



Harley Redin, Flying Queens of 1953-58 nominated for Naismith Hall of Fame

Wayland Baptist University is proud to announce that former coach Harley Redin and the Flying Queens of 1953-58, who won a national record 131 consecutive games, have been nominated for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

A press conference announcing the Finalists from the North American and Women's committee for the Class of 2016 will be held at NBA All-Star Weekend, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 12, in Toronto, Canada. The entire Class of 2016, including those selected by the direct elect committees, will be unveiled Monday, April 4, at the Men's NCAA Final Four in Houston.

Enshrinement festivities will take place in Springfield, Mass., Sept. 8-10, 2016.

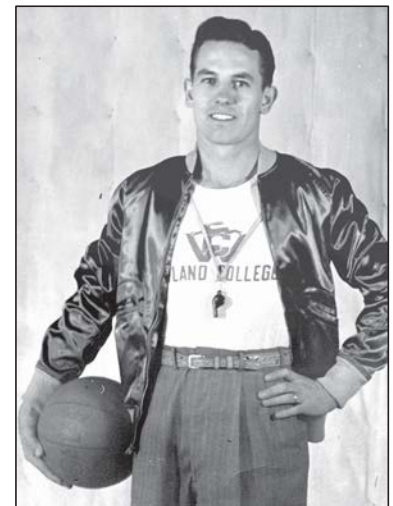
As the highest honor in basketball, entrance into the Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding contributions to the sport.

In 1959, the Basketball Hall of Fame inducted its first class. Today, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, opened in 2002, is home to 345 individuals and 10 teams and more than 40,000 square feet of basketball history.

Coach Redin, who is 96, was an inaugural member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn. in 1999 and is a member of half a dozen other halls of fame. The 1953-58 teams that included 31 players and coaches Caddo Matthews and Redin and who really are representative of all the Flying Queens in their 68-year history, were recognized by the Women's Hall of Fame as Trailblazers of the Game in 2013.

While Redin has been nominated by the Women's Committee for the Naismith Hall several times, this is the first time the Flying Queens are appearing on the ballot.

The Flying Queens are the only women's team in collegiate history to win more than 1,500 games. From November 1953 to March 1958, the longest winning streak in basketball



Longtime Wayland Baptist University coach Harley Redin, and his wife Wilda Hutcherson Redin overlook the court that bears their name. Redin coached the Wayland Flying Queens to 76 of their record 131 consecutive wins in the mid 1950s.

history was amassed by the Flying Queens – 131 games. The teams won six National AAU Championships and finished second place six times during Redin’s era as well as winning five National Women’s Invitational titles in Amarillo, Texas.

A 2010 New York Times article by Jere Longman entitled “Before UConn, There Was Wayland” put the 90-game winning streak of current NCAA power University of Connecticut into historical perspective. UConn Hall of Fame Coach Geno Auriemma has acknowledged Wayland’s impact on women’s basketball. Ironically, Auriemma was only a year old when the Queens’ streak started.

Redin also advanced the game by developing international good will. He served 15 years on the U.S. Olympic Committee and was international coach for the women’s teams at the Pan American Games (1960, 1971), the World Tournament (1963), and against the Russian National team on exchange tours between 1959 and 1962. The 1959 game against the Russians was played in Madison Square Garden, the first time a women’s basketball game was played in that venue.

Thirty-six members of his teams won a combined total of 65 All-American honors and 32 played on U.S. national teams.

Four of his former players – Patsy Neal, Katherine Washington, Lometa Odom and Marsha Sharp – are members of the National Women’s Hall of Fame on which Redin served as a board member for several years.

Significantly, Redin also was a member of several key athletic committees through the years, supporting important innovations in the women’s game. Examples include the 30-second shot clock, unlimited dribble, and full-court play.

Through annual coaching clinics, two books on women’s basketball, serving as a member of the United States Olympic Committee, and encouraging and supporting international competition, Redin broadened the impact of women’s basketball significantly.

A stickler for fundamentals and for good behavior on and off the court, he was cited by The Plainview Daily Herald’s Citizenship Hall of Fame for his promotion of sportsmanship.

For example, the night that the 131-streak was broken, he called a time out just before the game ended and the often repeated quote is that he said, “I want y’all to go out there and lose this game with the same class that you’ve won the other 131.” And they did.

Redin, who has two degrees from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), came to Wayland in 1946 to re-establish the athletic program as men’s coach and athletic director and held the latter title for many years. He guided the Pioneers to a 171-97 record and four appearances in the NAIA national tournament from 1948-57.

He also coached the girls’ team at Hale Center, 12 miles southwest of Plainview, for two years in the early 1980s.

Redin was one of the 26 original inductees into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn. in 1999 and also is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco, Texas; the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Carmine, Texas; the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame in Amarillo, Texas; an inaugural member of the Wayland Athletic Hall of Honor in 1992; and the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame.



Following is a list of the members of the 1953-58 teams when they were recognized in Knoxville, Tenn. in 2013. Dr. Carla Lowry passed away in 2015.

Trailblazers of the Game

Coach Caddo Matthews: 1953-55

Coach Harley Redin: 1955-58

Raye Wilson Ayers, 1952-56; All-American 1956

Alice “Cookie” Barron, 1954-57; All-American 1957

Dorothy Cannon Belcher, 1954-57

Mona Poff Biscoe, 1955-59; All-American 1958

Georgia Buttram Bryant, 1954-55

Judy Bugher, 1955-58

Ruby Cannon Campbell, 1951-55

Rita Alexander Colman, 1954-57; All-American 1956, 57

Gloria Harmer Cox, 1951-54

Kaye Garms, 1954-58; All-American 1956, 57

Oma Gean Capps Geis, 1953-56; 57-58

Faye Wilson Gould, 1952-56; All-American 1955, 56

Louise Short Grace, 1956-58

Joyce Kite, 1955-59

Carla Lowry, 1957-61; All-American 1961

Kay Williams Martin, 1955-57

Patsy Neal, 1956-60; All-American 1959, 60

Lometa Odom, 1952-56; All-American 1953, 54, 55, 56

Peggy Alexander Odom, 1957-58

Margaret Odom Parks, 1955-59; All-American 1959

Jettie Sams, 1953-54

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He is a Distinguished Alumni of Tarleton and he and his wife, Wilda Hutcherson Redin, were named Distinguished Benefactors of Wayland in 2007.

The Atlanta Tipoff Club tapped Redin as the 2000 Naismith Women's Outstanding Contribution to Basketball Award winner for lifetime achievement, impact on the game of basketball and honorable, exemplary service.

Also in 2000, Redin was named one of the 100 Sports Legends of the Texas Panhandle and was cited by Sports Illustrated as one of the top people in sports in Texas in the previous 50 years.

Wayland named its Athletic Hall of Honor for him several years ago and a coaching award given by the university to outstanding alums since 1999 bears his name. In 2010, the floor at Hutcherson Center was named "Wilda and Harley Redin Court" in honor of Harley and his wife, Wilda Hutcherson Redin, whose first husband, the late Claude Hutcherson, was long-time sponsor of the team and also is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

A World War II veteran of the Marine Air Corps, Redin flew 38 bombing missions in the South Pacific. He served as a pilot for the Flying Queens to their games for many years while coaching the team and for several years thereafter.

Dr. Paul Armes, retiring in June after 15 years of service as Wayland's 12th president, puts the honors in a different perspective.

"As significant as all these accomplishments are, however, from my perspective, Coach Redin's greatest accomplishment is the fact that during the years of his career, he led a program which has produced women of great strength, independence, and professionalism.

"Long before Title IX mandates, Wayland Baptist University became a place where women's skills, abilities, and potential were embraced, affirmed and celebrated. The efforts of folks like Harley Redin made that possible, and I believe history will see him and Wayland as true pioneers in the field of athletic competition." Armes continued.

"I am aware that many discount the AAU days of women's basketball competition when compared to current NCAA play. Truthfully, the Wayland women played against the finest and strongest female competition in the world, many of which were, truthfully, almost semi-pro.

"These accomplishments are truly significant. However, the most compelling argument for this team's inclusion in the Hall of Fame is, truthfully, the women themselves. A large number of these young ladies – trailblazers in athletic competition – also became phenomenal, gifted and accomplished professionals in a wide variety of areas such as business, medicine, law, homemaking, and perhaps especially in the field of education.

"Many chose to give themselves to others through their professions. Grateful for the opportunity provided to them by Wayland Baptist University to excel as student athletes, a significant number of these athletes gave their lives to the calling of providing the same experience for others through learning and playing," Armes concluded.

The advent of Title IX eventually spurred the NCAA and NAIA to promote women's basketball. Over the past 40-plus years, the Queens have continued to excel in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), making the Final Four twice, and the NAIA, making the finals twice. Many more Queens have earned All-American honors in more recent history.

Wayland Baptist University, founded in 1908, is a private, coeducational liberal arts institution with strong ties to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It is based in Plainview, Texas, a city of about 25,000, located 45 miles north of Lubbock and 75 miles south of Amarillo on Interstate 27.

Belva Ramsey Stokes, 1956-58

Katherine Washington, 1958-60;
All-American 1958, 59, 60

Paula Baisch Westfall, 1953-54

Marion Brown Young, 1954-56

Our Deceased Teammates

Margie Haws Kinsey, 1954-55

Mauriene Smithson Matthews, 1951-
55

Carolyn Miller, 1956-60; All-American
1959-60

Ruth Cannon Nichols, 1951-55;
All-American 1953, 54, 55

Joan Womble Porraro, 1952-54

Jan Wiginton, 1957-59