

SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK



From left: Coaches of the Year Dick Sauers, (Albany State) Division III; Denny Lehnus, (Kankakee Community College) Junior College Division; Bill Jones, (Jacksonville State) Division II.

Thompson named Coach of the Year

LEXINGTON, KY — For the first time, the nation's college basketball coaches have selected their Coach of the Year and Award winner from the same university.

John Thompson, coach of the Georgetown University Hoyas, was named Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) at their annual meeting here. Earlier, the NABC named Patrick Ewing as winner of the 1985 Award as the best male basketball player in the nation.

Recipients of both awards are determined annually by a vote of the nation's college basketball coaches.

Three other coaches also were honored here today as the best in their respective divisions.

Also named Coach of the Year were: Bill Jones of Jacksonville (Alabama) State University in NCAA Division II; Richard Sauers of the State University of New York at Albany (Albany State), in Division III; and Denny Lehnus of Kankakee Community College of Illinois, in the Junior College Division.

In 13 seasons as head coach of Georgetown University, John Thompson has compiled an impressive 296-106 record, a .736 winning percentage.

But during the past four years, long to be remembered as the Patrick Ewing era, Thompson's teams have amassed 110 wins against only 22 losses, a winning percentage of .833.

Georgetown's 1985 Final Four presence marks the third time in four years the Hoyas have made the elite field. North Carolina prevailed in a dramatic 1982 championship game, but Georgetown won last year's title with a 84-75 victory over Houston.

The Hoyas compiled a 34-2 record this year heading into the Final Four, despite the pressures of being defending national champs. Thompson has guided Georgetown to the NCAA tournament nine times, and 1985

marks the team's seventh consecutive appearance. The former Providence College standout and Boston Celtic has led his teams to 11 consecutive postseason tournaments.

Thompson earned another honor from the coaches: he assumed the post of NABC president at the group's annual banquet.

BILL JONES

Bill Jones proves that you can go home again. A 1966 graduate of Jacksonville (Alabama) State University, where he averaged more than 18 points a game over two seasons, he returned to his alma mater in 1974 as head coach.

This season Jacksonville State posted a 31-1 record and won the NCAA Division II championship. The sole blemish on the Gamecocks' record was a season opening loss to Belmont Abbey. Their subsequent 31-game winning streak is college basketball's longest at present.

On their way to the title, the Gamecocks posted a 16-0 Gulf South Conference record, the first time that feat has been accomplished. They went on to win the GSC Tournament, the South Region Tournament and the Division II quarterfinals by one point with a buzzer-beating 30-foot jump shot.

Jacksonville State nipped South Dakota State 74-73 to win the NCAA Division II Championship.

In 11 seasons at Jacksonville State, Jones has taken his teams to the NCAA playoffs eight times while posting a 213-92 record. Prior to returning to JSU, he coached two seasons at the University of South Alabama, turning in a 28-17 record.

DICK SAUERS

Dick Sauers took over the reins as head coach at Albany State in 1955, following the worst season in the



John Thompson, NABC Coach of the Year.

school's history. In the 30 subsequent seasons, the Danes have never suffered a losing season.

This past year, as his team was compiling a 22-6 mark, Sauers became the 38th college coach to reach the 500-win plateau. He upped his career record to 501-223, the best of any active coach in Division III.

Sauers is seldom called by his first name; he has instead been known as "Doc" since earning a doctorate from Penn State University in 1961. The 54-year-old native of Pennsylvania earned his undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock State College.

Sauers is a member of the NCAA Basketball Rules Committee.

DENNY LEHNUS

Denny Lehnus has compiled a 305-59 winning record in his 11 seasons as head basketball coach at Kankakee Community College in the

Chicago suburb. His Cavaliers posted a 31-9 record this season in taking the Region IV Junior College Championship and a second-place finish in the national junior college championships in Hutchinson, Kansas, earlier this month. Kankakee lost to Dixie College 57-55 in the championship game.

This was the second time in the last three years the Lehnus has led his Cavaliers to the regional title — the last time was in 1983 — and the fourth time in the last six years that his team has been ranked nationally among the top ten junior colleges in the nation.

Lehnus is a graduate of Anderson (Indiana) College where he played varsity baseball for four years before starting his basketball coaching career. He coached at the high school level in Illinois before taking over the Kankakee job in 1974.

Racing fans' last weekend

The \$30,710 Futurity and the \$19,100 Derby — both for quarter horses — will be the richest events on the program during the final three days of the Portland Meadows 1985 meeting Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Nosey Devil which races for Claude and Pauline Copeland of Salem, Oregon, is the solid favorite to win the \$9,555 winner's share of the derby and stretch her meet win record to 7 wins in 8 starts. She was fastest among the 10 finalists, running 400 yards in 20.50 second — a length better than the second quickest, Go Bugs Lad.

The fastest qualifiers in the 350-yard futurity, scheduled Saturday, were Little Bit Dimmer, owned by Route 5 Racing Ranch of Walla Walla and Joyful Bailey, which races for Rita and Ray Doerksen of Camas. The winner will earn \$15,355 of the gross purse.

Friday, April 26, will be fan appreciation day with patrons admitted free

to any gate. The Saturday and Sunday programs will start at 1:30 p.m.

The championships remain to be decided during the final three days: the thoroughbred riding title and the quarter horse trainer title.

Jockey Doug Moore, with 62 wins through Friday, April 19, was only six behind Buford Mills Jr. for first place among thoroughbred riders. Moore, who is 27, will take time out from his race-tracking Monday, April 22, to marry Cathy White of Battleground.

Claude Copeland and Baxter Andrus stand at 14-12 respectively in their battle for No. 1 among quarter-horse trainers. Copeland could clinch it if his favorite Nosey Devil wins the Portland Meadows Derby, closing day.

The twin-trifecta — which is Portland Meadows' effort to give patrons a lottery-like bet — was expected to offer patrons a \$30,000 jackpot when the track opens for its final three days Friday.

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The "Mercure Galant," published in 1672, was the first general interest magazine. It was concerned principally with gossip.

The word "galaxy" is from the Greek word "gala" meaning milk, so-called because of the Milky Way which resembles a trail of milk across the sky.

Legend has it that Queen Elizabeth I of England gambled with loaded dice.

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