

# Jerardi, Lapides, Norwood are Hall of Famers

The first woman president of the USBWA, a veteran sportswriter from Philadelphia and a former sports editor-turned radio talk show host are the newest members of the USBWA Hall of Fame.

Elected by the association's Hall of Fame committee, this year's Hall of Fame class includes Robyn Norwood, formerly with the *Los Angeles Times*; Dick Jerardi, national college basketball writer at the *Philadelphia Daily News*; and George Lapides, former sports editor of the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*.

The three will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the USBWA's annual awards breakfast during this year's Final Four in Dallas on April 7.

Norwood served as president of the USBWA in 2004-05, the only woman to ever hold that position. She covered two Olympic Games (Atlanta and Sydney) and 11 Final Fours as national college basketball columnist and reporter from 1986 to 2008 for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Now an independent journalist, Norwood has written stories for several major newspapers and has served as an expert guest on college basketball on regional and national TV and radio shows.

"Robyn Norwood is a sports editor's dream," said Jim Cohen, former assistant managing editor for sports for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "She is a five-tool player, equally talented in writing game stories, news stories,



Dick Jerardi



George Lapides



Robyn Norwood

vice president who once worked with Jerardi on the same sports staff at the *Daily News*. "He knows the Big 5 as well as the Big Ten, the game's history as well as its present, and writes in a distinctive style all his own that *Daily News* readers have enjoyed for nearly 30 years."

Lapides is a long-time media member in Memphis, having spent nearly 54 years covering sports, including the University of Memphis and the SEC. He was sports editor and columnist of the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* from 1967 until the newspaper closed in 1983 during which time he covered every Final Four and several since then for TV and

radio stations in Memphis. He also was sports editor at WREG-TV in Memphis.

Lapides is considered to be a pioneer among sportswriters making the leap from print to talk radio. Now in its 42nd straight year on the air, his Sportstime show in Memphis is the longest-running sports radio program in the nation.

"George is the finest, most widely sourced reporter I've ever met," said Mike DeCourcy, college basketball columnist at the *Sporting News* who got to know Lapides when DeCourcy worked at the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*. "His circle of contacts includes nearly every big name in college basketball in the Southeast. Throughout his entire career, he has performed at a Hall of Fame level."

short features, longer features and enterprise stories. Plainly put, she gets it."

Jerardi served as president of the USBWA in 2008-09. He joined the *Philadelphia Daily News* in 1985 and since then has covered 26 NCAA tournaments and 21 Final Fours. He was voted Pennsylvania sportswriter of the year in 2001 by the National Association of Sportswriters and Broadcasters.

In addition to writing for the *Daily News*, Jerardi also serves as a color analyst on radio broadcasts of Penn State basketball games.

"In a city as devoted to college basketball as Philadelphia, there is really just one person who is considered the authority on the sport and that's Dick Jerardi," said ESPN.com's Dana O'Neil, USBWA first

## It's time for NCAA to let officials explain themselves

I was covering Game 3 of the World Series when all hell broke loose and ended like no Series game before it. An out at the plate was followed by a wild throw to third, a baserunner sliding, the third baseman falling, the runner stumbling over the third baseman before trying to score, a throw home, another slide, a tag – and an obstruction call that ruled the runner safe with the winning run.

What the heck did we just see?

To help us out – more important, to help the fans understand – Major League Baseball brought three umpires to a postgame news conference. They answered questions and explained in detail what they had observed and the rules that governed the arcane situation on the field.

Later, after filing a column and blog, an idea popped into my head. Wouldn't it be nice to have postgame pressers with officials after NCAA basketball tournament games, a good number of which every spring involve controversial calls? Crazy, I know. But crazy only because we can't imagine the NCAA or the society of referees agreeing to something so practical.

Kirk Wessler  
Peoria Journal Star  
President



Granted, the tournament allows a pool reporter, and thankfully, this season the pool reporter's access to game officials will be restored. But a press conference could provide so much more depth, nuance, clarity and, above all, openness.

That last benefit is ultra-important. When a call, a no-call, a rule interpretation or technical foul in a close game goes unexplained, respect for officials diminishes. Every time a conference issues a nothing statement about an officiating problem, public confidence in the sport is undermined. The games are played in public,

before thousands in arenas and millions on television. Coaches and players are called upon to explain themselves, for better or worse.

But officials are afforded secrecy and are accountable only to their supervisors, and that's not right. It also breeds arrogance, and that's worse.

I'm a licensed basketball official with the Illinois High School Association. I try to work as many games as possible within the constraints of my real job. I'm pretty good at tuning out fans, but occasionally

a voice will rise above the din and betray ignorance of a rule or situation. Obviously, there are good reasons why I can't stop and address them, and some fans just want to be loud and rude.

Others, perhaps most, would benefit from an explanation. Some fans know me and ask questions the next time they see me. I've heard, "I didn't know that," more than a few times. The other thing is, I'm human and make mistakes. I'll admit when I'm wrong. Sometimes, I'd welcome a postgame podium, but there isn't one.

There should be.

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# SiriusXM, CBSSports.com partner with USBWA awards

The USBWA is getting some valuable national exposure on SiriusXM satellite radio and CBSSports.com.

SiriusXM Radio is exclusively announcing the USBWA’s Oscar Robertson Player of the Week selection each Tuesday on “Inside College Basketball,” co-hosted by Jason Horowitz and Bruce Pearl on the College Sports Nation channel. The finalists and winner of the Oscar Robertson Trophy for national player of the year will also be announced on SiriusXM.

This is the fifth season that the USBWA has selected a national player of the week.

The USBWA’s Tisdale Award for the national freshman of the year is being featured on CBSSports.com by USBWA member Jeff Borzello through his popular on-line column that spotlights the nation’s top freshman. Each Tuesday, Borzello profiles a freshman of the week in addition to his weekly freshman watch.

The Oscar player of the year and Tisdale freshman of the year awards, along with the Henry Iba Coach of the Year, the Ann Meyers Drysdale women’s Player of the Year and the women’s freshman and coach of the year awards, are all voted on by the USBWA membership at the end of the regular season.

Here is the schedule of announcements for the various USBWA awards this year:

March 11	All-District teams
March 12	All-America teams
March 17	Wayman Tisdale Freshman of the Year
March 24	Henry Iba Coach of the Year
March 31	Women’s All-America team
April 4	Oscar Robertson Player of the Year
April 8	Women’s Player and Coach of the Year

The Tisdale, Iba and Oscar awards will be presented to the winners at a College Basketball Gala in Oklahoma City on April 14. The women’s awards will be presented at the women’s Final Four in Nashville, Tenn.

The USBWA player of the week selections are handled by the USBWA district representatives. Each week, a different district rep is responsible for reviewing the player of the week winners for each Division I conference and selecting an overall winner from that list. Mel Greenberg, the USBWA’s coordinator for women’s basketball, selects the women’s national player of the week.

**WELCOME TO THE BOARD.** Kevin Brockway of the *Gainesville Sun* is the newest USBWA district representative and board member. He represents District IV, which is comprised of

Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Kevin replaces Brendan F. Quinn, who left the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* to cover Michigan for MLive.com.

Other new board members this year are John Bohnenkamp, the *Burlington (Iowa) Hawk Eye*; Randy Rosetta, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*/NOLA.com; Robert Gagliardi, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle*; Bruce Pascoe, *Arizona Daily Star*; Brian Morrison, ACC; and Chris DiSano, College Chalktalk.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 HALL OF FAME CLASS.

It’s great to see the selection of Dick Jerardi, *Philadelphia Daily News*; George Lapides, formerly with the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*; and Robyn Norwood, formerly with the *Los Angeles Times*, to the USBWA Hall of Fame.

Jerardi and Norwood are veteran writers and long-time members of the organization who were terrific as presidents of the USBWA. Norwood is the first woman to ever serve as USBWA president.

I first came to know Lapides when George was sports editor of the *Press-Scimitar* and I was assistant commissioner of media relations for the old Metro Conference from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s. Lapides is a legend in the Memphis area and a respected print journalist and a radio talk show host. His radio show, now in its 42nd year, is the longest-running sports radio program in the nation, and, it’s been claimed, the second-longest in the country behind the Grand Ole Opry.

The USBWA now has 68 members in its Hall of Fame, which was first established in 1988 to honor past and present members for their achievements in sports journalism covering college basketball or for their contributions to the USBWA. To be eligible for consideration, an individual must have worked a minimum of 20 years as a sportswriter or college athletics administrator.

**RECORD NUMBER OF WRITING CONTEST ENTRIES.** The USBWA received 179 entries in this year’s writing contest, the most ever in USBWA history. The contest is sponsored by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Joe Mitch  
USBWA  
Executive Director



**CBS SPORTS.com**





# Most Courageous: As always, tough choices abound

It's pretty simple. It means not deterred by danger or pain.

Brave. Fearless. Unflinching in the face of adversity.

Such is how you can best describe those nominated annually for the Most Courageous awards by the United States Basketball Writers Association.

It's no different this season.

The task that voters will face in choosing a men's and women's winner will be beyond difficult, given the countless examples of courage being shown throughout the college landscape.

This will mark the fourth consecutive year two awards for courage will be handed out at the Final Four, taking place this year at AT&T Stadium in North Texas for the men and Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn., for the women.

Here, then, are some of the leading candidates for the Most Courageous awards:

## MEN

Kevin Ware, Louisville: His nightmare played out in front of a horrified nation of fans. Ware broke his right leg during an Elite Eight game against Duke last March, and the guard's painful journey of rehabilitation from the compound fracture has returned him to the court for Rick Pitino's team this season.

Allan Chaney, High Point: The senior recently made the difficult decision of ending his playing career, the result of a heart condition that has been chronicled

## Ed Graney Las Vegas Review Journal Third Vice President



back to his playing days at Virginia Tech. Chaney returned to the floor from heart scares in 2009 and 2010, but an issue with his internal defibrillator during a game this season led to him to walk away for good.

Danny Berger, Utah State: The junior underwent his own heart episode in 2012, collapsing on the court during practice and going into full cardiac arrest before being revived by an assistant trainer. Berger was averaging just over 11 minutes through seven games this season.

Dau Jok, Pennsylvania: Named for his father, who was killed 14 years ago in the Sudanese Civil War, Jok has established a foundation aimed at educating the children of Sudan through sports. As a young man who grew up around intense violence, Dau has made it his mission to bring a sense of peace to his people.

Robert Kirby, Memphis: The assistant coach lost his mother to kidney failure and lupus 17 years ago. In October, he donated a kidney to his sister so that she

might not realize the same fate.

Mark Fisher, San Diego State: The assistant coach and son to head coach Steve Fisher has been diagnosed with ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Mark Fisher, who over the last 12 seasons has played a major role in taking the Aztecs from a losing program to a perennial Top 25 team, continues to work as part of his father's staff.

Jallen Messersmith, Benedictine College: The junior forward is believed to be the first openly gay player in U.S.

men's college basketball, having come out to the Associated Press last May.

Andre Dawkins, Duke: His career derailed by depression following the death of his sister in 2009, the senior guard has fought his way back from the darkness to average 7 points in 11.5 minutes through nine games.

## WOMEN

Amber Henson, Duke: Six knee surgeries in two years. That's what the redshirt freshman post player has undergone, causing many to wonder if the high school All-American would ever play for the Blue Devils. She is, averaging 11 minutes through 10 games this season.

Kirsten Moore, Westmont College: Sadness and heartache struck this NAIA team from Santa Barbara, Calif., in May of 2012, when the husband of head coach Moore died from a pulmonary embolism. Seven weeks later, Kirsten gave birth to a baby girl. She then led her team to the NAIA national championship.

# A prediction: Patience will prevail over pontification

We are paid to predict and more frequently, to make snap decisions and then bold statements off these snap decisions. The first part, the peak into the crystal ball, is usually fun and harmless. It's the second one that gives me pause.

Right about now, no one is any good in college basketball. Or at least that's the general consensus on the journalistic barometer that is Twitter. Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan State, Duke, all of these teams we were salivating over and more, all of these freshmen we couldn't wait to see play, are at best, vastly overrated and at worst, flat-out horrible.

Mostly because they had the audacity to lose once or, in some cases, twice; and mostly because that's what we do. We hop to Twitter or to our laptops and say,

## Dana O'Neil ESPN.com First Vice President



"School X has no chance of making the Final Four," and "Player Y will be lucky to be a first-round draft pick" or "Coach Z needs to be fired."

All before Dec. 15.

I'm not preaching from an ivory tower here. I'm

as guilty of pontificating from a pulpit as anyone else.

But I'm determined to try and stop. In fact, along with eating well (postgame wings and libation at midnight check some critical food group, I'm certain), my New Year's resolution is to actually allow the season to play out before I declare anyone out, dead, awful, or overrated.

It will not be easy. Readers and followers like bombast and pronouncements. I can already see the virtual eye

rolls when I answer the typical chat question of "Can (insert team name here) improve enough to make it to the Final Four/tourney/conference title" with a, "We'll have to see ..." I will be no better than the Nuke LaLoosh of sportswriters, spouting off tired clichés that have no meaning.

Ah well. It's worth it. I'll be glad to offer my predictions with a disclaimer that it's merely that, but anything more will be out of bounds.

Feel free to call me boring, but I prefer to call it patient (and anyone who knows me even a little bit knows that's not a word often associated with me, so this is a huge New Year's leap).

Part of the lure of college basketball is its unpredictability. You settle in to watch Peyton Siva and Trey Burke and you get Luke Hancock and Spike Albrecht. So rather than trying to predict, anticipate, pontificate and judge, I'm going to wait and watch.

I'm going to see what happens before I declare what will happen. I'm going to watch for who emerges over four months before I decide who won't in two.

In other words, I'm going to enjoy the season as it unfolds, before I decide how it will end.

# Gould leaves full-time job at Sun-Times

Herb Gould, who worked at the *Chicago Sun-Times* since 1977, left his full-time position as the paper's senior college writer. Gould, who writes about golf and travel at herbgould.com, will continue to be a frequent contributor to the *Sun-Times* on a variety of subjects, including the Bulls, Blackhawks and especially college football and basketball.

Jason King, who has been at espn.com the past two years, is moving on to become a college writer at the Bleacher Report.

Michael Cohen left the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, where he covered Syracuse football, to become a sports enterprise reporter at the *Commercial Appeal* in Mem-

phis, where he will write about University of Memphis basketball as well as Southeastern Conference football, Memphis football and the Memphis Grizzlies.

Jeff Greer, formerly of the *Palm Beach Post*, is the new Louisville beat writer at the *Courier-Journal*.

## Lodge Notes

Seth Davis' biography of legendary UCLA coach John Wooden – *Wooden: A Coach's Life* – will be released on Jan. 14.

USBWA Hall of Famer Mel Greenberg, also the board's women's representative, was inducted as part of the second-year, six-member class to the Immaculata University Hall of Fame. It was his sixth Hall of Fame honor, including the Philadelphia Big 5 and Women's Basketball in Knoxville, Tenn.

# Record-setting number of entries in best-writing contest

A record-setting number of entries turned the USBWA's best-writing contest into one of the most competitive in several years.

There were no double place-winners for the first time in several years among a total of 179 entries, an average of nearly 36 per category.

The USBWA judge also reported that there were more entries from women than ever before. Women took three of the five places in magazine-length features.

This year's winners were Dana O'Neil of ESPN.com in magazine writing, Luke Winn of Sports Illustrated in game coverage/spot news, John Feinstein of the Washington Post in enterprise/investigative, Tom Archdeacon of the Dayton Daily News in column writing and Jeff Goodman of CBS Sports for moderate length features.

The contest is sponsored by the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

O'Neil won the magazine categories for her story on basketball in Indiana. She wrote:

"What separates Indiana from other places with a steady hoops heartbeat – Kentucky, Kansas, Tobacco Road – is that here, it is not simply about the Hoosiers.

"The love affair is far more personal and intimate, almost in reverse of everywhere else. It doesn't start with devotion to IU – or even Butler's famed Hinkle Fieldhouse – that trickles down.

"It starts with the basketball goal that, by its mere presence, redefines a space from a simple driveway or hayloft into a gym, and trickles up.

"Locals love to tell stories about how they played on goals nailed to pretty much anything old-fashioned ingenuity could conjure ...

"As I drove along Route 50, there it was, on a farm off the left side of the road – a gigantic silver silo, and stuck on its front, a basketball goal – a vision of Hoosier nostalgia and heartland hope. ...

"I stared at the silo for a bit ... but as I continued my weeklong visit through the state, I found myself thinking of it again and again and what it represented.

"California has its wineries; New Jersey its shore towns. In Massachusetts, you can walk the Freedom Trail; in Kentucky, you travel the Bourbon Trail.

"In Indiana, it is the gyms defined by the hanging of a basketball goal – hung majestically at Assembly Hall, where IU plays, or simply on the side of a silo – that connect the state."

Winn won the game coverage/spot news category for his account of the horrific injury suffered by Louisville's Kevin Ware during the NCAA tournament:

"While coach Rick Pitino was delivering an impassioned message about Ware – 'If we don't get him home to Atlanta (near where he attended high school, and the site of the Final Four), it wasn't worth playing this season' – equipment manager Vinny Tatum had an idea to get some of Ware's spirit back on the floor.

"With just over eight minutes left, and the Cardinals' halftime lead of three having ballooned to 16, Tatum sent a manager to the locker room to dig Ware's jersey out of a duffel bag and bring it to the bench. In the final minute it was handed to forward Chane Behanan, who calls Ware his 'blood brother' and had been so distraught after the injury that Pitino had to remove him from the game. Behanan removed his own jersey and replaced it with Ware's, and thumped his blood brother's number with his fist as the final seconds counted down. 'We did this for Kevin,' Behanan said. 'I just wanted him to be there.'"

Archdeacon delivered his award-winning column about a middle-school basketball tournament:

"Thirteen months ago – when her lively young son

## MAGAZINE

1. Dana O'Neil, ESPN.com
2. John Akers, Basketball Times
3. Elena Bergeron, ESPN The Magazine
4. Kathy Orton, Washington Post Magazine
5. Todd Dybas, Tacoma News Tribune

## GAME COVERAGE/SPOT NEWS

1. Luke Winn, Sports Illustrated
2. Brendan Prunty, Newark Star-Ledger
3. Nicole Auerbach, USA Today
4. Michael Rothstein, ESPN.com/Wolverine Nation
5. Jesse Temple, Fox Sports/Wisconsin

## ENTERPRISE/INVESTIGATIVE

1. John Feinstein, Washington Post
2. Joe Rexrode, Detroit Free Press
3. Curtis Eichelberger, Bloomberg News
4. Pete Thamel, New York Times
5. Joshua Parrott, Basketball Times

## COLUMN WRITING

1. Tom Archdeacon, Dayton Daily News
2. Luke DeCock, Raleigh News & Observer
3. Mick McCabe, Detroit Free Press
4. Mike DeCourcy, The Sporting News
5. Bud Withers, Seattle Times

## MODERATE LENGTH

1. Jeff Goodman, CBS Sports
2. Jesse Newell, Lawrence Journal-World
3. Reid Forgrave, Fox Sports.com
4. Tom Housenick, The Morning Call
5. Chris Tomasson, Fox Sports.com

suddenly died following surgery for a just-discovered brain tumor – Sheila Bernard was left reeling.

"Her world dark, her grief suffocating, she said she was looking for some 'little glimmer' that would help her cope with the loss of her 11-year-old boy, Parker.

"Tonight, she, her husband Scott, their 18-year-old daughter Peyton and many of Parker's school friends, family members and fellow hoops players in the area basketball fraternity he was so much a part of will get some glimmer.

"It will come when Chester Golson – minus one leg, but with a brand new kidney and some renewed zip in his step – walks onto the court at Bellbrook Middle School and tosses up the ball for the ceremonial opening tip of the second annual Parker Bernard Basketball Tournament, a three-day, three-gym event involving 54 third- to seventh-grade teams from across south- west and central Ohio.

"The 54-year-old Golson is alive thanks to Parker's donated kidney."

Feinstein won the enterprise/investigative category by writing about coaches – including Northern Illinois' Mark Montgomery, Jeff Jones of American, Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, Butler's Brad Stevens, Syracuse assistant Tim O'Toole and former Saint Louis coach Rick Majerus – in a series of stories over consecutive Sundays.

Goodman, who now works for ESPN, won the moderate-length feature category for the story of Southwest Minnesota State coach Brad Bigler, who within the same year lost his mother-in-law to a kayaking accident and his son to a collision involving a drunk driver.

## 2013 USBWA Writing Contest Winners

Basketball Heaven? It's In Indiana  
Jimmy V's Courage: Never Forget It  
Those Pictures In His Mind  
Catching Up With Ralph Sampson  
Shawn Time Is On Time



O'Neil

Getting Kevin Ware Home  
His Father's Smile Said It All  
Beilein's Big Blue Welcome  
Burke's Spin, Strip Stuns Sparty  
Season-Long Blemish Bites Badgers



Winn

The Coaching Life  
A Handshake That Changed Everything  
Huge NCAA Payday Just A Myth  
'What Happened To Him?'  
Of Doctors, Dunks And 1983 Extravaganza



Feinstein

Giving The Gift Of Life  
NCAA, I Hardly Know Ye  
Fab Five Spoiled The Moment  
Remembering Rick Majerus  
Zags Lurch Into The Sunset



Archdeacon

One Coach's Unimaginable Tragedy  
Grandma Grace's Secret  
Wichita State In Tall Cotton  
B.J. Finds A Family  
Tom Crean To The Rescue



Goodman

Goodman wrote: "When Bigler turned the corner at the courthouse, he saw him. Dana Schoen. His child's killer. Their eyes met for a split second, and Schoen immediately dropped his head. The adrenaline had begun to consume Bigler, but he grabbed his wife, now sobbing at the sight of Schoen, and walked up the stairs.

"It was [Dec. 4 at the plea hearing](#). The Biglers had since learned the accident had marked the third time that Schoen was arrested for driving while intoxicated. They had yet to hear anything from the man who was convicted in 2000 and again in 2005. In both instances, his blood-alcohol content was greater than 0.20 percent, or 2 times the legal limit in the state. There had been no apology, no remorse, no contact.

"However, the Biglers won't allow themselves to be overcome with rage, despite the fact Schoen took their youngest child 168 days into his life. The community has been extremely supportive of Bigler, who was basically raised in the Southwest Minnesota State program as a player, assistant coach and now head coach of the Mustangs. Within a week of the car accident, a meal-and-work calendar had been filled out through November, with families delivering meals, mowing the lawn and doing other chores to ease the burden. A Drake Philip Bigler memorial was established, and more than \$20,000 has been raised in the past five-plus months.

"He's a better person than we are," said Southwest Minnesota State Director of Athletics Chris Hmielewski. "The way he and his family have handled the tragedies over the past year. We have all learned from Brad and Heather – and can continue to learn from their strength."