

# Honorees are Hall bound

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**WEST COLUMBIA** — Another class of Columbia High School's past athletic standouts will be inducted into the Hall of Honor on Friday.

State champions, all-state performers and state finalists are among the 2013 inductees, which include the 1953 Charlie Brown Tigers football team; Clark Woodson III; Kelly Hay; Shaun Igo; and Jared Wells.

The inductees will be welcomed for a reception from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday at the Columbia Heritage Foundation, which is in the former West Columbia Junior High. Later that evening, they will be inducted to the Hall of Honor during halftime of the La Marque-Columbia football contest at Griggs Field.

During the 1953 Prairie View Interscholastic League football season the Charlie Brown Tigers from West Columbia roared all the way to the Class 1A championship contest against Livingston Dunbar. Though not much information was found on that season for the Tigers, including the final score of the title game, there was some hint that the game was played in West Columbia at the old Griggs Field, and Dunbar won.

**WOODSON:** In 1985, Woodson went 44-0 as a senior and won the Class 4A tennis state championship. He was the fourth state champion under the late Charlie Brand, who had five in his 29 years of coaching tennis at Columbia. Brand was inducted in the first Hall of Honor class in 2007.

“To me it is just a great honor to be mentioned with some of the best athletes from Columbia High School,” Woodson said. “To come through this high school with other greats like Van Manning and Joe Langner is quite an honor.”

Woodson made the state tournament in his junior year, going 39-2 in singles, but lost in the semifinals. Woodson reached the region semifinals as a sophomore, losing to eventual state champ James Kuykendall from Katy High School.

“I put my time in to be the very best that I could be,” he said. “With the mentoring from Joe and Van, I worked hard for it. And that was something Charlie always told us, that if we work hard we can get there. There weren't too many days when

Charlie would drive by the tennis courts and see me or my brother (Clint) out there from morning to night.”

Woodson went on to play at Southwest Texas State on a scholarship and was the Newcomer of the Year as a freshman for the Bobcats. After earning a degree in 1991 at Southwest, he went on to earn a law degree and is a practicing attorney in Angleton.

“I was really proud of going 44-0, but I was also proud of putting another trip in the pocket of coach Brand,” Woodson said. “I was glad to be one of those guys that had him going to Austin.”

IGO: In two seasons as a Roughneck, the 6-foot-10 Igo accomplished quite a bit on the basketball court. He was Class 4A All-State for 1991 and '92; district most valuable player both years; and County Player of the Year in the 1991 season.

Igo came from Richardson, where he attended Berkner High School. Once back in West Columbia, he led the district in scoring and rebounding his junior season, and was second in rebounds and third as a senior.

“This honor really speaks of how well the other four guys on the floor made me look,” Igo said. “I got credit for scoring and rebounding, but they set me up and I couldn’t have done it without them. One of them was my point guard, Chris Lewis.”

During Igo’s time with the Roughnecks, they returned to the playoffs after quite a few years of not being there.

“The fact that we returned to the playoffs after about 15 years of not being there it really generated a lot of energy within the school,” he said. “And for us to make it back to back playoff appearances was great. You know I played basketball for fun but I really wanted to be a baseball player. I had a good glove but I did not work on my hitting.”

Igo earned a basketball scholarship to Rice University, where he was named all-Southwest Conference in 1995-96 and all-Western Athletic Conference 1996-97. He was an NBA journeyman, playing with the San Antonio Spurs, Vancouver Grizzlies, Dallas Mavericks, Sacramento Kings and Phoenix Suns. He finished his playing career overseas, where he was part of a team that finished first in the Liga Belgium.

Married with a family, Igo is the manager of the 24 Hour Fitness in Rice Village in Houston.

HAY: She was the fifth and final state champion under Brand, winning the Class 4A singles title in 1991.

In her four seasons as a Lady Neck, Hay made the state tournament in Austin three times. She lost in the first round as a freshman and sophomore years and lost in the region semifinals of her junior season.

After high school, Hay attended Odessa Junior College, where she was a two-time All American, then transferred to the University of Arkansas. After one season in the SEC, she transferred to Texas Tech, where she was No. 1 in doubles and No. 2 in singles.

Hay worked as a tennis pro for country clubs in Lubbock and Friendswood then got into ministry work, business management and criminal justice. Currently, she is in the Perkins School of Theology at SMU pursuing a divinity degree.

WELLS: Since graduating in 2000, Wells has certainly done a lot with the game of baseball.

“This is pretty cool and totally unexpected,” Wells said of the honor. “I’ve been out of school 13 years, and it means a lot to go back to your high school and live back at home and work with a bunch of kids from this area. Sometimes they don’t believe that you accomplished something, but now they can read about it.”

Wells was a football star with the Roughnecks as a quarterback and free safety. Wells was a three-year letterman in football and baseball and was All-State honorable mention in football as a senior at the safety position.

In baseball, he played mostly outfield and pitched every once in a while. After high school, Wells received a football scholarship to East Texas Baptist University, but in his freshman year, tore up his knee.

He transferred to Tyler Junior College, where he picked up a baseball and was drafted by the San Diego Padres. But he headed to San Jacinto Junior College, where he played another year of college baseball. Right before his rights were up with San Diego, he signed with them.

Wells has proceeded to play with the Seattle Mariners, was signed as a free agent by the Houston Astros and Colorado Rockies, and this past season pitched for the Sugar Land Skeeters.

“I want to go to winter ball in December and see if I can sign on with some other organization for next year,” Wells said. “If not, then I’d come back with the Skeeters.”

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