

Rushdan is among 6 inductees to Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame

Kevin Tresolini

Delaware News Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK

The first five-time All-State selection heads the 2021 inductees to the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame.

St. Elizabeth High graduate Khadijah Rushdan, who also starred at Rutgers, is joined by former Ursuline Academy and University of Delaware standout Karen Conlin; Wilmington High's Erik Edwards, who excelled collegiately at Xavier; Sussex Tech and Temple University standout Brian Polk; former Seaford coach Dave Baker; and long-time Wilmington educator and youth sports leader Maurice Pritchett, who starred in basketball at Howard and Delaware State.

They comprise the 15th class of the Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame, which was founded in 2007 by the Delaware Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association. Their addition increases the number of inductees to 68 players and 31 coaches, officials and friends of the sport.

The annual awards luncheon, normally held in January, has been delayed until the public-health situation improves.

The 2021 inductees:

Dave Baker – Baker guided Seaford to a 219-108 record, with three Henlopen Conference championships and state tournament runner-up finishes to Sanford in 1986 and Newark in 1990. The Blue Jays had a 26-game home-court win streak. Baker was state coach of year in 1986 and three-time Henlopen Conference coach of year. He graduated from pre-consolidation Selbyville High, starring in football, basketball and baseball, and then played basketball at Wesley Junior College and Western Maryland.

HALL CALLS



Maurice Pritchett

DAASHOF 2005 Inductee

Karen Conlin – The 5-foot-7 guard helped spark Ursuline to the 1974 state title, getting 18 points in a 54-23 title-game win over William Penn. She then starred at the University of Delaware, where she was co-captain her junior and senior years and set school records with 12 assists in one game and with a 4.9 season assist average. She scored 10.9 points per game in her career. Conlin was Delaware's No. 2 all-time scorer with 716 points when she graduated.

Erik Edwards – Edwards sparked Wilmington to the state championship as a sophomore in 1988, when he was third-team All-State, and to semifinal appearances the next two seasons,

See HALL, Page 2B



Maurice Pritchett

DAASHOF 2005 Inductee

Hall

Continued from Page 1B

when he was state Player of the Year as a junior and co-Player of the Year with Newark's Devon Chambers as a senior. The 6-8 Edwards scored 2,241 career points, second at the time to Dexter Boney's 2,318 all-time in Delaware, grabbed 1,200 rebounds and blocked 77 shots. He then played in 89 games over four seasons at Xavier, including four NCAA Tournament appearances and three conference championships.

Brian Polk – The 2000 Sussex Tech graduate was state Player of the Year as a senior and also first-team All-State as a junior. Polk scored 2,057 career points, No. 4 all-time in Delaware when he graduated and first among downstate players. The 6-3 guard was an Atlantic 10 All-Rookie pick and Sixth Man of the year in 2002 at Temple, earned A-10 All-Tournament selection in 2003 and remains 10th among the Owls' all-time 3-point shooters with a 36.3 career percentage.

Maurice Pritchett – Pritchett was an all-city selection at Howard in 1961 and then led Delaware State in rebounding and was team captain. After returning to Wilmington, he played for Peoples Settlement in the Metropolitan League. Pritchett was principal at Bancroft Mid-

dle School in Wilmington for 30 years, facilitating after-school youth recreational programs. He also operated a youth basketball league that included cultural trips and other enrichment opportunities, primarily for Wilmington East Side children, and coached the girls team for the Wilmington Athletic Association founded by Major Hairston.

Khadijah Rushdan – The 5-9 Rushdan was first-team All-State as an eighth-grader and repeated that distinction four more times. Her career culminated in 2007 when, as a senior, she sparked St. Elizabeth to the state championship over Ursuline and Elena Delle Donne, then a junior. Rushdan was a Parade All-American in 2007. She was a three-time state Player of the Year and scored a state record 2,464 points, later surpassed by Delle Donne. Rushdan was on the U.S. under-18 team that won the 2006 FIBA Americas gold medal. She then played in a school record 135 career games at Rutgers, where she was first-team All-Big East as a senior, scored 1,288 career points and is one of only two Scarlet Knights to surpass 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 400 assists in her career. Rushdan then spent a season in the WNBA before playing professionally in Israel.

Have an idea for a local sports story or is there an issue that needs public scrutiny? Contact Kevin Tresolini at ktresolini@delawareonline.com.