

Jesuit greats head list of names in halls of fame



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If Jesuit High School were to create a hall of fame to honor its long blue line of great athletes, where would it begin?

► By recognizing the 1946 teams that swept the four major state championships and the Little World Series title to boot?

► With the names G. Gernon Brown, Rusty Staub, Larry Gilbert, Hugh Oser, John Petitbon and Pat Screen?

Just how would one choose a charter roll call for a school whose athletic history spans 20 decades?

The school will not likely have such a hall of fame to recognize individuals. The politics and logistics would probably prohibit such a venture, and that's understandable for a school that has won state championships in just about every sport the LHSAA offers to boys since 1931.

To call Jesuit the "Home of Champions" is not exaggeration. I'm not paying this homage as an alumnus, which I'm not; nor as a Jesuit groupie, which I am also not (no more than any other school I cover).

But no one can deny the school's accomplishments, and they have been well docu-



Photo by Ron Brocato | CLARION HERALD

Jesuit High School's Hall of Champions, located on the second floor, houses memorabilia that dates back to the early 1900s.

mented in both the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches and the Greater New Orleans Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Sugar Bowl.

Of the 268 greats honored by induction to the state hall of fame, Jesuit is represented by 10 inductees – the most from any high school in Louisiana.

That number soars to 24 in the Greater New Orleans Sugar Bowl hall, whose photos are on display in a corridor in the Louisiana Superdome. This is also the most members from any local school. (Warren Easton ranks second with 14 inductees, and Peters is third with five.)

As a member of both selection committees, I can attest that making the final cut to sports immortality in this state

is no "gimme." The process is demanding for the candidates and the committee members.

The 30-member committee that serves on the Louisiana Hall of Fame board annually conducts a two-month review before electing the new class. A ballot that typically carries the name of more than 100 candidates is supplemented by new names every year (expect to see future names like Marshall Faulk, Terry Robiskie, J.T. Curtis, Shaq O'Neal, Randy Livingston and Kerry Kittles to show up soon).

To be eligible for consideration, athletes must have competed for at least two years at the varsity level either in high school or college in Louisiana. Athletes who gain fame in this state at the college

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Blue Jays in Louisiana Hall of Fame

Year elected in parentheses

G. Gernon Brown, coach (1990); Pat Browne Jr., golfer (1985); Will Clark, baseball (2001); Steve Foley, football (2002); Larry Gilbert, baseball (1964); John Petitbon, football (1998); Richie Petitbon, football (1992); Connie Ryan, baseball (1993); Rusty Staub, baseball (1989); Emmitt Toppino, track (1981).

Other locals in Louisiana Hall of Fame

Johnny Altobello, coach (1994); Alex "Greek" Athas, basketball (1992); Gary Barbaro, football (2000); Zeke Bonura, baseball (1989); Joe Brown, prizefighter (1976); Ralph Dupas, prizefighter (1994); "Peggy" Flournoy, football (1968); Tad Gormley, track official (1968); Pete Herman, prizefighter (1960); Rich "Tombstone" Jackson, football (1994); Hank Lauricella, football (1983); Lester Lautenschlaeger, football (1983); Johnny Lynch, football official (1975); J.D. Mooney, jockey (1976); Mel Ott, baseball (1963); Mel Parnell, baseball (1963); Willie Pastrano, prizefighter (1965); Audrey Patterson, women's track & field (2000); Warren Perkins, basketball (2007); Craig Perret, jockey (2006); Jimmy (Lacava) Perrin, prizefighter (1965); Harold Porter, track & field (1997); Eddie Price, football (1975); Nick Revon, basketball (2002); Rick Robey, basketball (2006); Louis "Rags" Scheuermann, baseball coach (1990); Claude "Monk" Simons Jr., football (1969); Neil Smith, football (2004); George "Bo" Strickland, baseball (2006); Roosevelt Taylor, football (1996); Steve Van Buren, football (1961); Aeneas Williams, football (2008).

Blue Jays in Sugar Bowl Hall of Fame

Listed by year inducted

Larry Gilbert, baseball (1971); Emmitt Toppino, track & field (1971); G. Gernon Brown, coach (1976); Al Ecuyer, football (1978); Connie Ryan, baseball (1978); John Petitbon, football (1979); Richie Petitbon, football (1979); Charlie Gilbert, baseball manager (1980); Ellis Henican, basketball (1981); William "Buck" Seeber, coach (1984); Lloyd "Hap" Glaudi, sportswriter (1989); Rusty Staub, baseball (1989); Steve Foley, football (1992); Ralph "Putsy" Caballero, baseball (1994); Pat Browne Jr., golfer (1995); Ray Coates, football (1997); Peter Finney, sports columnist (1998); Clay Calhoun, football (1999); "Sam" Harnsongkram, wrestling coach (2000); Milton Retif, baseball coach (2001); Will Clark, baseball (2003); Pat Screen, football (2003); M.L. Lagarde, sports writer/administrator (2006); Billy Fitzgerald, basketball (2008).

Locals who have not been selected to state HOF

Lou Riecke, weightlifter; Alfred Priestley, LIALO coach; Brother Melchior, Holy Cross wrestling coach; Johnny Brechtel, Easton football coach; Firmin Simms, youth baseball coach; Felix James, LIALO football coach; Theron Lewis, track & field; Skeeter Theard, Redemptorist baseball coach; Ed Tuohy, Newman basketball coach; Jimmy Warren, football; Otis Washington, St. Augustine football coach; Bruce Seals, basketball; Lenny Yochim, baseball; Bobby Conlin, Brother Martin football coach; Elmo Adolph, boxing referee; Mike Miley, baseball; Milt Clavier, Forrier coach; Henry Crosby, football coach.

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