

Eugene D. Bramblett

From: "Rose Hohenberger" <roseho@earthlink.net>
To: "Rose Hohenberger" <roseho@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 10:20 PM
Subject: Tommy Brasher and Coach Garland Gregory - Arkansas State Sports Hall of Fame Update (from HRay)

<http://www.arksportshalloffame.com/>

Regretfully, this is not the year that Tommy Brasher or Coach Garland Gregory will be inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. I am sure there were a lot of votes for both of them, but, apparently not enough. I don't know the actual vote count but what inside contacts I have explain that both did well. Maybe, we will see them voted in next year.

Everyone needs to know that voting membership in the Hall of Fame is highly concentrated in Central Arkansas. Viewing the membership list and the board members, most members are business executives in the Little Rock area, a few sports columnists, a few other businessmen, politicians from other parts of the state, and very few former college athletes. Under the present rules, if you are not known very well in central Arkansas or by one of the board members, one's chances of being recognized are far greater.

Based on the present rules, Eldorado needs more members of the community to participate in the State Hall of Fame. The last inductees from Eldorado were Wayne Harris and Jim Mooty in 1981. The only other Eldorado native inductee of the Hall of Fame is Schoolboy Rowe. Eldorado needs representation on the Board of the Hall of Fame.

I know it has never been Tommy Brasher's or Coach Gregory's ambitions to be elected to the Hall of Fame. They are both men of great character and whether they ever attain these rewards on earth is of little consequence to either one of them. I know for a fact that the most important thing for Tommy Brasher and Coach Gregory was their positive mentorship of so many athletes, both great and small. I salute my life-long friend, Tommy Brasher and my Coach, Garland Gregory. They deserve many crowns for their achievements in this life. Thanks to both of them for all they did for so many of us.

All that said, I think we all know they deserve this and, thus, let's not give this up. Let's bring more to the table next year and put these men in the Hall.

Frankly, change is needed in this program.....I think the current voting method stinks. Just anybody whether they have any knowledge of sports in Arkansas can join, pay a fee, and vote. No wonder. In my opinion, a change in the makeup of the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame needs to be made so that every community in Arkansas has some proportional representation. I believe the following eligibility should be required to vote:

- That current and former high school and college coaches all across the state of Arkansas should be voting members without having to pay a fee.
- That all Athletic Directors, both High School and College, should be voting members sans fee.
- That all Hall of Fame Inductees should be voting members sans fee.
- Local News Sports Columnists should be voting members sans fee.

The above or something along these lines should be adopted. If you have other ideas, please pass them along.

Let me encourage you to become involved in the State's Hall of Fame. If you are able, support it by joining and participating.. Let your voice be heard. Take the time and visit it as it is a great tribute to many of our state's finest athletes including three of Eldorado's native sons. It's not right that so many of Eldorado's native sons, fine athletes and coaches are being ignored.. This is a State Institution and all in the state who are deserving should be recognized appropriately.

Believe me, I know, in this day and time, there are far more weighty issues on most everyone's mind, but, I do believe with all my heart that this issue is noble and deserves attention.

Herbert Ray