Philadelphia University Head Men’s Basketball Coach Herb Magee Nominated for Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

Magee, starting his 40th season as head coach, poised to become NCAA Division II All-Time Winningest Coach

Philadelphia, October 31, 2006 – Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher today announced the nomination of legendary Head Men’s Basketball Coach Herb Magee to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Magee, who is entering his 40th season as head coach of the Rams, needs just 16 victories to become the all-time leader in NCAA Division II coaching victories. Just last December, Magee notched his 800th career win, putting him eighth all-time among all NCAA coaches and ensuring his place in basketball coaching history.

“It is my pleasure to nominate Philadelphia University Head Men’s Basketball Coach Herb Magee to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame,” President Gallagher said in announcing the nomination. “Extraordinary both in his legacy and longevity, Coach Magee has spent a lifetime shaping the game and the men who both play and coach it in a manner that makes us all proud.”

Magee, a two-time All-America as a player at what was then the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, enters the season with a career coaching mark of 813-318, including 26 seasons of 20 or more victories. In just his third season coaching the Rams, Magee guided the team to the NCAA College Division Championship, finishing the year with a 29-2 overall record.

Herb Magee’s accomplishments include:
- Reached 800th career win on Dec. 8, 2005, putting him in the elite eight of basketball coaches in all NCAA divisions
- With just 16 wins needed in the 2006-2007 season, Coach Magee will become the number one DII coach in history
- Once he passes 828 wins this season, Coach Magee will be the second winningest, active coach among all NCAA divisions
- Career .719 winning percentage
- 26 seasons of 20+ wins
• Averaged 20.8 wins per season over 39 years
• NABC’s Guardian of the Game award in 2005
• National Championship (1970)
• National Coach of the Year (1976)
• Regional Coach of the Year (four times)
• All-time leader in wins for a basketball coach at his alma mater
• Remains among the all-time leading scorers for the Rams after 40 years
• Holds the DII record for most consecutive home wins at 80 games

“Herb Magee has all the right stuff – he has one of the best collegiate coaching records of all time, he’s one of the greatest shooting coaches in the history of the sport, he was the leading scorer during his own playing days and he’s a consummate teacher and mentor to his student athletes,” said Philadelphia University Director of Athletics Tom Shirley, who has worked with Magee for 18 years.

In addition to achievements on his home court, Herb Magee is widely recognized as a “shot doctor,” having tutored professionals such as recent Hall of Fame inductee Charles Barkley, Jameer Nelson and Malik Rose in the art of the jump shot. He’s also served as a mentor to coaches coming up the ranks and has guided 10 former assistants who have become head coaches at such institutions as The U.S. Naval Academy, Cornell University and Johns Hopkins University.

At the heart of this exceptional record is a young boy who grew up in West Philly and lost both his parents by age 13. Even as a teen, Herb Magee was extolled as a playground legend during the time of Earl Monroe, Wali Jones and Walt Hazzard. He went on to star at famed West Catholic High, along with lifetime friends and future coaches Jim Lynam and Jim Boyle. After a stellar career at Philadelphia University (then Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science), he was drafted by the Celtics, but instead chose to make his mark as a coach. He was named Head Coach at his alma mater in 1966 and within four years won a National Championship. Despite being tempted by Division I and NBA coaching offers over the years, Magee stayed loyal to his roots, his city and his school.

Finalists for nomination to the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame will be announced at the NBA All-Star game in February and the 2007 inductees will be announced at the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.

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