

The

# TIP OFF

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## All we ask: Every member, add a member

In keeping with the spirit of a campaign season, does anyone know if Ken Bone is aware of the USBWA?

If not, here's hoping we can get the charming fellow and his red sweater a membership form post-haste.

Practice has begun and season-long odds have been set and games are a De-onte Burton 3-pointer away from tipping off. Wasn't it just last week when Kris Jenkins made arguably the biggest shot in the history of an NCAA Tournament championship game, one that allowed Villanova to do the impossible and top the wonderment of 1985 and the fairy tale that was born from it?

But with a new year comes fresh dreams and stars and drama and memories, and whether it is Cinderella with a coach named Rollie going to the ball against Georgetown and finding a slipper that fit by shooting an ungodly 78 percent, or the nation's best team proving it on the sport's biggest stage against the side everyone assumed was the best, nothing compares to the madness created in March.

We're just hoping some folks can enjoy the game in a more beneficial manner.

Individual commitment to a group effort is said to be the primary reason a team or company or society or civilization works, which sure sounds a lot better than this: Help.

Membership drives might not be the sexiest of topics, but it's my greatest hope as president that we

Ed Graney  
Las Vegas Review-Journal  
First Vice-President



as an organization can over the next several months add more names to the distinguished list of those who are already eligible to eat ice cream while attending the mock tournament selection meeting in Indianapolis with the NCAA basketball committee.

As we know, that's just one of many benefits that come with a USBWA membership, and it's imperative that we continue to introduce the organization to those who might have an interest and yet haven't made that final click of a mouse to make their participation official.

It's as predictable as the next Grayson Allen trip of an opposing player, but true all the same: If each current USBWA member could add just one new face this season, the organization's future health would reach historic levels.

We are fighting for your rights (see in this edition my letter to the NCAA in regard to enforcing a silly

rule about separating coaches and media during the summer evaluation period) and moving forward with ad hoc committees on issues such as diversity and social media and seating and access.

We will, in November, hand out the second annual Dean Smith Award to this year's recipient, Michigan State coach Tom Izzo.

We are actively searching for new revenue streams to ensure our financial stability now and for years to come.

The USBWA continues to do great things for those who cover and are involved in the college game, but this is not just an organization comprised of merely a board and its officers.

We need your help. One suggestion to another could lead to that person clicking a mouse. You never know what a conversation might produce in terms of adding new members.

Because just last March, seconds after Marcus Paige had tied the national championship at 74 on a double-clutch, circus 3-pointer, who in the world could have imagined One Shining Moment was about to become One Legendary Shot with such a magical ending?

You just never know. Ask away. It can be done. One new member per each current one.

And a free USBWA mug to whoever gets Ken Bone to join.

He's the one in the red sweater.

## USBWA asks NCAA to reconsider summer rule

*The following letter was sent to the NCAA on Aug. 17. According to Erik Christianson of the NCAA, the Division I Basketball Oversight Committee will ask the NABC to discuss the topic at its January meeting:*

I am writing with concerns about the NCAA's decision to keep basketball coaches separated from the media in seating areas during spring and summer evaluation periods at events such as the Peach Jam and those that take place in Las Vegas.

It's the goal of our organization to begin a dialogue now so that future decisions regarding such matters can be mutually beneficial to both groups.

I am certain there are aspects we, as the leading organization for basketball writers, don't totally understand in regard to the decision to suddenly enforce such a rule. But by separating coaches and media, the committee has essentially cut off college basketball's greatest source of free publicity during the offseason.

Each July, along with beat writers from local media outlets, the top national writers from such venues as ESPN.com, CBS Sports, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News*, *USA Today* and others gather at these events in order to write big-picture stories about a game that would otherwise be getting little

to no attention during this time.

They are able to gather material in a relaxed and casual setting with a multitude of coaches. This type of reporting typically cannot be achieved in a roped-off interview area, where coaches might be willing to answer only a question or two on their way from one game to the next.

Without access to the coaches, there is a possibility fewer national outlets will attend these events, and the NCAA's pipeline of free publicity will be closed.

It is our understanding that any complaints about media being allowed to sit in the coaches' seating area were made by a few – perhaps only one – prominent head coach. In fact, none of the coaches that many of our writers spoke to this summer about the rule insinuated in any way where they took issue with media members sitting where they have always been allowed.

Several coaches actually approached media members to say they disagreed with the rule.

It's also true that coaches are free to turn down any media request.

We understand that we are not a member of the NCAA and are not accorded the same consideration in decisions as those who are members. Yet, our sto-

ries help grow your game, and all we ask in return is that we be given every opportunity to continue doing that.

We have writers who have covered this sport for more than four decades and are, rightly so, offended at the premise they might act in an improper or clandestine manner when it comes to doing their job during the spring and summer circuit for simply sitting among coaches.

With all of the issues facing the grassroots world of college basketball recruiting, the choice to enforce media co-mingling with NCAA Division I basketball coaches as serious legislation seems ill-advised.

In our humble opinion, with so many other, more important and potentially dangerous issues still needing to be addressed – the massive presence of agents and their runners, to name one – enforcing a rule about where media can sit is incredibly misguided.

We hope you will be open to continuing this conversation in the near future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ed Graney, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

President, United States Basketball Writers Association

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# Izzo is perfect choice for Dean Smith Award

When the USBWA board began thinking about candidates last April for this year's Dean Smith Award, one name kept coming up for discussion.

Tom Izzo.

The board eventually voted unanimously for Izzo, the Michigan State coach who has built a powerhouse program in East Lansing.

There really couldn't have been a better choice for the award that was established last year to honor the memory of the legendary North Carolina coach.

The Dean Smith Award was created by the USBWA to recognize someone each year in college basketball that embodies the spirit and values of Smith. A sculpture of Smith by famed sculptor Brian Hanlon is presented to the award winner.

Izzo is the second person to receive the award. Former Georgetown coach John Thompson was selected as the first recipient.

Coaches who receive the Smith Award are recognized for more than just their success in basketball. "We wanted to honor Coach Smith for the life he led and the lives he touched," said past USBWA president John Feinstein, who had the idea to establish the award honoring Smith. "Coach Smith would be very proud to have Tom's name on the award in his honor."

Among the qualities that the award is based are honesty and integrity, being a part of players' lives during and after college, abiding by NCAA rules, involvement in the community, standing up for social issues and causes and having a reputation for treating people with respect.

"Tom Izzo represents everything the Dean Smith Award stands for," USBWA president Ed Graney said. "Coach Izzo's distinguished career and commitment to excellence represent the standards for which this award is defined, qualities Coach Smith held as paramount in making an impact on the lives of players on and off the court."

Izzo has a history of community involvement and

humanitarian work.

In 2013, Izzo received the Wayman Tisdale Humanitarian Award, named after the late Oklahoma All-American, for having made a significant and positive impact on society and for serving as an active volunteer in the community.

He has been involved in raising funds for Coaches vs. Cancer, Volunteers of America and the V Foundation for Cancer Research. In 2009, Izzo was presented with the Coaches vs. Cancer Champion Award for his work and leadership in the fight against cancer.

In 2009, the USBWA presented Izzo with the association's Good Guy Award for his accessibility and relationship with the media.

Izzo is also known for helping his players be successful students and for maintaining a relationship with them after college. He has achieved a graduation rate of over 80 percent for players who have completed their eligibility.

"He calls or texts me all the time to see how things are going," Golden State Warriors All-Star Draymond Green said. "He cares about us as people and helping us grow as human beings. I don't think you get that kind of relationship with most coaches at other schools."

Now in his 22nd season as Michigan State's coach, Izzo is the longest-tenured coach in the Big Ten Conference. He led the Spartans to the 2000 NCAA championship, the 2009 national championship game, seven Final Fours, seven Big Ten regular-season titles, five Big Ten tournament championships and 19 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

Joe Mitch

USBWA

Executive Director



## USBWA loses Finney, Kensler

USBWA Hall of Famer Pete Finney, a longtime New Orleans sports reporter and columnist for 68 years, and two-time USBWA Board member Tom Kensler, who spent the past 25 years with the Denver Post, passed away last summer.

Finney, 88, who died on Aug. 13, was inducted into the USBWA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Kensler, 64, died July 22 from complications from a brain aneurysm.

Laura Keeley, the USBWA's most recent Rising Star award winner, left the *News & Observer* to enter the Columbia Law School. The *Kansas City Star* hired a pair of writers to cover Kansas basketball – Jesse Newell of the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and Gary Bedore of the *Lawrence Journal*. Amelia Rayno of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, left her beat covering University of Minnesota athletics to cover food, travel and features for the newspaper.

Longtime USBWA member Jack Bogaczyk retired on June 30. Bogaczyk, a former columnist in Roanoke, Va., and Charleston, W.Va., was most recently a web columnist and magazine editor for Marshall University Athletics.

Dick Weiss has been selected to the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

### Lodge Notes

Past president Blair Kerkhoff represented the USBWA and the Football Writers Association at the national Associated Press Sports Editors' convention in Charlotte, NC, in June. Blair participated in a seminar where he spoke mostly of access and seating issues and how the writers' associations work with the NCAA, bowls, conferences and schools on issues and problems.

Hall of Famer Dave Kindred donated materials from his 50-year career as a sports writer to Illinois Wesleyan University.



# Archdeacon, Feinstein dominate best-writing contest

Tom Archdeacon of the *Dayton Daily News* and John Feinstein of the *Washington Post* claimed first and second place finishes in the USBWA's best-writing contest. Luke Winn of *Sports Illustrated* and Kevin Armstrong of the *New York Daily News* were also multiple winners. Winn took a first and a third, and Armstrong had two second-place finishes.

Kirk Wessler of the *Peoria Journal-Star* and Matt Norlander of CBSSports.com were took firsts.

Archdeacon took first place in moderate-length features for "Two Heroic Brothers: Pride of Dayton."

"Throughout the Miami Valley, Bucky Bockhorn, now 82, is mostly associated with basketball.

"He is one of the most beloved and accomplished players to wear a Dayton Flyers uniform.

"He and his brothers, Harold and Terry, all of whom played for the 1957-58 Flyers team that nished 25-4 and was the NIT runner-up, hold the distinction of being the first trio of brothers to play alongside each other on an NCAA Division I team.

"Yet those who know the Bockhorns the best appreciate the family the most for its military service and the sacrifices it made in World War II and during the Korean War."

Feinstein won the enterprise/investigative category for a five-part series on five schools that have never been to the NCAA Tournament – Army, the Citadel, Northwestern, St. Francis Brooklyn and William & Mary.

The series revealed that although Army has never been to the NCAA Tournament, it wasn't for the lack of an invitation.

According to Hall of Fame Coach Mike Krzyzewski: "It isn't as if Army's never been good in basketball – we've been very good. It's just that we were good in a different time when making the NCAAs wasn't the be-all and end-all."

"Krzyzewski played for another Hall of Fame coach, Bob Knight. During a 10-season period, from 1961 through 1970, Army was invited to the National Invitation Tournament seven times, four times under Knight. In 1968, when Krzyzewski was a junior, the Cadets – as they were called in those days – were invited to the NCAA tournament.

"But Knight turned down the invitation. Army, he decided, would return to the NIT instead."

Winn won for his game story on the national championship game. He set up the story by going back to a first-weekend loss by Villanova to North Carolina State in the 2015 NCAA tournament.

"One year and eight days later," Winn wrote, "on a raised court in a dome in Houston, a play was once again developing behind Arcidiacono's back. This time Villanova, the No. 2 seed in the South region, was tied at 74 in the final seconds of the national title game against the East region's top seed North Carolina, the ball was in his hands, and a voice was screaming behind him.

## Nominations being taken for USBWA awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the following USBWA awards to be presented next April.

**HALL OF FAME.** Established in 1988, the USBWA honors past and current members for their contributions to the organization and for their achievements in sports journalism. To be eligible, an individual must have a minimum of 20 years experience as a sports writer or college athletics administrator dealing with basketball. Send nominations to USBWA Executive Director Joe Mitch at mitch@usbwa.com.

**KATHA QUINN AND MARY JO HAVER-**

### Spot News/Game Story

1. Luke Winn, Sports Illustrated
2. John Feinstein, Washington Post
3. David Woods, Indianapolis Star
4. Doug Doughty, Roanoke Times
5. Matt Fortuna, ESPN.com

### Moderate Length Feature

1. Tom Archdeacon, Dayton Daily News
2. Kevin Armstrong, New York Daily News
3. David Teel, Daily Press Media Group
4. Jason King, Bleacher Report
5. Greg Logan, Newsday

### Column Writing

1. Kirk Wessler, Peoria Journal Star
2. Tom Archdeacon, Dayton Daily News
3. John Clay, Lexington Herald-Leader
4. Eamonn Brennan, ESPN.com
5. Paul Woody, Richmond Times-Dispatch

### Enterprise/Investigative

1. John Feinstein, Washington Post
2. John Akers, Basketball Times
3. Joshua Parrott, Basketball Times
4. Jeff Greer, Louisville Courier-Journal
5. Michael Cohen, Memphis Commercial-Appeal

### Magazine Length Feature

1. Matt Norlander, CBSSports.com
2. Kevin Armstrong, New York Daily News
3. Luke Winn, Sports Illustrated
4. Brian Hamilton, Sports Illustrated
5. Seth Davis, Sports Illustrated

It was so loud, it had so much conviction and it was so familiar that Arcidiacono could single it out in the crowd of 74,340 at NRG Stadium.

*"Arch! Arch! Arch!"*

"It was junior Kris Jenkins, the inbounder on a play the Wildcats call Nova – one they saved for a last-second situation, in a game they'd forever longed to be playing in, a game that may go down as the greatest NCAA final of all time. The last option was Jenkins, the trail man and the voice."

Wessler also wrote about the championship game – in particular, choice of its Most Outstanding Player – with his winning column.

"Ryan Arcidiacono was named Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Final Four.

"I have no problem with that. I voted for him. I voted for him before I voted for Josh Hart, then switched to Phil Booth and considered Daniel Ochefu before changing my vote to Kris Jenkins. And then I switched my vote back to the senior captain they call "Arch" and submitted my ballot – only to want it back again after Jenkins hit his buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give the Villanova Wildcats a 77-74 victory over North

Shoot 'Em Up And Sleep In The Streets  
Extraordinary, Stunning, Historic  
Celebrating The Life of Butler's No. 44  
Virginia Banks A Stunning Finish  
Irish Trump Landlords Of Tobacco Road



Winn



Archdeacon

Two Heroic Brothers Pride Of Dayton  
Willie Worsley Day: Roses And A Hug  
Malcolm Brogdon Faithful To Path He's Following  
Purdue's Caleb Swanigan: Homelessness And Hoops  
Jameel Warney Is Stony Brook's Masterpiece

Villanova's Most Outstanding? Everyone Who Fits  
A Life Saved By Love  
Pitino's Brush Fire Turns Into An Inferno  
Final Four Is Best – And Worst – Of College Basketball  
Conundrum: How Does A Louisville Man Act?



Wessler

List Of Five Chasing Basketball Coronation  
The Graduate Transfer Is Game's Hot Story  
College Basketball's 'Emancipation Proclamation'  
Louisville's 1985-86 Title Season Redux  
Life And Times Of Josh Pastner Unfiltered



Feinstein

How Mid-Major George Mason Cracked The Dam  
The Timeless Echo Of Brooklyn's Bandboxes  
VanVleet Was Running From The Stigma  
Grayson Allen And A Bond Of Brothers  
Rex Chapman's Haunting Demons



Norlander

Carolina for the national championship Monday night.

"Or maybe I didn't want it back. After all, Arch passed the ball to Jenkins to get the assist on the final shot.

"Look, here's the deal. I'd like to vote for the whole damn Villanova team."

For his winning magazine-length feature, Norlander revisited how George Mason crashed through the Final Four doors in 2006 and left them open for Butler, VCU and Wichita State in future seasons.

"As college basketball stylistically transformed through many eras and into a new century, a constant rule remained: Mid-major teams did not win four games in the NCAA Tournament.

"Until 2006, of course, when a commuter school out of Fairfax, Va., burned down the country's brackets, not to mention sport's precedents. George Mason became one of the best stories in America that year. The Patriots' Final Four run remains one of the most unexpected, groundbreaking achievements in college hoops history.

"Before Butler. Before VCU. Before Wichita State. Before all of them, there was George Mason."

**BECK.** Both awards recognize individuals in men's and women's basketball for their service to the media and for the inspiration they provide to those in the sports journalism profession. The awards are presented in honor of two former sports information directors who have passed away -- Quinn (St.John's) and Haverbeck (Penn State). Send nominations for the Quinn Award in men's basketball to past president Malcolm Moran at moranma@indiana.edu and to Mel Greenberg at poll@att.net for the Haverbeck Award in women's basketball

**MOST COURAGEOUS.** The USBWA presents a

male and female award, honoring a player, coach, official or administrator who demonstrates extraordinary courage while facing adversity in life. First presented in 1978, it is the USBWA's oldest award. Send men's nominations to David Teel, USBWA third vice president, at dteel@daily-press.com and women's nominations to Greenberg.

**RISING STAR.** The USBWA honors a member who is under 30 and shows outstanding promise as a journalist covering college basketball. Send nominations to John Akers, Tipoff editor, at johna19081@gmail.com.

# Danielle Siegel wins USBWA scholarship

Danielle Siegel, a senior at Ohio State University who plans to pursue a career in medicine specializing in oncology, has been selected to receive the U.S. Basketball Writers Association’s college scholarship that is awarded annually to the son or daughter of a USBWA member.

Danielle is the daughter of David Siegel, who posts blogs on women’s basketball and audio podcasts of interviews with players and coaches.

The scholarship is a \$1,000 grant awarded annually by the USBWA for four years.

Danielle plans to use the scholarship to finish her undergraduate studies at Ohio State and later for graduate school. She is studying microbiology at Ohio State, with a minor in sociology, and is a Dean’s List student (3.7 GPA in the spring 2016 semester).

“We had an outstanding group of applicants,” USBWA president Ed Graney said.

“Danielle’s application was particularly impressive,” Graney

added, “that demonstrated academic excellence with a focus on medicine.”

Danielle currently is doing research in a medical lab at Ohio State on a voluntary basis.

“The scholarship will ease the burden of the high cost of books and equipment needed in research,” she said.

“I want to thank the USBWA and the selection committee for this scholarship. It is an honor for me to represent the USBWA in my studies.”

Danielle’s interest in medicine and oncology began when her mother was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer, when Danielle was a senior in high school.

“While my mother is thankfully doing well,” Danielle said, “I am fascinated by the causes and treatments of this deadly disease, and hope to do my share in trying to eliminate the physical and mental pain that goes with it.

“This is very important to me.”



Danielle Siegel

# Allen and Duke, Jackson are men’s favorites

Duke and its returning All-American, Grayson Allen, are favored to take home honors this season, according to the USBWA’s annual preseason poll.

The Blue Devils received 14 of a possible 18 first-place votes from USBWA officers and board members.

The remaining first-place votes went to fifth-place Oregon, with two, and third-place Kansas and fourth-place Villanova, with one apiece. Second-place Kentucky received no first-place votes but was second on eight ballots.

Allen received eight votes as the preseason favorite to win the Oscar Robertson Trophy, given to the nation’s top player, edging Villanova’s Josh Hart, who received five votes.

Oregon’s Dillon Brooks received two votes. Markelle Fultz of Washington, Nigel Hayes of Wisconsin and Edmond Sumner of Xavier received one vote apiece.

Josh Jackson of Kansas received nine votes for the Wayman Tisdale Award, which is given to the nation’s top freshman, top-



Grayson Allen



Josh Jackson

ping Fultz, who received six votes.

Others who received one vote were Lonzo Ball of UCLA, Harry Giles of Duke and Lauri Markkanen of Arizona.

The rest of the top 10 included, in order: North Carolina, Xavier, Wisconsin, Arizona and Virginia.

The rest of the top 20 included: Michigan State, Louisville, Indiana, Purdue, Gonzaga, Connecticut, UCLA, Syracuse, Saint Mary’s and West Virginia.

Rounding out the top 25 are Creighton, Rhode Island, Iowa State, Cincinnati and Texas.

Other teams receiving votes included: San Diego State (34), Maryland (30), Florida (29), Dayton (27), California (17), Florida State (16), Virginia Tech (14), Georgia (13), Wichita State (13), Miami (11), North Carolina State (11), Colorado (8), Texas A&M (8), Notre Dame (7), Oklahoma (7), Butler (4), Valparaiso (3), Pittsburgh (2), Baylor (1) and Monmouth (1).

Eleven ACC schools received votes, more than any other conference.

## Men’s Preseason Top 25

## Men’s Preseason Top 25

1. Duke (14)	444
2. Kentucky	407
3. Kansas (1)	402
4. Villanova (1)	394
5. Oregon (2)	385
6. North Carolina	375
7. Xavier	318
8. Wisconsin	317
9. (tie) Arizona	293
Virginia	293
11. Michigan State	277
12. Louisville	232
13. Indiana	208
14. Purdue	193
15. Gonzaga	159
16. Connecticut	154
17. UCLA	150
18. Syracuse	147
19. Saint Mary’s	133
20. West Virginia	85
21. Creighton	65
22. Rhode Island	56
23. Iowa State	51
24. Cincinnati	44
25. Texas	35

# With Stewart gone, women’s race is up for grabs

## Women’s Preseason Top 25

1. Notre Dame
2. South Carolina
3. Baylor
4. Connecticut
5. Ohio State
6. Texas
7. Louisville
8. Maryland
9. UCLA
10. Mississippi State
11. Kentucky
12. Tennessee
13. Florida State
14. Syracuse
15. Stanford
16. Miami
17. Syracuse
18. Arizona State
19. Auburn
20. West Virginia
21. Oregon State
22. Washington
23. Michigan State
24. Oklahoma
25. DePaul

## By MEL GREENBERG

Wide open.

Those two words have been absent a long time from NCAA women’s title race preseason forecasts.

But with the Breanna Stewart era concluded at Connecticut, where she was part of an unprecedented four-for-four title run as well as an equally unprecedented three-time USBWA Ann Meyers Drysdale national player of the year honoree, the landscape is altered for 2016-17.

Stewart’s coach Geno Auriemma is still around after she and him and several other UConn prominent alumnae helped the USA claim a sixth straight Olympic gold medal at the Rio Games in Brazil last summer.

However, for the first time in four seasons, the Huskies are not the unanimous choice, or even majority choice, to take home another trophy, which this year gets claimed at the Women’s Final in Dallas.

Furthermore there is no prohibitive favorite at the outset. But that doesn’t mean there’s pure parity at last in the women’s game, even though a move in that direction occurred in April when the dark horse trio of Washington and Oregon State out of the Pac-12, and Syracuse out of the Atlantic Coast Conference made their way to first-ever Women’s Finals appearances.

Unlike that threesome, teams at the top of our preseason women’s 25 have won titles or gotten to the final weekend in the past, such

as our top four Notre Dame, South Carolina, Baylor, and, yes, still a threat, UConn, which has enough talent to be a surprise winner though the Huskies are bound to get nicked up a bit on their demanding schedule.

Ohio State, Louisville, Maryland, Texas and UCLA have plenty of talent also to make their way to Reunion Arena.

Several other changes also occurred last season, with Tennessee dropping out of the AP Poll for the first time in three decades and Duke also dropping out after a long run.

The Lady Vols are still on our preseason list but, in a rarity, not in our top five or top 10.

Meanwhile, with Stewart gone, just like the team outlooks, there is no Meyers Drysdale frontrunner for national honors but there’s definitely an array of talented contenders, with the likely winner being a player who either leads their team to glory or claims the prize with a dominating statistical performance.

So it would be no surprise to see the hardware in Dallas handed to the likes of Diamond DeShield (Tennessee), Brianna Turner (Notre Dame), Myisha Hines-Allen (Louisville), Nina Davis (Baylor), Kelsey Mitchell (Ohio State), Leticia Romero (Florida State), A’ja Wilson (South Carolina), Kia Nurse (UConn), Brionna Jones (Maryland), Kelsey Plum (Washington) or Victoria Vivians (Mississippi State), to name just a few of the top contenders.