



IN MEMORY

**HOOP HISTORIAN
JOHN M. McCANN
1924 – 2021**



Hoop Historian John McCann passed away this month at the age of 96. McCann was a member of the Hoop Historians since 2012. John is the father of Hoop Historians Kevin and John P. McCann. A World War II Navy veteran, John McCann graduated from DePaul University in 1950 and returned to the school as its Sports Information Director, a position he held from 1958 to 1973. For his service to his alma mater, he was recognized with the school's prestigious Dr. Robert Hamilton Hall of Fame Award in 2004. In addition to his passion for the promotion of college athletics, John taught and was an administrator in the Chicago Public Schools for many years. John attended 16 Final Fours, with his first coming in 1962.



WEST COAST TRIP REUNITES HOOP HISTORIANS

Taking Horace Greeley's advice of "Go West, Young Man", several Hoop Historians got to make their first visits with one another in over two years, since the 2020 Final Four was cancelled and the 2021 event had limited attendance. Hoop Historians **Al Sack** and **Joe Spagnolo** went up and down the coast of California to meet with several Hoop Historians and Friends of the Hoop Historians as they visited seven different cities in a whirlwind week-long tour, which included baseball games in Anaheim and Oakland. Among the Hoop Historians who were visited included **Hersh Cherson**, **Doug Erickson**, **Pat Irvine**, **Dorothy Kim**, **John Mayberry**, **Steve Traktman**, **Frank Wilson** along with a plethora of Friends of the Hoop Historians. The resounding theme was that everyone is looking forward to the 2022 Final Four site of New Orleans to meet up with other Hoop Historians across the country. Another similar get together in Chicago is being planned for September, so that those Hoop Historians can interface and get ready for their next outing in late March and early April at the Final Four.

CONGRATS TO HOOP HISTORIAN ROSE TATE



Hoop Historian Honorary Member **Rose Tate** retired this past month with the National Association of Basketball Coaches office.

Rose was the Director of Membership Services for the NABC. Tate joined the NABC staff in 2010. Congratulations Rose!

HOOP HISTORIANS REFLECT ON BUCKS NBA TITLE



After waiting 50 years for another shot at an NBA title, a pair of Hoop Historians got the chance to celebrate their hometown championship by watching the decisive Game Six in person in Milwaukee. **Dave DeGrace** had a standing room ticket behind the stat table at the top of the lower bowl behind the Bucks bench. Dave, who was also at the 1974 Finals when the Bucks lost to Boston, was a 13-year-old who cried inside the arena after that loss. **Rick Schabowski** wanted to see history rewrite itself again, as he previously published his book on the Bucks 1971 championship. Rick was recently interviewed on that title run from fifty years ago by Fox 6 Sports: <https://www.fox6now.com/sports/author-recalls-1971-bucks-championship>. Can another book be in the making?



GO BUCKS: Dave DeGrace (left) and Rick Schabowski celebrate the new NBA champions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JOIN US AT OUR NEXT
HOOP HISTORIANS ZOOM
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1
7pm Eastern / 4pm Pacific**



HOOP HISTORIANS PHOTO GALLERY

Send your pictures to:
hoophistorians@hotmail.com



IT'S GREAT TO BE A BRUIN: Joe Spagnolo (left) and Al Sack (right) visit with Honorary Hoop Historian Doug Erickson at UCLA



FEAR THE DEER: Rick Schabowski and Bango take time to pose for the camera. Rick is on the left



BERKELEY BOUND: John Mayberry, Pat Irvine, Pat's sister Joan and Al Sack took in a couple of dinners in the Bay area

Visit the Hoop Historians website at:
www.hoophistorians.com



SMILING IN THE SUNSHINE: Hoop Historians (left to right) Hersh Cherson, Al Sack, Joe Spagnolo and Steve Traktman in southern California



GRAND THEFT: Can you believe that the Athletics mascot, Stomper, stole Coach Mayberry's Louisville Slugger cane?



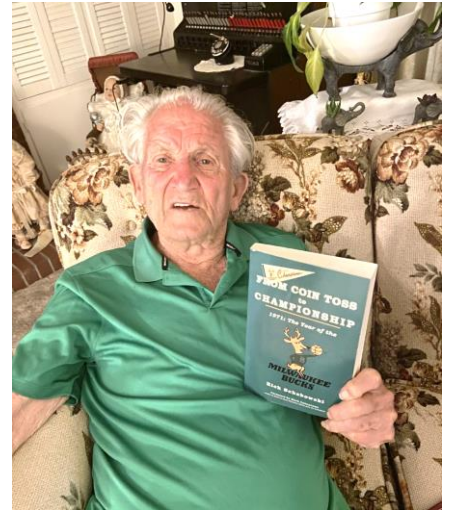
ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Al and Joe made one final trip to see Frank & Cath Wilson in Petaluma, California before ending their full-week excursion



THE SCOREBOARD SAYS IT ALL: Kudos to the graphic arts department of the Milwaukee Bucks



HO, HO, HO: You never know who you will meet in July at Angel Stadium



BOOKWORM: Coach Mayberry has his copy of *From Coin Toss to Championship* handy while watching Game Six. He even dressed in Milwaukee green

GET READY TO RETURN TO THE BIG EASY



APRIL 2 & 4, 2022

FUTURE FINAL FOUR SITES
2023 – Houston, Texas
2024 – Phoenix, Arizona
2025 – San Antonio, Texas
2026 – Indianapolis, Indiana