



LEGENDS of BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL RETIRED PLAYERS ASSOCIATION



George Tinsley, the most celebrated student-athlete in Kentucky Wesleyan College history, was inducted into the second class of the Alumni Hall of Fame on April 30.

Tinsley has beaten the odds to become a star college basketball player and a business success. Kentucky Wesleyan earned national attention when, as a freshman, Tinsley led the Panthers to the 1966 NCAA Division II National Championship, and over the next three years, the Panthers won two more national titles (1968 and 1969) with Tinsley named All-American his junior and senior seasons. He holds the Div. II record for most NCAA career tournament games started (19).

Tinsley graduated on the Dean's List and became the first African-American student to receive the prestigious Oak and Ivy Award, as well as the title - "King of the Campus" - for his academic achievements as well as his student leadership. The NBA's Chicago Bulls and the Oakland Oaks of the old American Basketball Association then drafted Tinsley, and he played professionally with the Oaks, the Washington Capitals, the Miami Floridians, the Kentucky Colonels and the New York Nets.

After his basketball career ended, Tinsley transitioned to the education arena. Utilizing his leadership skills, he served as a high school teacher and basketball coach at Louisville Male High School for several years, before joining the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center as an events coordinator. In 1976 he began a successful eight-year career with Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation.

Tinsley purchased and developed his first Kentucky Fried Chicken in 1984. The following year he developed another and over the next eight years he purchased four KFC's and building another. He later sold six stores that were not profitable, to focus on diversifying. Tinsley would go on to add the title of President and Owner of several successful enterprises to his vita - Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants DBA PenGeo Incorporated (named after his two children), Tinsley LLG, SerGeo Inc., TGIFriday's DBA The Tinsley Group, 35 Miami based restaurants DBA Tinsley Family Concessions and Home Team Sports Bar and Grill DBA Summers Penebaker LLC.

Over the years, Tinsley also developed a reputation for serving in leadership positions that promote and encourage education and Entrepreneurship. He served as founder and President of KFC Minority Franchise Association, in addition to serving on more than eight boards, several committees, councils and foundations. He also serves as NAACP Lifetime Member. In 1999 he was the recipient of the Minority Entrepreneur of the year in the state of Florida, and in 1989 he received the distinction of Premier Operator in the KFC System, the highest honor presented to a KFC franchisee. Recently Tinsley's TGIFriday's in Tampa received the top sales award in the nation for the sixth year in a row.

Tinsley has also received a number of awards and has been recognized as a community leader and advocate for minority businesses. He believes that community service is the cornerstone of good citizenship and that one should give more to the community in service than is received.

Tinsley is a former member of the KWC Board of Trustees.

The Hall of Fame was established to recognize alumni who have achieved the following: distinction - the outstanding contribution(s) and/or distinctive achievement(s) an alumnus/a has earned or been awarded; recognition - the favorable notoriety Kentucky Wesleyan has gained from a person's career and achievements; and impact - the influence a person's work or contribution has made upon society or others.