the years she put into the NCAA and growing the game to where we had 30,000 at the Alamodome (in San Antonio), no one deserves it more than Sue,” Auriemma said.

“When you look at Sue and Tom, there’s two people who were driving forces behind the tournament. They were visionaries that the NCAA really needed at the time. I got to know both of them really, really well and I just admire them a lot.”

## Four freshmen head Oscar, Tisdale watch lists

### OSCAR ROBERTSON TROPHY MIDSEASON WATCH LIST

Justin Anderson, Virginia, G, 6-6, Jr.  
Ron Baker, Wichita State, G, 6-4, Jr.  
Willie Cauley-Stein, Kentucky, F, 7-0, Jr.  
Sam Dekker, Wisconsin, F, 6-9, Jr.  
Anthony Gill, Virginia, F, 6-8, Jr.  
Jerian Grant, Notre Dame, G, 6-5, Sr.  
Montrezl Harrell, Louisville, F, 6-8, Jr.  
Stanley Johnson, Arizona, F, 6-7, Fr.  
Frank Kaminsky, Wisconsin, F, 7-0, Sr.  
Georges Niang, Iowa State, F, 6-8, Jr.  
Jahlil Okafor, Duke, C, 6-11, Fr.  
Marcus Paige, North Carolina, G, 6-1, Jr.  
Kevin Pangos, Gonzaga, G, 6-2, Sr.  
Bobby Portis, Arkansas, F, 6-11, Soph.  
D’Angelo Russell, Ohio State, G, 6-5, Fr.  
Melo Trimble, Maryland, G, 6-3, Fr.  
Kyle Wiltjer, Gonzaga, F, 6-10, Jr.  
Delon Wright, Utah, G, 6-5, Sr.

Four freshmen were named to the USBWA’s midseason watch lists for both the Oscar Robertson Trophy, given to the nation’s best player, and the Integris Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Year Award.

Arizona’s Stanley Johnson, Jahlil Okafor of Duke, D’Angelo Russell of Ohio State and Melo Trimble of Maryland were all named to both lists.

Six players from the Atlantic Coast Conference – including Okafor and Justin Anderson and Anthony Gill of Virginia – headlined the list. Two other pairs of teammates are also mentioned: Gonzaga’s Kevin Pangos and Kyle Wiltjer and Wisconsin’s Sam Dekker and Frank Kaminsky. Kentucky, top-

ranked and unbeaten when the list was announced, was represented by Willie Cauley-Stein.

A trio of teammates from Kentucky (Devin Booker, Karl-Anthony Towns and Tyler Ulis) highlighted the list for the Integris Wayman Tisdale Award.

Okafor was joined on the list by teammate Tyus Jones. Kansas teammates Cliff Alexander and Kelly Oubre Jr. were also named to the list.

The awards will be presented at the Devon Energy College Basketball Awards on April 14 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. The gala is held annually on the Monday following the NCAA Men’s Final Four.

### WAYMAN TISDALE AWARD MIDSEASON WATCH LIST

Cliff Alexander, Kansas, F, 6-8  
James Blackmon Jr., Indiana, G, 6-4  
Devin Booker, Kentucky, G, 6-6  
Stanley Johnson, Arizona, G-F, 6-7  
Tyus Jones, Duke, G, 6-1  
Kevon Looney, UCLA, F, 6-9  
Jahlil Okafor, Duke, C, 6-11  
Kelly Oubre Jr., Kansas, G, 6-7  
D’Angelo Russell, Ohio State, G, 6-5  
Karl-Anthony Towns, Kentucky, F, 6-11  
Melo Trimble, Maryland, G, 6-3  
Myles Turner, Texas, F, 6-11  
Tyler Ulis, Kentucky, G, 5-9  
Rashad Vaughn, UNLV, G, 6-6