



NEWS RELEASE

2017 ASAA Hall of Fame Inductees include Four Athletes, Five Coaches, a Sponsor and an Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sandi Wagner, sandi@asaa.org - 907-563-3723

ANCHORAGE, AK (April 11, 2017) — Five coaching legends, four exceptional athletes, a multi-talented Administrator and a Sponsor who goes above and beyond are headlining this year's class of ASAA Hall of Fame inductees administered by the Alaska School Activities Association.

The athletes entering ASAA's Hall of Fame this year include **Beth Ladd**, a six-time State Champion in basketball and X-Country running at Homer High School. Also, entering the Hall of Fame in 2017 is North Pole basketball standout, **Brad Oleson**, who followed an outstanding high school career by breaking the UAF scoring record and playing professionally in Spain for 10 years. Hall of Fame inductee, **Dwyane Jones**, won four individual State Track and Field titles at Dimond, and then went on to coach high school track and field. **Jody Hensen Reding**, who excelled in basketball, X-Country, Track and Volleyball, winning seven State Titles as an Honor Roll student at Homer High School.

The 2017 Hall of Fame class includes five coaching legends whose positive mentoring and encouragement have made a lifelong difference in the lives of thousands of Alaskan

student-athletes. When iconic East High Coach **Bob Durado** retired, his football teams had won more games than any coach in Cook Inlet Conference history, and his Girls' basketball teams had won more games than any other program. The legacy of Coach **Dave Cloud**, a gifted multi-sport Coach in basketball, football and track at Homer High, continues to resonate positively in the Homer community. For 35 years, Coach **Earle Walker's** competitive spirit was contagious, but he is remembered most for the positive life lessons and values he taught every student-athlete he coached. Basketball Coach **George Houston** was named Alaska Coach of the Year three times during his illustrious 34 year career, and though he is retired, George continues to mentor young players at every level of the sport. During a career spanning 40 years, **Phil Jordan** coached basketball in three unique regions, and won three state titles at three different schools during his storied career.

As a proud sponsor of ASAA since 2008, **RAVN Alaska** has provided more than a quarter million dollars in travel allowances as well as invaluable volunteer support at many ASAA Championship events. As the state's largest aviation transportation system, RAVN Alaska is committed to the next generation of Alaskan leaders.

In a remarkable career spanning nearly half a century, former ASD and ASAA administrator, **Dr. Teresa Johnson** taught, mentored, encouraged, coached and inspired tens of thousands of Alaska high school students. Known for always going the extra mile, Dr. Johnson's tireless work to launch and grow ASAA's highly effective tobacco, alcohol and drug deterrent program (Play For Keeps), is only one of her long lasting impacts on students in activities in Alaska.

On behalf of ASAA, our team of proud sponsors and the more than 40,000 students and student-athletes we serve each year, it is our honor and privilege to congratulate this outstanding group of Hall of Fame inductees who represent the very best of ASAA's Win For Life values and what it means to be an Alaskan.

About the Alaska School Activities Association

ASAA supports, enhances, regulates and promotes high school sports and activities that are proven to provide lifelong lessons and valuable opportunities for every high school student in Alaska. It is our responsibility to help create and promote a fair and level playing field for all participants in extracurricular sports and activities statewide. It is our privilege and our pledge to provide every Alaska high school sports and activity participant with an opportunity to *Win For Life*.

MEDIA CONTACTS: **SANDI WAGNER – Associate Director**
 Email: sandi@asaa.org
 907-563-3723

ADMINISTRATOR

Teresa Johnson

Administrator/Teacher/ASAA Grant Coordinator

In a career spanning nearly half a century, Dr. Teresa Johnson taught, mentored, coached, coordinated, encouraged and inspired tens of thousands of Alaska high school students and educators. Among her accomplishments are: serving as the Executive Director of the Alaska Association of Student Governments and being elected as the first Alaskan to the National Association of Student Councils Advisory Board, helping bring girls athletics to the Anchorage School District and therefore the entire State of Alaska. As ASAA's Grant Coordinator and community liaison she helped launch ASAA's nationally acclaimed Play For Keeps – Win For Life Program. Additionally, Dr. Johnson served on the National Federation of High Schools Board of Directors while representing Region 4 on the ASAA Board of Directors. Through it all, Dr. Johnson has played pivotal roles in programs and initiatives that have enhanced, informed and improved the lives and futures of countless participants, while inspiring her fellow educators to greater heights.

ATHLETES

Beth Ladd

Basketball/Cross Country Running/Track & Field

In the words of a former coach, Beth Ladd was an outstanding student, passionate teammate, fierce competitor and inspirational role model in the classroom, at the track and on the court. As a student athlete at Homer High School, Beth earned six State Championship titles with her teams in Cross Country Running and Girls Basketball. An honor student as well, her work ethic and intensity were fundamental to her success. She was chosen for the All-State team in Track & Field for four years straight., and her qualifying times led to invitations at national track meets. Winning three individual titles at the State Track Meet her junior year and two her senior year, Beth went on to run distance events at Texas A&M University with a full scholarship.

On the basketball court Beth's explosive speed and endurance made her one of the top defensive players in the state. Many of her points were made off of steals and interceptions. Her defensive prowess prompted radio announcer, Dave Webb, to refer to Beth as "the steal curtain."

Brad Oleson

Basketball/Baseball

As a highly gifted basketball player at North Pole High School, Brad Oleson scored a school record 43 points in a conference title-clinching game. He went on to break the all-time scoring record at UAF followed by a 10 year pro career in Spain. According to a former coach, Brad's athleticism was only half the story. What set Brad apart was his high level of situational awareness and his understanding of coaches, teammates, opponents and the game-clock. He went on to name Brad as the smartest basketball player he had ever coached. Brad was a complete player, and his scoring proficiency was complemented with his exceptional rebounding, defensive and passing skills. Despite his many achievements and high level of success, friends and fans alike admire the fact that Brad is still the same friendly, down-to-earth guy they've always known. Brad has always been a generous volunteer and coached at multiple basketball camps during his college and pro careers. April 16, 2005 was proclaimed Brad Oleson Day in the City of North Pole.

Dwyane Jones

Basketball/Track & Field

Dwyane is a true example of what it means to *win for life*. As an All-American high school track star, Dwyane won 4 individual state track and field titles. In addition to his individual achievements, he was a true role model who consistently encouraged friends and classmates to participate in sports. But the true measure of Dwyane's passion for mentoring and encouraging participation in sports was most evident during his 13 year career as a track coach and as an APD School Resource Officer. Dwyane was always able to see the inner athlete in every student and inspire many of them to step up, participate and be the best they could be. He was admired and highly respected at Dimond High School by administration, teaching staff, security staff, fellow coaches, students and parents.

Jody Hensen Reding

Basketball/Cross Country Running/Track & Field/Volleyball

Jody Hensen is the definition of a multi-sport student-athlete. As a standout basketball, Cross Country, Volleyball and Track participant at Homer High School, Jody earned seven State Championship titles. Her dedication and hard work in the classroom were just as impressive, and she was a consistent Honor Roll student. Jody's passion in basketball set her apart as a team leader on and off the court, and she was named Alaska Player of the Year her senior year. Jody overcame a devastating family tragedy her sophomore year when she lost her Father to a rare brain disease. Despite this tragedy, Jody drew upon her tremendous inner strength and continued to excel on the court and in the classroom. She went on to play basketball at Northern Arizona University with a full scholarship. Following graduation, Jody went on to coach women's basketball at numerous universities including the University of Alaska Anchorage.

COACHES

Bob Durado

Football/Girls Basketball

Bob Durado coached football in Anchorage for 17 years: East High School Varsity football from 1967-82 and West High School Varsity in 1988. When Coach Durado retired, Bob had the most victories in Cook Inlet Conference history. During his tenure, he guided East to 5 conference championships. Coach Durado also coached the East High School Girls Basketball team for 10 seasons. Coach Durado's teams won 4 conference titles, 2 Region IV championships and a State title in 1980. Upon his retirement, coach Durado had more wins than any coach in girls basketball. Coach Durado taught his players on the field and on the court that teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and competition were lessons and values that would help them succeed in their relationships and careers long after they graduated from high school.

Dave Cloud

Girls Basketball/Boys Basketball/Football/Track & Field

As a multi-sport coach in Basketball, Football and Track & Field during his 16 years of coaching at Homer High School, Dave Cloud knew the value of multi-sport participation long before it was the popular thing to do. Dave also cared about the lives of his players outside of sports and believed that coaching and mentoring his players was more than running practices and coaching games. When Dave took over a struggling Varsity Girls Basketball program in 1986, many were astonished to see the team qualify for the 4A State Tournament the following year. Dave went on to lead the team to three State Girls Basketball Championship titles from 1989-1991. He expected excellence on and off the court, and he was just as proud of his teams who won academic and sportsmanship awards as he was the state titles. Recipient of numerous Coach of the Year awards, Coach Cloud has been and will continue to be a tremendous positive influence at the school and the community of Homer for generations.

Earle Walker

Basketball/Hockey/Football/Track & Field

No one ever doubted Coach Earle Walker's competitive spirit, and his teams always played to win. But it was equally clear that Coach Walker's first priority as a coach and mentor was to help student-athletes grow and develop as outstanding young men and women beyond the sport they played. Coach Walker always emphasized ethics and fair play over won-loss records, and as many assistant coaches will attest, he always made time to encourage, mentor and empower his staff to grow and become better coaches. He believed that a big part of positive leadership was nurturing leadership in others, both players and staff. He believed that teaching came first, coaching second, and approached games as a report card that measured character and values as well as preparation and teamwork. It was never about individuals. Coach Walker believed that players should always represent team, school, family and community.

- Anchorage School District 1957-85, 1992-94
 - Basketball 35 years, Hockey, Football, Track & Field
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George Houston

Basketball

For many Southeast Alaska basketball coaches, fans and players, Coach George Houston is a true legend. His name is synonymous with outstanding performance, both on and off the court. In a career spanning 34 years, Coach Houston's teams won 10 Conference Titles, two State Championships, and a combined 278-85 Won-Loss record. To no one's surprise, Coach Houston was named Alaska Coach of the Years three times. Since retiring as a teacher and coach from Juneau-Douglas High School, George continues to coach basketball and work with youth in many capacities at every level. From coaching a middle school team to officiating club games, Coach Houston is preparing the next generation of Alaska basketball players. He also works numerous summer camps, and coached Team Alaska at the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife.

Phil Jordan

Basketball

In a basketball coaching career spanning 40 years, Coach Phil Jordan has coached in three unique and diverse regions across Alaska. During his four decades as a coach, Coach Jordan guided teams at six different schools and at most every level of boys and girls high school basketball. Coach Jordan's teams have won three states titles at three different high school programs, Bartlett, Service and Lumen Christi. He also guided Tri Valley to a 4th place finish in the state championship playoffs in their first year of competition. Coach Jordan taught his players that success on the court came down to four things: Teamwork, dedication, discipline, selflessness. He also taught his players that those very same values would help them achieve success in life.

CONTRIBUTOR

RAVN ALASKA

Major Sponsor

As a proud sponsor of ASAA since 2008, RAVN has provided more than \$250,000 in-kind travel allowances as well as valuable volunteer support at many of our championship events. RAVN also provides travel for individual schools and students as well as travel for both the ASAA Board of Directors and Staff as needed, including travel for referees attending various tournaments. As the state's largest aviation transportation system, ASAA's long-term partnership has been very positive and is something that will continue to grow in the future. RAVN Alaska is committed to the youth of our future, and plays a vital role in ASAA's ability to host quality championships and events statewide.