

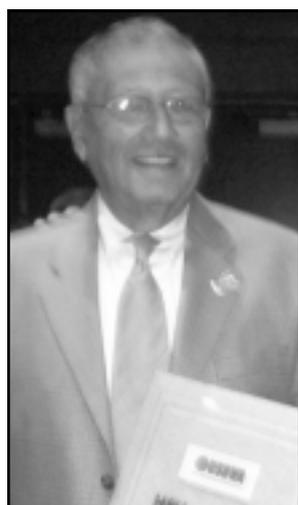


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VOLUME 41, NO. 4

May, 2004

Radding inducted into USBWA Hall



Jerry Radding

A man who worked for more than 40 years in the shadows of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame was inducted into the U.S. Basketball Writers Association's Hall of Fame.

Jerry Radding worked for the Springfield, Mass., Newspapers from 1950-91 – at retirement, the paper was known as the Union-News – and attended his 37th Final Four in San Antonio.

"It's a tremendous honor," Radding said. "To be included with all the great writers... the Bob Ryans and Dave Kindreds, the Dick Weisses and John Feinsteins, that's something I never imagined."

During the 1973-74 season, Radding became the first New England writer to

serve as USBWA president. He still covers many sports events in western Massachusetts for the Associated Press, including University of Massachusetts football and men's basketball. He also has been active with the MassMutual Classic (formerly known as the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic) since its inception in 1979.

Radding also was the Hall of Fame's first publicity director and former member of its Honors Committee and has reported on enshrinement activities there for such organizations as Reuters. He is the Massachusetts chairman for the John Wooden Award.

Radding lives in Longmeadow, Mass., with his wife, Sue.

Norwood named USBWA president

Robyn Norwood of the *Los Angeles Times* was introduced as the USBWA's new president, replacing Rick Bozich of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

Tony Barnhart of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* moves to First Vice President, and Tom Shatel of the *Omaha World-Herald* becomes Second Vice President. The USBWA also added district representatives Jeff Shelman of the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* and Bryan Burwell of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Steve Carp of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* will serve another term.

Other representatives include Dick Jerardi of the *Philadelphia Daily News*; Barry Svrluga of the *Washington Post*; Rob Daniels of the *Greensboro News Record*; Mike Strange of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*; Jerome Solomon of the *Houston Chronicle*; Ed Graney of the *San Diego Union-Tribune*; Andy Katz of ESPN.com; and Chris Thiesen of the Big 12 Conference.

Once again, USBWA breakfast is inspiring

Coming home from the Final Four, I always feel great about the USBWA because the awards breakfast is such a wonderful function. (Trust me, this is coming from someone who can't bear banquets.)

I leave that room wanting to be a better sportswriter and a more generous-spirited person.

Listening to the people who knew Katha Quinn talk about her in the present tense year after year makes even those of us who didn't know her feel as if we did, and it was special seeing how honored this year's Katha Quinn Award winner, Jim Marchiony, was as he recalled the note she wrote to his newborn child years ago.

The Hall of Fame Induction allowed me to meet the distinguished Jerry Radding, a writer who – like the game itself – is from Springfield, Mass.

There couldn't be a more deserving Most Courageous Award winner than Marquette assistant Trey Schwab, who has used the attention his lung transplant drew to promote organ donation.

And thanks to player of the year Jameer Nelson and coach of the year Phil Martelli from Saint Joseph's joining us to accept their awards – and for always knowing which award they were accepting, because there were a lot. (When a video at a later awards banquet repeatedly applauded the duo from "St. John's," a somewhat miffed Martelli stood up and delivered his zinger. "It's great to be in Memphis," Martelli said. They weren't in Memphis.)

The awards breakfast is only one day in the year of the USBWA, of course, and it's a shame that more of our 700 or so members can't be there. (Some, of course, are at the Women's Final Four at the same time.)

As the year ahead unfolds, Executive Director Joe Mitch is working on securing another sponsor and television

home for our Most Courageous Award, which was on CBS.

And particularly because we count so many sports information directors among our membership, we're going to be talking about standards writers believe are important – things that affect the quality of the information we gather, such as courtside seating and locker-room access. These kinds of access, once considered standard, are threatened or already gone at some prominent programs, and we need to be sure administrators understand why they're important to us. I'll be trying to talk to writers and SIDs alike to get this started, so please feel free to call or e-mail me as well. (Robyn.Norwood@latimes.com)

Isn't it amazing, by the way, that the words "locker-room access" can come up and have nothing to do with women reporters? We're talking about access for all reporters, and the fact that it is seldom a gender issue anymore is a milestone.

By the way, I tend to be the last to want to talk about ever being a "first," but because several people have noted it, yes, this marks the first time a woman has been president

of the USBWA. So thank you to those who of you who made that happen – it's clear there is no gender bias in this group, and, in fact, more likely the opposite. However, it was surprising at the awards breakfast to see that our group was almost all men.

So let's be sure that as conference media days roll around – and even before then – that we seek people out, men and women, and invite them to join the USBWA. A word from you – the most respected people in many a press room – means a lot.

Sure, we could use their 40 bucks. (The names and numbers in the USBWA Directory alone are worth it, and I'm not going to repeat which Top 25 coaches' home numbers are in it.) But most of all, our strength in numbers will make our voice louder, and with some of the issues we face, that's important.

In closing, I'd just like to add one thought: What's the world coming to when the president of the Football Writers Assn. of America is our own Dick "Hoops" Weiss?

Just call him "Grids" when you see him.

President's Column

By ROBYN
 NORWOOD
 Los Angeles Times



With Norwood in charge, this should be a great year

I am so pleased to welcome Robyn Norwood as the U. S. Basketball Writers Association's new president for 2004-05 and the 49th president in the history of the USBWA.

The national college basketball writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, Robyn has served the USBWA well over the past several years as a board member and officer, handling various responsibilities that have included all-district balloting, the most courageous award and the best writing contest.

She is the first woman president of the USBWA, something that is long overdue in an organization that has been dominated by white males since its inception in 1956.

"Several people mentioned that to me at the Final Four," said Robyn, "and I had really not given much thought to it. You tend to ignore things like that and start out thinking it doesn't make any difference.

"I am just very pleased to have the opportunity to serve this organization."

Gender diversity within the membership will be a major goal for Robyn as she declared at the annual USBWA

Executive Director

BY JOE MITCH
MVC



business meeting in San Antonio.

"We need more women members," she said looking out over the group of writers attending the session, noting that she was the only female member in attendance.

Robyn follows in the footsteps of a long line of highly respected national writers who have filled the role as USBWA president. Strong presidential leadership has been a trademark of the USBWA and a reason the organization remains a vital and influential force in college basketball.

Rick Bozich of the *Louisville Courier-Times* provided that leadership this past season as president, and Robyn no doubt will continue in the same fashion.

She has a basketball heritage, having attended and later was graduated from the University of North Carolina during the Michael Jordan era.

"Somehow, I managed not to become a main media outlet for Jordan," she said.

Following an internship at the Washington Post, she left for Los Angeles, where she landed her first full-time job with the Times in 1986, starting out covering high school sports.

It was in California where she met Mark Whicker, formerly of the *Philadelphia Daily News* now writing sports columns for the *Orange County Register*. They eventually married, and Robyn gave birth last year to son Philip, now 1 year old, just three days before the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans.

"The day I went into labor was when Matt Doherty was fired at North Carolina," said Robyn. "I was able to write a story before going into the hospital, then seeing it in the

paper the next day when Philip was born."

The annual meeting of the USBWA board and officers with members of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee at the Final Four proved to be very productive in paving the way for improved services for writers covering the NCAA tournament.

Major agenda items included discussion for establishing separate work areas for radios in the working press rooms; providing high-speed data and wireless access at venues; maintaining hospitality rooms in the media hotels at preliminary round sites; and enabling writers to have telephone access to committee members during and after selection weekend.

Another idea being considered is holding media teleconferences with head coaches of participating teams the week of first/second rounds and regionals. While not required by the NCAA, some host conferences have reported success with such teleconferences in the past.

As we look to next year's NCAA Final Four in St. Louis, USBWA members will be pleased to know that the media areas at the Edward Jones Dome are among the best in the country for Dome venues.

The work area and interview room are located close to the court and very convenient for writers on deadlines. The media hotel, the Marriott Renaissance Grand, is across the street from the entrance to the Dome and within walking distance of the team hotels in downtown St. Louis.

St. Louis should prove to be a popular Final Four site for the media.

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USBWA Application Form

If you have not yet renewed your membership to the U.S. Basketball Writers Association now is the time to act. For your \$35 membership fee you will receive the most complete directory in college basketball and you will also get all 12 issues of *Basketball Times* and, as well, you will be eligible to enter our Best Writing Contest.

Send a check for \$35 and let the USBWA make your job of covering college basketball easier.

Title _____

Newspaper/Publication/ College _____

Address _____

City _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____

City _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

Office Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email Address _____

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1818 Chouteau Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63103

USBWA has a lengthy to-do list heading into off-season

With another season in the books, you'd think the time had come for all of us to relax, pull out the golf clubs and forget about basketball for a while. But you'd be wrong.

Based on some of the things we saw and heard in San Antonio, there are a number of issues that members of the USBWA need to be aware of during the off-season. Some require thought. Others may require action. All are worth pondering as we look ahead to the future of the game and how our profession relates to it. Issues such as:

MEDIA GUIDES: There has been some serious discussions, mostly from officials in the ACC and Big Ten, about eliminating printed media guides and putting them on CD-Rom. Those in our business readily understand why that is a bad idea. Those who are not in our business (athletics directors, conference commissioners, faculty reps, presidents) and will ultimately make the decision need to be educated. Not screamed at—*educated*.

Based on conversations with conference commissioners in San Antonio, the more likely outcome is that media guides will be retained, but will return to their original purpose, which was—oddly enough—to be media guides and not recruiting guides. In fact, on the day this column was written, the ACC withdrew its proposal to eliminate the guides. That was a very promising sign.

We are fortunate that this organization has many sports information directors as members. They understand the inherent problems that would occur if printed media guides were completely eliminated. They have been very helpful in educating their athletics directors and faculty reps.

The net result of this should be a win-win. The school wins because it saves money on printing and mailing costs—which are substantial. The cost of printing a recruiting guide, if the school still wants one, goes back to the football budget, where it belongs. And we poor inked stained-wretches can once more travel with a media guide in our shoulder bag without fear of injury.

GRADUATION RATES: The subject of graduation rates came up again when NCAA President Myles Brand

USBWA should get behind move for College Hall of Fame

Another Final Four ends. You pack your suitcase. You save room for a to-do list longer than the deadline jibberish you filed the night before.

Send NCAA flowers. Save press seating on the floor. Save hospitality rooms. Return championship game starting times to 8:07 p.m. (central). Ask editor what in the heck sending via wireless means. Arrange blank receipts in order of use for expense report. Try to remember where you ate.

Start College Basketball Hall of Fame.

It's time. Yes, time for a College Hoops Hall of Fame. Now, more than ever.

This idea is not new, but it picked up a whole new head of steam at this year's Final Four. That happened at around noon on Monday, April 5. Or, right after the recent Hall class of inductees were announced.

There are some fine, deserving basketball folks in this year's class. No shame in any of them going in. So why were some eyebrows raised as soon as class roll was read? Why were some writers visibly upset, and rightfully so?

Because, once again, the college game was forgotten.

That's not to say Lynette Woodard, the legendary women's player at Kansas, is not considered a college star. But is that it? Is that all there is?

About 12 hours later, as UConn coach Jim Calhoun joined an elite group in cutting down his second national championship nets, the answer was a resounding no. Calhoun getting passed over was more than unfair. It was a sham.

The college game continues to get slighted in the basketball hall. And the worst part is not that nobody knows

addressed the media on Thursday in San Antonio. Brand agreed with the prevailing notion that the process for determining graduation rates for college athletics is flawed.

Example: If a player leaves Duke as a freshman and gets a Ph.d. from Harvard, he is counted against Duke as having never graduated. That's not just wrong—it's goofy.

The first words out of Georgia Tech's Paul Hewitt at his initial press conference in San Antonio had nothing to do with how glad he was to be in the Final Four. It was about the fact two of the players who left Tech's program in the most recent reporting period went on to graduate at other schools. But when the graduation rates were released, it was as if those guys fell off the face of the earth.

So, inquiring minds want to know: If everybody agrees the formula is flawed, why is the NCAA still releasing the rates to great fanfare and why is the media still writing about them as if there are no problems?

A new and better system to determine academic progress is on the way, but it seems this system, which makes for interesting stories and good water cooler discussion, has lost its credibility. It is a relic of another age.

If schools are doing a lousy job with the academic lives of their athletes, then we should report it and report it aggressively. But we in the media need to take a hard look at this system and how we report on it.

MEMBERSHIP: When you look around at the scribes

USBWA should get behind move for College Hall of Fame

who votes. The worst part is that the folks from Springfield have the gall to make their announcement every year at the national convention of college basketball.

Do the announcement at the NBA Finals. Or at the next FIBA tournament. Better yet, the Olympics, in-between Dream Team outings (are they still the "Dream Team?").

Let's give an example. I don't want to single out any of this year's inductees. Again, all good hoop folk. But there is no way Jerry Colangelo deserves in over Calhoun or Jim Boeheim or Eddie Sutton (which is a debate I will gladly get into at any future time or place). Colangelo is the sports godfather of Phoenix. He helped build the NBA in the west. But what have the Phoenix Suns ever won? Colangelo belongs in an NBA Hall of Fame. And that's precisely the point. The Hall in Springfield looks more and more every year like a place to honor the NBA and foreign players and pioneers. Professionals, all. Period. Paragraph.

at the Final Four, you are struck that only a fraction of them are members of the USBWA. Let's change that.

Sometime during the preseason, get one member of your staff to join the USBWA. Start with the young writers who are just waiting for an invitation. Show them the USBWA guide and give them Joe Mitch's e-mail address.

We need more women. We need more men and women of color. Let's reach out to all of these folks because it will only make the organization stronger.

MINIMUM STANDARDS: One of the things we would eventually like to do in this organization is to work with the sports information directors and come up with a universally accepted set of minimum standards for press operations. The idea is to give the SIDs a tool they can take to their athletics directors spelling out what this organization believes are the absolute minimum standards for the host school at a major college basketball game.

Let's be clear. This is not an attempt to tell SIDs how to run their press operations. We have among our members some of the very best sports information directors in the country. The idea is to help create some consistency among the schools by establishing a base line for what the media can reasonably expect when they visit.

Our SID members must lead the way on this one. They know where the problems are. It's a goal worth pursuing.

Vice President

By **TONY BARNHART**
Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Vice President

By **TOM SHATEL**
Omaha World-Herald

Let them do that. Let us start a College Hall of Fame.

There has been a quiet underground movement, located in Kansas City, which has hosted more Final Fours than any town, including St. Pete-Tampa, and is the home of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. One of our past presidents, Blair Kerkhoff, of the Kansas City Star, has quietly pushed this project. The mayor of Kansas City is proposing a College Hall of Fame as part of a new downtown arena.

Mayor Kay Barnes is pushing for NABC involvement. I say, let's make sure USBWA is in the huddle, too.

We need to be in on the ground floor of this project, to help push it along, but also to make sure we have votes for future classes. Not to mention to get our USBWA Hall of Famers in the College Hall in a special wing (much like the Baseball Hall has for media and the Football Writers

Continued on Page 4

June 12 contest deadline

The deadline for submitting stories and columns published during the 2003-04 basketball season for the USBWA Best Writing Contest is June 12.

Entries can be submitted in: column writing, moderate-length features, magazine-length features, spot news/game coverage and enterprise/investigative stories.

Only dues-paying members of the USBWA are eligible to enter the writing contest. Members may enter more than one category but may submit only one entry per category.

Plaques and cash prizes will be awarded in each category, with \$200 given for first place, \$175 for second, \$150 for third, \$125 for fourth and \$100 for fifth.

Winners will be announced in the fall issue of The Tipoff and posted on the USBWA website.

Send all entries to:

Joe Mitch

USBWA Writing Contest

1818 Chouteau Ave.

St. Louis, Mo. 63103

(314) 421-0339

or e-mail entries to mitch@mvc.org

For entries submitted by the mail, print the name of the category, the author of the story, the publication in which the article appeared and the date of the publication on a 3 x 5 card and staple it to the article.

From the USBWA Breakfast



2003-04 USBWA officers Tony Barnhart, Robyn Norwood, Tom Shatel



Jim Marchiony accepts Katha Quinn Award from Malcolm Moran



Player of the Year Jameer Nelson; Coach of the Year Phil Martelli

Shatel

Continued from Page 3

Association of America has in the College Football Hall).

Why a College Hall? Because there are too many deserving coaches, players and contributors to the college game who are going to fall through the cracks. What about Ralph Sampson? Danny Manning? Grant Hill? There are too many to list, too many who were stars in their own right and pioneers and legends on the college hardwood who never had a pro career. The latter seems to be a prerequisite to make Springfield. What if Larry Bird had never made it as a pro? Would he be forgotten?

The point is, the college game, more than ever, stands on its own and not in the shadow of the NBA. Its elite deserve their day in the sun, not in a shadow.

I floated the idea around the Final four press room and found unanimous support for this idea, including from the likes of Bob Ryan and John Feinstein. The one hang-up some have is that the College Hall might get dwarfed by the Springfield Hall, much like Canton overshadows South Bend. True. But college football people know and love their hall. And there's no reason why our College Hall could not be nurtured and promoted into something as grand as the Springfield Hall. Who knows? Maybe bigger.

At least when roll is called at future Final Fours, we'll recognize the names.

USBWA names all-district teams, top coaches

District 1 Player of the Year

Jameer Nelson St. Joseph's G Sr.

All-District Team

Taylor Coppentrath Vermont F Jr.
 Ryan Gomes Providence F/C Jr..
 Ben Gordon Connecticut 6-2 Jr.
 David Hawkins Temple 6-4 Sr.
 Carl Krauser Pittsburgh 6-2 So.
 Emeka Okafor Connecticut 6-9 Jr.
 Julius Page Pittsburgh 6-3 Sr.
 Craig Smith Boston College 6-7 So.
 Delonte West St. Joseph's 6-4 Jr..

Coach of the Year

Phil Martelli, St. Joseph's

District 2 Player of the Year

Luis Flores Manhattan 6-2 Sr..

All-District Team

Andre Barrett Seton Hall 5-10 Sr..
 Keydren Clark St. Peter's 5-9 So..
 Marques Green St. Bonaventure 5-7 Sr.
 Gerry McNamara Syracuse 6-2 So.
 Juan Mendez Niagara 6-8 Jr.
 Ricky Shields Rutgers 6-4 Jr.
 T.J. Thompson George Washington 5-10 Jr..
 Hakim Warrick Syracuse 6-8 Jr.
 Kelly Whitney Seton Hall 6-8 So..

Coach of the Year

Bobby Gonzalez, Manhattan

District 3 Player of the Year

Chris Duhon Duke 6-1 Sr.

All-District Team

Luol Deng Duke 6-8 Fr.
 Justin Gray Wake Forest 6-2 So..
 Julius Hodge N.C. State 6-7 Jr.
 Kevin Martin Western Carolina 6-7 Jr.
 Sean May North Carolina 6-9 So.
 Rashad McCants North Carolina 6-4 So.
 Chris Paul Wake Forest 6-0 Fr.
 J.J. Redick Duke 6-4 So.
 Shelden Williams Duke 6-9 So.

Coach of the Year

Herb Sendek, North Carolina State

District 4 Player of the Year

Lawrence Roberts Mississippi State 6-9 Jr.

All-District Team

Timmy Bowers Mississippi State 6-2 Sr.
 B.J. Elder Georgia Tech 6-4 Jr..
 Erik Daniels Kentucky 6-8 Jr.
 Gerald Fitch Kentucky 6-3 Sr.
 Matt Freije Vanderbilt 6-10 So.
 Francisco Garcia Louisville 6-7 Jr.
 Tim Pickett Florida State 6-4 Sr.
 Anthony Roberson Florida 6-1 So.
 Rashad Wright Georgia 6-3 Jr..

Coach of the Year

Rick Stansbury, Mississippi State

District 5 Player of the Year

Devin Harris Wisconsin 6-3 Jr.

All-District Team

Darren Brooks Southern Illinois 6-3 Jr.
 Dee Brown Illinois 6-0 So..
 Paul Davis Michigan State 6-11 Sr.
 Travis Diener Marquette 6-1 So.
 Kris Humphries Minnesota 6-9 Jr.
 Dylan Page Wisconsin-Milwaukee 6-9 Jr.
 Chris Thomas Notre Dame 6-1 Jr..
 Deron Williams Illinois 6-3 Jr.
 Bracey Wright Indiana 6-3 So..

Coach of the Year

Matt Painter, Southern Illinois

District 6 Player of the Year

John Lucas Oklahoma State 5-11 Jr.

All-District Team

Tony Allen Oklahoma State 6-4 Sr.
 Brody Deren Creighton 6-8 So..
 David Gruber Northern Iowa 6-6 Jr.
 Keith Langford Kansas 6-4 Jr.
 Arthur Johnson Missouri 6-9 So.
 Nate Johnson Nebraska 6-2 So.
 Rickey Paulding Missouri 6-5 Fr.
 Wayne Simien Kansas 6-9 So.
 Curtis Stinton Iowa State 6-2 So.

Coach of the Year

Eddie Sutton, Oklahoma State

District 7 Player of the Year

Andre Emmett Texas Tech 6-5 Jr.

All-District Team

Michael Harris Rice 6-6 Jr.
 LeRoy Hurd Texas-San Antonio 6-7 Jr.
 Jaime Lloreda LSU 6-9 Sr.
 Brandon Mouton Texas 6-4 Sr.
 Royal Ivey Texas 6-3 Sr.
 Jason McKreith Rice 6-4 Jr.
 Jonathon Modica Arkansas 6-4 So.
 Filiberto Rivera UTEP 6-1 Jr.
 Terrance Thomas Baylor 6-6 Sr.

Coach of the Year

Billy Gillispie, UTEP

District 8 Player of the Year

Kirk Snyder Nevada 6-6 Jr.

All-District Team

Rafael Araujo BYU 6-11 Sr.
 Odartey Blankson UNLV 6-7 Jr.
 Jerel Blassingame UNLV 5-10 Jr.
 Cardell Butler Utah State 6-4 Sr.
 Danny Granger New Mexico 6-8 Jr.
 David Harrison Colorado 7-0 Jr.
 Nick Jacobson Utah 6-4 Sr.
 A.J. Kuhle Air Force 6-3 Sr.
 Nick Welch Air Force 6-8 So.

Coach of the Year

Joe Scott, Air Force

District 9 Player of the Year

Blake Stepp Gonzaga 6-4 Jr.

All-District Team

Channing Frye Arizona 6-11 Jr.
 Andre Igoudala Arizona 6-6 So.
 Josh Childress Stanford 6-8 Jr.
 Ike Diogu Arizona State 6-8 So.
 Chris Hernandez Stanford 6-2 So.
 Luke Jackson Oregon 6-7 Sr.
 Michael Kuebler Hawaii 6-5 Sr.
 Brandon Roy Washington 6-6 So.
 Aerick Sanders San Diego State 6-9 Sr.
 Ronny Turiaf Gonzaga 6-10 Jr.

Coach of the Year

Mike Montgomery, Stanford