



ANN MEYERS DRYSDALE AND GARY WILLIAMS NAMED 2017 NAISMITH OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTORS TO BASKETBALL

ATLANTA (January 31, 2017) – Basketball Hall of Famers Ann Meyers Drysdale and Gary Williams were named the 2017 Naismith Outstanding Contributors to Men’s and Women’s Basketball, respectively, the Atlanta Tipoff Club announced today. The awards are delivered by UPS, partner of the Naismith Awards since 2014.

First presented in 1982 to Curt Gowdy, the Naismith Outstanding Contributor to Basketball Award is presented annually to individuals whose extraordinary efforts have made contributions of outstanding significance and have created a long-lasting positive impact on the game of basketball. The recipients display character, integrity and dignity, and have contributed mightily to the growth, success and viability of basketball. Voted on by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Directors, Meyers Drysdale and Williams will be honored April 2 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

“I’m certainly honored and humbled to receive recognition from a game that has given me such great joy. There’s so many people who have contributed to put me in this position,” said Meyers Drysdale. “To even be considered for the Naismith Outstanding Contributor to Women’s Basketball delivered by UPS Award is truly special to me, and I want to thank the Atlanta Tipoff Club for this honor.”

“I would like to thank the Atlanta Tipoff Club for presenting to me the 2017 Naismith Outstanding Contributor to Men's Basketball delivered by UPS Award,” said Williams. “This is a humbling award. This sport has given me much more than I could ever give back to the great game of college basketball. The contributions of my former players and coaches play a significant part in my receiving such a prestigious award. Thank you for this great honor.”

“Each year the Atlanta Tipoff Club is proud to honor the men and women who have made the game of basketball so special,” said Eric Oberman, executive director of the Atlanta Tipoff Club. “Ann Meyers Drysdale paved the way for women in the game, while Gary Williams influenced hundreds of players in his three decades as a coach.”

About Ann Meyers Drysdale:

- First high school student to play for the U.S. women’s national team (1974)
- The first woman ever to earn a 4-year athletic scholarship (UCLA) and the first four-time All American
- Broderick Award winner as the outstanding women’s college basketball player of the year (1978)
- In 1976, she played on the first women’s USA Olympic basketball team – won silver
- First player drafted into the Women’s Professional Basketball League (1978)
- First, and only, woman to sign a contract in the NBA, doing so with the Indiana Pacers (1980)

- Was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (1993); was also inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame’s inaugural class in 1999
- Won two WNBA titles while serving as the general manager for the Phoenix Mercury, and another one while in her current position as vice president for the team

About Gary Williams:

- The 3rd winningest coach all-time in the ACC behind only Dean Smith and Mike Krzyzewski
- In his 31 years as a head coach, Williams amassed an overall record of 668-30, including 447–240 at Maryland, where he remains as the school's winningest coach
- Also coached at American, Boston College and Ohio State
- Williams' NCAA Tournament accomplishments include seven Sweet 16’s, two Elite Eights, two Final Fours, and the 2002 national championship
- Won the ACC Tournament Championship in 2004 and ACC Regular Season Championship in 1995, 2002 and 2010
- Named ACC Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2010
- With Boston College he led the Eagles to the 1983 Big East Regular Season Championship
- Was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014 and the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014

Past winners of the Naismith Outstanding Contributor to Basketball award:

	Men's Outstanding Contributor	Women's Outstanding Contributor
2017	Gary Williams	Ann Meyers Drysdale
2016	Denny Crum	Andy Landers
2015	Bill Raftery	Lynette Woodard
2014	Bobby Cremins	Nancy Lieberman
2013	Lute Olson	Pat Summitt
2012	Don Meyer	Teresa Edwards
2011	Dick Enberg	Cheryl Miller
2010	John Thompson Jr.	Marsha Sharp
2009	Billy Packer	Anne Donovan
2008	Dick Vitale	Jody Conradt
2007	Bob Knight	Kay Yow
2006	Jerry Colangelo	Val Ackerman
2005	Everett Case	Leon Barmore
2004	George Killian	Sonja Hogg
2003	Charles “Lefty” Driesell	Betty Jaynes
2002	Don Haskins	Billie Moore
2001	Tex Winter	Cathy Rush
2000	Bill Wall	Harley Redin
1999	C.M. Newton	
1998	Dean Smith	
1997	Dr. Forrest "Phog" Allen (in memory)	
1996	Boris Stankovic	
1995	Victor Bubas	
1994	Claire F. Bee (in memory)	
1993	Dave Gavitt	Margaret Wade

1992	John McLendon	
1991	Clarence "Big House" Gaines	
1990	Frank McGuire	
1989	Nat Holman	
1988	Red Auerbach	
1987	Pete Newell	
1986	Adolph Rupp (in memory)	
1985	Hank Iba	
1984	Ray Meyer	
1983	John Wooden	
1982	Curt Gowdy	

ABOUT THE ATLANTA TIPOFF CLUB

Founded during the 1956-57 season, the Atlanta Tipoff Club is committed to promoting the game of basketball and recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of those who make the game so exciting. The Atlanta Tipoff Club administers the Naismith Awards, which have become the most prestigious national honors in all of college basketball. Named in honor of Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, the Naismith Trophy recognizes the top Men's and Women's College Basketball Players of the Year. Other Naismith Awards are presented to the Men's and Women's College Basketball Coaches of the Year presented by Werner Ladder, Boy's and Girl's high school basketball players of the year presented by Hilton Worldwide, high school coaches of the year, basketball officials and overall contributors to the game. The Naismith Trophy was first presented to UCLA's Lew Alcindor (later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) in 1969. Old Dominion's Anne Donovan won the inaugural Women's Naismith Trophy in 1983. For more information, visit www.naismithtrophy.com.

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