



Former basketball great Hassell and athletic trainer Kimmel to be inducted into APSU Athletic Hall of Fame in February

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CLARKSVILLE, Tenn.— Trenton Hassell, one of the greatest basketball players in Governors history, and Chuck Kimmel, the University's longtime athletic trainer, will be inducted into the APSU Athletics Hall of Fame during breakfast ceremonies, 9 a.m., February 18, in the Dunn Center's front lobby.

The induction ceremonies will see the APSU Athletic Hall of Fame grow to 84. The newest inductees also will be honored during halftime ceremonies of APSU's ESPN Bracket Buster contest that weekend. Game time won't be determined until early February.

Hassell, 2000-01 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball "Player of the Year" and the league's Male Athlete of the Year, currently is playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves in the NBA after being drafted by the Chicago Bulls in 2001 and earning the Bulls' Rookie of the Year" award.

Previously, Hassell had his uniform number 44 retired (Jan. 10, 2002). He is one of just seven APSU athletes to ever have their jersey number retired.

In particular, Hassell enjoyed an outstanding 2000-01 season. He was named Playboy Preseason All-America and featured in the 2000-01 Sports Illustrated's Preseason Basketball issue. It served as a springboard to a campaign that capped a superb career.

He earned OVC "Player of the Year" honors and his third straight first-team All-OVC selection after averaging 21.7 points, 7.8 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game. For a second straight year, Hassell was the only player in the nation to be ranked in his respective conference's Top 5 in scoring, rebounding and assists. His 21.7 points per game ranked 13th nationally.

The 6-5 forward/guard was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District team for a second-straight time and was voted MVP of the Top of The World Classic in Fairbanks, Ala. That resulted in him being named ESPN/ESPN.com National Player of the Week. Later, ESPN The Magazine featured a short story on him.

But the awards didn't end there. Hassell was selected as APSU's Outstanding Male Athlete for a second straight year and was the 2000-01 Joy Award recipient as the most valuable senior athlete. Later he joined Bubba Wells as APSU's only OVC "Male Athlete of the Year" recipients.

For his three-season career, Hassell ranked sixth all-time in scoring with 1626 points. He averaged 19.4 points, 8.1 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game overall.

A non-qualifier out of Clarksville High School, Hassell graduated in May 2001 with a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. He was just one of two athletes in the 2001 NBA draft to earn their undergraduate degree.

After playing with the Chicago Bulls for two seasons, he signed as a free agent with Minnesota in the 2003-04 season. He has gained a reputation as one of the NBA's top defensive performers as a Timberwolves starter and earned a six-year contract following the 2003-04 season.

(more)

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Meanwhile, Kimmel became APSU's athletic trainer in 1981 and since has become one of the leaders in his profession. In fact, in Summer 2003, he was selected president of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA).

Kimmel is in his 25th season as Austin Peay athletics trainer for all men and women's sports and 14th as assistant athletics director.

Certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and licensed by the state of Tennessee, he served as president of the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) from 1989-1993, and received the 1991 TATS College Athletic Trainer of The Year.

Kimmel served from 1981-1992 as exhibits chairman for the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA). He was presented that organization's district award in 1988 and its Service Award in 1997.

He was elected SEATA president in 1998 after serving as secretary/treasurer of SEATA from 1992. He was elected District Nine director for NATA in 2000 and was co-chair of the host committee for Summer 2000's national convention. In Summer 2001, he was elected NATA secretary/treasurer for the 2001-02 year.

He now is in his second year as NATA president, where he has gained nationwide attention as spokesperson for the organization.

In January 2001, Kimmel was inducted into the TATS Hall of Fame. Previously, he received the NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award.

Kimmel was honored in spring 1995 by spending two weeks working at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Born in Hopkinsville, Ky., Kimmel grew up in Frankfort, Ky. (1972 Franklin County High School graduate). He is a University of Kentucky graduate (1976), having served as a student athletic trainer for the football team three seasons and the Wildcats NIT basketball championship club his senior season. He next moved to East Tennessee before arriving at APSU in 1981.

For tickets and other information about the breakfast, telephone Tara Pfeifler in the APSU athletics office, (931) 221-7903.