

Brown To Speak At OVAC Banquet

Hubie Brown, twice named NBA coach of the year while with the Atlanta Hawks and currently a pro basketball commentator, will be the featured speaker at the 39th OVAC Spring Dinner and Awards Night, set for Thursday, May 13, at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium.

Student-athletes and OVAC championship teams will be honored at the banquet and the News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year Award will be presented.

The 48-year-old Brown, who may be the next coach of either the Chicago Bulls or New York Knicks, is recognized as one of the top speakers on the banquet circuit and therefore is in constant demand. OVAC officials were finally able to schedule him after three years of trying.

Brown was named NBA coach of the year in 1978 and again in 1979 after the Hawks extending the defending NBA champion Washington Bullets to seven games in the second round of the playoffs. In four seasons under Brown, the Hawks increased their win total from 31 to 41 to 46 to 50, winning the Central Division championship in 1980 and qualifying for the NBA playoffs three straight years.

Brown coached the Kentucky Colonels of the now-defunct ABA in 1975 and the club responded by winning its only league championship. He became coach of the Hawks the following season after the two leagues merged and the Colonels folded.



Hubie Brown

Brown also spent three years as an assistant with the Milwaukee Bucks under Larry Costello. Prior to that, he was an assistant at Duke University and a top high school coach in New York and New Jersey.

During his early years of coaching, Brown established himself as one of the best basketball clinicians in the country, working over 50 camps per summer along the East Coast. Through the years, he has spoken at

hundreds of clinics throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.

In addition to his job as a pro basketball commentator, Brown is the host of the "Scholastic Sports Academy" show on the USA Network.

Tickets for the OVAC banquet are priced at \$11 each and will be on sale at Bernhardt's in Wheeling, Zide's Sport Shop in the Ohio Valley Mall and the Target Shop in Steubenville. Tickets may also be purchased through all OVAC school athletic directors.

Attractions At OVAC Dinner

With two of basketball's most celebrated firebrands, Hubie Brown and Joe Retton, as special attractions, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference presents its thirty-ninth annual spring dinner and awards night on Thursday at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium.

Brown, former coach of the old ABA Kentucky Colonels and the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, will bring his New Yorkese version of the English language to the microphone to deliver the principal speech of the evening and, if the USA Network's color commenorator is up to his usual form, he'll have the crowd astir. Brown has a gift for this sort of thing.

Retton, just retired as head basketball coach at Fairmont State College after dominating the West Virginia Conference for nearly two decades with his Fighting Falcon teams and compiling a remarkable record of 487 victories against 95 losses, will receive a special award. Retton's teams won 12 conference championships and his 1968 aggregation reached the NAIA finals at Kansas City.

The 7 p.m. dinner will also feature presentation of conference championship trophies, scholarships, and other awards.

John Sorrenti, veteran radio sportscaster, will be master of ceremonies for the evening and will be introduced by Vince Paoletti, John Marshall High principal who is conference president.

Among the scholarships to be presented are those from Picoma Industries, Wheeling National Bank, Moundsville Peps-Cola, the Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association, the the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Umpires. All will go to outstanding scholar-athletes.

Tony Sperandeo, representing Josten's Corp., will present the Calvin J. Giffin Memorial Award for service to track and field and John DeLoretto, representing the Wheeling Central Booster Club, will present the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award, which will go to Toronto High's Larry Isleman as the outstanding wrestler

in the giant OVAC tournament.

Winner of the News-Register Award to the OVAC "coach of the year" will be revealed during the evening.

Rick DeLuca, donor of the OVAC basketball champion awards, will present them to titlists Wintersville (4-A), Wheeling Central (3-A), Buckeye Trail (2-A), and Sistersville (1-A, with Coaches Melvin Coleman, George "Skip" Prosser, Terry Leggett, and Randy Shuman accepting in behalf of their squads.

Imperial Potentate Nick Morris will present the trophies donated by Osiris Shrine to the OVAC Ohio-side girls' basketball champions. They will go to triple-A Steubenville Central, coached by Tillie Ulasiewicz; double-A Bridgeport, piloted by Bob Wilson; and single-A Beallsville, with Mitch Miracle at the helm.

Basketball sportsmanship awards will be awarded by John Howell in behalf of the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials.

Dr. Donald Hofreuter, president of the OVAC Foundation Board, will present pennants, donated by the board, to West Virginia volleyball champions—Paden City, 1-A, coached by Debra Berkey, and Weirton, 2-1, coached by Dee Bailey. He will also make the presentations in boys' track to 4-A Wheeling Park, coached by Dick Dei; 3-A Martins Ferry, coached by Gordon Downie; 2-A Shadyside, coached by Ken Stinard; and Class A Bellaire St. John's, with Mike Doyle at the helm.

The girls' track awards will go to John Marshall, Class AAAA, coached by John Snively; Wellsville, Class AAA, coached by Greg Davis; and Barnesville, Class AA-Class A, coached by Agnes Timmons. Dual meet wrestling awards will go to Cambridge, Class AAAA, coached by Jeff Carroll; Toronto, Class AAA, coached by Dave DeFelice; Class AA, Cadiz, coached by John Stephenson; and Class A, Beallsville, coached by Mark Ring.

In boys' tennis, award winners are Brooke, 4-A and 3-A, coached by Nolan VanGilder, and Linsly, 2-A and 1-A, guided by Bob Reeves.

Several other awards will be presented during the evening which, with Brown and Retton as distinguished guests, promises to be an

entertaining one.

Those who have not yet acquired their tickets should pick them up at Zide's Sport Shop at the Ohio Valley Mall or contact Sam Mumley Sr. in St. Clairsville (695-0372) or Rudy Mumley in Warwood (277-2683).



AMONG THE principals at the 17th annual OVAC Spring Awards ceremony Tuesday night at Oglebay Park's Massener Auditorium were, from left, guest speaker Hubie Brown, former Atlanta Hawks' coach who is being considered for a

similar post with the New York Knicks; OVAC executive secretary Sam A. Mumley Sr. of St. Clairsville; veteran OVAC official Rudolph Mumley of Warwood who gave the invocation and

benediction; and recently-retired Fairmont State College basketball coach Joe Retton who received a special award from the conference.

BOYD NELSON PHOTO



Hubie Brown, at right, reportedly the No. 1 candidate for the New York Knicks' coaching job and the principal speaker at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference dinner meeting Thursday night at Oglebay's Glesner Auditorium, discusses the sport with

Joe Retton, at the left, retiring Fairmont State College coach who received a special award from the conference for his outstanding achievements during his career.

(News-Register Photo—Jim Cochran)