



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON

THE FORMAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, February 6, 1999

Noon

MAGNOLIA ROOM
UNIVERSITY CENTER

Happy
Families in
attendance
GARY COLSON
BOBBY RICH
the late
Billy Grant
sponsored by
Susan Grant
Bailey

JANE
MS BAILEY



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Welcome Herb Reinhard, Athletic Director
 Introduce head table - Steve
 Invocation Steve Roberts, Sports Information Director

LUNCH by 12:10

12:45
 President's Remarks Dr. Hugh C. Bailey
 HERB intro Colson scholarship Jim Nichols ant
 Gary Colson Scholarship Colson's Rebels

Presentation of the Third Class Herb Reinhard
 Read a plaque

Formal Induction Dr. Hugh C. Bailey
 Scott PINSKARD - Spousal preside
 Inductees' Remarks Order in the program 1999 Class

Closing Remarks Herb Reinhard

① Tickets are good for basketball game
HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE
 Recognizer at halftime of BKBall game
 Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Herb Reinhard, Jane Williamson,
 Tom Odom, Steve Roberts

② Photos

Forms at table

THE 1999 HALL OF FAME CLASS

CANDACE FINCHER, BASKETBALL

Candace Fincher was the most consistent inside player in VSU women's basketball history, lettering four years and starting three on Lady Blazer teams which compiled an 85-28 record during her tenure. In 111 games from 1983-87, Fincher never shot less than 61 percent from the field, finishing with a career .638 percentage and leading the nation at .668 her junior season. She was a deadly free throw shooter, making more than 76 percent of her foul shots (491-642) in her career. She averaged 9.4 rebounds and 15.1 points a game. A two-time all-American, Fincher is the sixth most prolific scorer in VSU history with 1679 points.

MIKE PERRY, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL

Mike Perry is unquestionably the best two-sport athlete to ever wear the red and black, excelling for four seasons in basketball and baseball. He was on campus from 1960-64, putting the crowning touch on an exceptional career his senior season by becoming the only Valdosta State athlete to earn all-America honors in two sports. In basketball he scored 1127 points in 77 games, helping Valdosta State win four consecutive championships in the Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. In baseball, he was a pitcher and first baseman but made his mark on the mound where he still holds the school record for earned run average in a season. His 0.78 mark has stood the test of time since 1964.

NANCY IRBY WENTWORTH, TENNIS

Nancy Irby Wentworth played tennis at Valdosta State from 1979-82, an era when the women's sports program was a member of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women but had no conference affiliation. She was the Lady Blazers No. 1 singles player and won three consecutive state championships as a freshman, sophomore and junior. During her career, she played the top women's players in the South and compiled an overall singles record of 43-25.

CECIL WHITEHEAD, BASEBALL

Cecil Whitehead earned the reputation as the best hitter in Valdosta State's proud baseball history during his three-year career from 1976-78. The Valdosta native was blessed with all the attributes that define a baseball player...he could run, he could throw, he could hit and he could hit with power. In his sophomore and junior seasons, Whitehead led the Blazers to two fourth place finishes in the national tournament, hitting .359 in '77 and .404 in '78. His .369 career batting average still ranks among the best in VSU history. He holds the school record for slugging percentage in a season (.839) and in a career (.643). In 1978, he had 38 extra base hits, including 22 home runs, and drove in 72 runs in 55 games on the way to being named a first team all-America. He didn't return for his senior season, instead signing a professional contract with the Baltimore Orioles.

together

JACKIE STUDSTILL HARRIS, BASKETBALL

LOUISE ODOM HOWELL, AMERICAN BALL

Research has revealed that two alumni of Georgia State Womans College were inducted into the GSWC Hall of Fame following outstanding careers in the 1930s. Jackie Studstill Harris, who excelled in several sports, was named a basketball all-American in 1935, playing for the Lambdas. The late Louise Odom "Pinkie" Howell entered the GSWC Hall after completing her Kappa career in American Ball, a sport described as a cross between soccer and football.

Following graduation, both ladies became active members of the Valdosta community. Mrs. Harris was a successful businesswoman and public servant, serving several terms as a member of the Valdosta Board of Education. Mrs. Howell, who died in 1986, was a teacher in the city system for more than 35 years, remained active in the Valdosta State Alumni Association and was a major booster of the women's sports program. Mrs. Harris, who has served the university in many volunteer areas including president and vice president of the Alumni Association, continues to be one of the women's sports program's most enthusiastic boosters.

Son JACK
Howell



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Valdosta State University Athletic Hall of Fame is an honorary society initiated two years ago to further enhance the sparkling reputation of VSU athletics. Seven former student-athletes and one former coach/administrator composed the inaugural class in 1997, and four more standouts were added last year. The 1997 inductees, in alphabetical order, were: **Eric Anderson** (tennis), **Sam Bowen** (baseball), **Eddie Brown** (basketball), **Chan Dixon** (tennis), **Joe Germano** (cross country), **Billy Grant** (coach/administrator), **Susan Taylor** (basketball), and **Jessie Tuggle** (football). The 1998 class, also listed alphabetically, were: **Gary Colson** (coach), **Gene Felts** (baseball), **Bobby Ritch** (basketball), and **Shannon Williams** (basketball).