



PREP HALL INDUCTEES — Inducted into the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Thursday were (front row, left to right) Linda Gamble, Joe Ferguson, Geraldine Pigott and (back row, left to right) Charlie Gilbert, "Hoss" Garrett, Johnny Lynch, R.L. Rupert and John Altobello. The inductions took place at a luncheon at the Bellemont.

Staff photo by Gary Munter

City Meet isn't just a tune-up for wrestlers

By **TONY ROMANACH**
Advocate Correspondent

It's showdown time once again as the City Prep Wrestling Meet gets under way Friday at 1 p.m. at the Belaire gym.

A second session is scheduled for 7 tonight before the tournament concludes with two sessions on Saturday, one at 10 a.m. and another at 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

Though the meet serves just as a tune-up for next week's all-important Regional Meet from where the top three wrestlers in each weight division qualify for the state meet, the nine-team tournament will be more than just a conditioning exercise.

"It's traditional," explained Belaire's second-year coach Dale Ketelsen, whose Bengals finished second to Catholic High at last year's meet.

But for Catholic's first-year coach Bobby Navo, tradition is something he will like to break this season.

"We've won the city meet every four years, in '71, '75 and '79," noted Navo. "This year we want to be the first CHS club to win back-to-back city championships."

Lee High won four straight titles starting in 1970 as the Rebels totally dominated the sport in the city in the early '70s.

For the Bears to repeat as city champions, however, they must get by the likes of Brusly, Capitol, Lee, Tara, Redemptorist, Baton Rouge High, Baker and, of course, Belaire.

"It's pretty clear that Catholic and Belaire have the best shot," said Ketelsen. "Baker has an outside chance based on their season's performance (6-3 dual meet record)."

"I don't think it's going to be won by one team getting a lot of first place points, although Catholic or Belaire have that potential."

The Bengals' strength is in the upper weights where captain Kevin Tabor stands tall in his 145-pound division.

"I anticipate Kevin will be city champion," predicted Ketelsen. "He likes to wrestle at Belaire and at Baton Rouge."

Tabor has pinned Catholic's 145-pound entry, Gilbert Meyers, 7-7, the two times they have met.

A three-way battle is expected for the 155-pound championship.

Though Catholic's Scott Deumite holds a 31-1 record this year, including tournament championships at Brusly, Jesuit, DeLaSalle (Big 8), Belaire and at Holy Cross last week where he was named outstanding wrestler, Belaire's Bobby Sartin looms as a major obstacle in

Deumite's quest for a city championship: Sartin, who defeated Deumite last year for the championship, this year broke Deumite's perfect record with a 9-3 victory over Deumite at the Lee Invitational two weeks ago.

Another top wrestler at 155 is Lee's James Dixon, who lost to Deumite in the Lee Invitational's third-place bout 2-1 two weeks ago.

"It's coming down to who's hot this weekend," said Ketelsen. "Dixon may beat them both."

If Dixon does indeed win, the Bengals will then have to turn to their outstanding trio of Rich Larkin, 167; Jack Carr, 185; and Darryl Boudreaux, heavyweight; for some points.

Larkin is 8-4, but two of the losses have come via forfeits during an injury at the Lee Invitational.

Carr's major competition is expected to come from Lee's John Hoffman and from Baker's Ken Woodward. Woodward edged Larry Brooks, who will not start for the Bengals due to a knee injury, 9-8 in the first round of the Lee Invitational.

Boudreaux, in Ketelsen's estimation, "has been the most consistent winner in the heavyweight division this year."

Boudreaux, 22-4, must get past Redemptorist's Chris Holiday, who pinned Boudreaux in a dual meet this year.

The Bengals could use some pins of their own.

"The meet will be won or lost on how many pinning points a team gets," forecasted Ketelsen. "Last year Catholic had 66 points on pins and we wound up losing by five points." A team is awarded two extra points for a wrestler's advancement via a pin.

While Belaire's strength is concentrated in the upper weights, Catholic's forte is more evenly divided.

At 98 the Bears' Blake Hopkins is unbeaten against city competition through 13 matches, including 12 pins. Belaire's Rusty King, 10-12, whom Hopkins has pinned once, is the only city wrestler to go the distance against Hopkins as King lost 9-0.

Besides Deumite, other top Bears include co-captain Lenny Cardenas, 132, defending city champion and winner of the Brusly, Jesuit and Big 8 tournaments while recording a 15-1 mark; Mike Kirby, 119, 12-2, with his two losses coming to Baker's Bruce Bowman; Brett Murphy, 12-2 against city competition, losing only to Belaire's Tim Chidester; and Gary Navo, 138, 20-6.

★Fame

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permanent home will be in Louisiana and that I can become a member of the LHSAA."

"This is the greatest day of my life; thanks for letting me come up here," said Ruston football and track coach Garrett, who was born in Askey, Miss. "I'm just glad I could come, glad I could make it. I got a lot of people to thank, including my daughter, who was a cheerleader, and my son, who was an all-state halfback. I guess my biggest thrill in sports was in a track meet at Lake Charles in 1957 when my son set two state records and tied a national record set by Jesse Owens.

"The Notre Dame box was the only system I ever knew. Heck, I never learned

the 'T.' At Ruston, we believed we could beat anybody, anywhere at anytime. We won a lot of games on pride," added Garrett, who started coaching at Forrest High in 1934 and went 10-0 in football at Arcadia in 1936 before moving to Ruston. As a coach, Garrett won 270 games.

Rupert was a '31 graduate of Kaplan and a three-sport letterman at SLI, now USL. A basketball coach at Meaux from 1936 to '56, Rupert served as Meaux principal from 1940 to '73. His best season was 1948, when his Tigers won 60 of 62 games and were state champions. In '47, Meaux went 42-1, and in '51 the record was 50-1. In 1955, Rupert's Meaux team won 53 of 55 games. It is sometimes passed on as legend that the one-hand shot was born at noon at

Meaux High School where players held a sandwich in one hand and shot with the other.

"Many people helped me get this award," said Rupert. "Two men in the audience were especially helpful. B.J. Bordelon of Kaplan coached me in high school, and J.C. Reinhardt of SLI took care of me in college. I'll remember this day the rest of my life."

At the little St. Aloysius crackerbox gym on Esplanade, Johnny Altobello was supreme as basketball maestro. He also compiled outstanding basketball and baseball records at DeLaSalle, where he ended his coaching career in 1970 but stayed on as teacher and athletic director. He had unbeaten seasons in basketball in

'48-'49 (20-0), '50-'51 (30-0) and '56-'57 (23-0). He won eight state basketball championships, including three in a row, and four state baseball titles. Altobello, who coached the likes of Nick Revon, Pete Gaudin, the Bravos (Lou and Eddie), Kirk Drake, Dickie Brennan and Hal Cervini, never had a losing season in baseball or basketball during the six years he spent at St. Aloysius and the 18 seasons at DeLaSalle.

Altobello cited former stars Brennan and baseball player Douggie Reagan in the audience, thanked Brother Richard, DeLaSalle principal, and assistant coach Jack Smith for their help and loyalty.

"Next to marrying my wife, this is the next best honor I could receive," said Altobello.

★Dome

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class meetings at LSU included adoption of a new playoff plan for Quad-A. The top classification voted 49-16 to eliminate byes for district runners-up beginning with the 1980-81 school year. Triple-A and Double-A both decided to do away with tournament-style play for basketball playoffs in the lower half of its districts, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for Triple-A and 7 through 12 for Double-A. These districts will now play their bidistrict, regional and quarterfinals at neutral sites agreeable to the team. Two or more games may be played at the same site if agreeable to all teams involved. The other Triple-A and Double-A districts are already operating under this plan, which becomes effective immediately.

The six classes selected some of the sites for their regional track meets and also elected representatives to the executive and reclassification committees.

The following were named to the executive committee:

Quad-A, Frank Lamplin, Bossier; Triple-A, Dr. Gerald Cobb, Ruston; Double-A, Gene Ponthieux, White Castle; Billy Hendrix, Bunkie, Single-A; Johnny Haynes, Logansport; Class B, Earnest Morgan, Campit; Class C, James Bennett, Dodson.

Elected to the reclassification committee were:

Dave Cavalier, Lafayette Acadiana, and C. J. Tastet, East St. John, Quad-A; Raymond Fontenot, Eunice, and Jerry Boudreaux, Zachary, Triple-A; Dennis Carroll, Tallulah, and E. R. McMurray, Patterson, Double-A; P. M. Smith, Montgomery, and Willie Daniels, Plaisance, Single-A; Billy Benefield, Cloutierville, and James Hardin, Pickering, Class B; John Ed Bartmess, Enterprise, and Dale Hardwick, Hicks, Class C.

Prior to the class meetings, Harold Newsome, former coach and principal at Sarepta, and A. C. Schiro, former coach and principal at Merryville, received

plaque from the association. Both previously served on the executive committee. Schiro is confined to bed for a month and his plaque was accepted by Merryville principal Glenn Whitman.

Also presented, by Balfour Company, were championship rings or plaques to the coaches of state championship teams in football, basketball, baseball and track during the 1978-79 school year.

Clinic lecturers picked

By **TED CASTILLO**
Advocate Sportswriter

Tulane's Larry Smith, Nevada-Las Vegas' Jerry Tarkanian and Maryland's Frank Costello will head the staff of lecturers for the annual Louisiana High School Coaches Clinic July 24-25-26 at the University of Southwestern in Lafayette.

Smith and two members of his staff will lecture on football. Tarkanian will be one of two possible out-of-state lecturers on basketball and Costello will head the track lecturers.

Lecturers will also include McNeese State's Ernie Duplechin and Rummel High of New Orleans' Eastern Roth, football; Roy Danforth, Tulane, and Ralph Bates, Terrebonne High of Houma, basketball, and Jerry Dyes, Northwestern State, and Leon Johnson, DeRidder, track. Other possible lecturers include either Dave Bliss of the University of Oklahoma or Jim Valvano, Iona University, for basketball.

Besides naming its major clinic speakers, the LHSAA also announced the dates for its high school All-Star football and basketball games. The All-Star girls' basketball game will be played at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26 and the All-Star boys' contest is set for 3 p.m. on the same date, also at Blackham Coliseum. The All-Star football game will be that evening at USL's Cajun field at 7:30.

Coaching the football All-Stars will be J. T. Curtis of John Curtis High of New Orleans, the state Double-A champions and Bill Mikelson of Class A state titlist Port Sulphur for the West and Bobby Keasler, of Quad-A runner-up New Iberia and James Waguespack of Triple-A champion St. James for the East. Keasler replaced Otis Washington of New Orleans St. Augustine, which defeated New Iberia 16-7 for the Quad-A championship. Washington recently joined the LSU staff as an assistant.

At-large coaches selected are Lee Paine

Vermeil searching for backup QB

By **RALPH BERNSTEIN**
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia Eagles' coach Dick Vermeil is busy setting the groundwork for solving a problem he hadn't expected — replacing retired backup quarterback John Walton.

Walton, who was rescued from the

World Football League when Vermeil left UCLA to take over the Eagles, shocked Vermeil by accepting a coaching job earlier this month.

Walton became head coach at his alma mater, Elizabeth City State University, after four years as a substitute quarterback with Philadelphia.

Vermeil said Thursday that he has talked with Mark Manges, former Maryland quarterback and a fourth-round National Football League draft pick by the Los Angeles Rams two years ago.

The Eagles' coach also disclosed he has discussed the vacant job with Mike Kirkland, one-time Arkansas player and a fifth-round selection of the Baltimore Colts in 1976.

Vermeil had still another possibility in his office Thursday — Ron Hertel, former Southern California quarterback drafted on the fifth round by Cincinnati in 1978. Hertel, whose brother, Rick, plays for baseball's Toronto Blue Jays, completed one of four passes for the Bengals in three games two seasons ago.

"I may sign all three or maybe just two," said Vermeil. "It just depends who I decide I want."

Vermeil made it clear he'd rather work with a comparatively young quarterback than a veteran picked up as a free agent or in a trade.

"I did that with Walton," he recalled. "He was waived three or four times. People thought he didn't have the ability. They now realize that he did."

Ben-Gals get revenge, nip Louisiana College

LSU's women's basketball team won a measure of revenge and a basketball game Thursday night as Staci Brown, Jeanette Boutte and Julie Gross combined for 59 points in a 76-71 decision over Louisiana College.

The victory avenged an earlier Ben-Gal loss to the Lady Wildcats and ran LSU's record to 12-8 on the season. Louisiana College fell to 13-3.

Brown and Boutte scored 20 points each and Gross finished with 19 as the Ben-Gals came back from a 46-36 halftime deficit to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Ben-Gals tied the game at 68-all with 2:51 and led the rest of the way as Brown sank a one-and-one situation.

LSU's Rene Moran, averaging 21.6 points coming into the game, was held to 13, the only other Ben-Gal in double

figures. Sheila Thompson led Louisiana College with 28 points on 12 field goals and four of five from the free throw line.

The Ben-Gals are back in the Assembly Center Saturday with a 5 p.m. contest against cross-town rival Southern.

LSU (76) — Brown 8-4-5-20; Gross 4-7-9-19; Hayden 10-0-2; Webster 10-0-2; Moran 6-1-1-13; Melvin 0-0-0; Bergeron 0-0-0; Gregory 0-0-0; Boutte 8-4-5-20; Totals: 30-16-77.
LA. COLLEGE (71) — Cason 5-1-1-11; Williamson 0-0-0; Dixon 2-3-7; Self 4-0-8; Thompson 12-4-28; Poole 4-0-8; Warwick 2-5-9; Totals: 29-13-67.
Halftime score: La. College 46, LSU 36.
Total fouls: LSU 19; La. College 22.
Fouled out: Renee Moran, LSU; Dixon, Warwick, L.C.
Technical fouls: LSU coach.
Officials: Layfield, Roberts.

Browns release Weber from pact

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Browns defensive backfield coach Chuck Weber has been released from his contract and reportedly will become defensive coordinator of the Baltimore Colts.

Weber would not confirm the reports but said he has talked with new Colts' Coach Mike McCormack. He said any official announcement would come from McCormack, who was formerly a teammate of Weber's with the Browns.

"I resigned because I had a lot of responsibility without authority," Weber said. He said he was the overall defensive coach at Browns' practices but had only the authority of a secondary coach.

Browns' owner Art Modell said Wednesday that he granted Weber's request with reluctance.

★Tigers

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was just getting that first win.

"LSU had their problems for awhile, but they beat Tennessee on the road and they're kind of coming back. And, Tennessee seemed like it was rolling along until they lost that first one and now they've lost two. It doesn't do you any good trying to figure it out. In a league like this, it's just going to happen."

And that's why guys like Dale Brown can't help but stay tuned in.

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