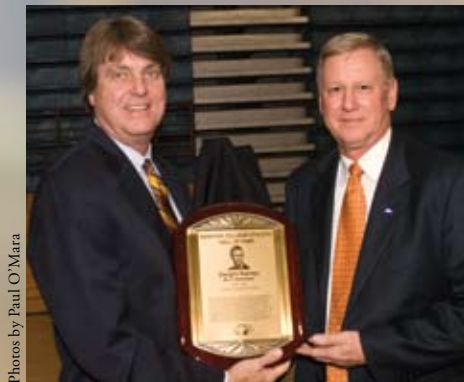


# Eight Hawks named to Athletic Hall of Fame



Emcee Bob Berry presents a Hall of Fame plaque to Dwight Rainey (right).



Vaughan Robbins (left) accepts his Hall of Fame plaque from Pete Summers ('75).



Rick Smith is shown his Hall of Fame plaque by Betty Zane Morris ('55).



Emcee Bob Berry presents Hall of Fame plaque to Hamp Alexander (right).

As part of the 2008 Homecoming festivities, Shorter inducted the second class into its Athletic Hall of Fame. Inductees were Hamp Alexander (baseball and men's basketball coach), Richard Cowan (distinguished service), Malin Edsand (women's tennis), the late Joe Hackett (baseball), Tramaine Paul (women's basketball), Dwight Rainey (men's basketball), Vaughn Robbins (baseball), and Rick Smith (tennis).

The ceremony also marked the unveiling of a new permanent Hall of Fame display in the college's Winthrop-King Centre. The display, located along the walking track, includes all former Hawks athletes and coaches who have been inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

"We are excited to honor the 2008 inductees and to present a new, first-class display that is worthy of their outstanding achievements," said Shorter College Athletic Director Bill Peterson. "This is something the whole Rome and Northwest Georgia community should be proud of and is a testament to the direction we are headed at Shorter."

Representing the 1960s in the Hall is **Dwight Rainey ('67)**, a member of the 1965 conference champion basketball team who led the Hawks in free throw percentage with a career 86% average. In 1966-67, Rainey also led the team in field goal percentage and in 1967 for points per game. After leaving Shorter, Rainey spent 13 years coaching at Clemson and 32 years with its athletic department, during which, Clemson won four national titles.

From 1971-75, Shorter had two remarkable athletes in **Vaughn Robbins ('75)** (baseball) and **Rick Smith ('75)** (men's tennis). Robbins led the Hawks in hitting all four years posting a .385 batting average, 40 HRs, 138 RBIs and a 20-9 pitching record. The 1975 NAIA All-American was a four-time All-Conference pick and a member of three consecutive GIAC Conference championship teams before signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1975.

On the tennis court, Smith was a member of the first two men's conference championship teams, and the first District 25 champions with a perfect 12-0 conference record. He was three-time All-Conference, All-District and a 1975 NAIA All-American second team selection. The 1973 team MVP and three-year captain for the Hawks, Smith was voted as an Outstanding College Athlete of America in 1973 and won numerous individual tennis awards for best singles and doubles player in his career.

For 16 years during the 70s and 80s, **Hamp Alexander** served as the head men's basketball and baseball coach. In baseball, Alexander posted 497 wins, six conference championships and four District 25 championships. In basketball, Alexander led the Hawks to two conference titles. Alexander coached numerous All-Conference baseball

and basketball players including seven NAIA All-Americans. Notably, thirteen of his players signed professional contracts. Alexander was voted Coach of the Year a remarkable six times in baseball and twice in basketball.

Under Coach Alexander, inductee **Joe Hackett ('81)** set six NAIA records his junior year, one of which, 297 strikeouts, remains an unbroken NAIA record. His other records included 21 starts, 28 appearances, 177.2 innings pitched, 15 complete games and 20 wins. The three-year captain, Hackett was selected as a 1981 NAIA First Team All American and led the Hawks in back-to-back District 25 titles in 1980 and 1981. The Joe Hackett Award is given each year for the baseball MVP, and his #16 jersey is retired.

In the late 1990s, tennis stand-out **Malin Edsand ('00)** won the most matches for a freshman, posting a 28-2 record at #1 singles in 1997. A three-time NAIA All-American, Edsand led the Lady Hawks to a Georgia Alabama Carolina conference title and was selected as the GAC Conference Player of the Year in 1977. Only the second women's player to win over 100 matches in her career, Edsand was a four-time GAC All-Conference selection.

**Tramaine Paul ('02)** was a three-time women's basketball All-American and a four-time Georgia Alabama Carolina All-Conference selection. In 2002, Paul was named the GACC Women's Basketball Player of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year. Earning the most votes for the 2002 Kodak All-American team, Paul played with the WBCA All Stars at the NCAA Final Four. Paul led the Lady Hawks to Shorter's first NAIA National Tournament appearance in 2002, led the NAIA in scoring with a 25.4 points per game average, and holds the record for career scoring with 2,450 points, 926 field goals, 587 free throws and 888 total rebounds. Paul's #44 jersey was retired in 2002.

Recognized for his distinguished service to Shorter College is **Richard Cowan ('64)**. Cowan graduated magna cum laude and first in the Shorter Class of 1964. In 1969, Cowan returned to Shorter after earning his Ph.D., and has assisted in numerous capacities at Shorter, serving the athletic department as Faculty Athletic Representative, and as a member of the conference eligibility committee for over 30 years. Nationally respected, Cowan has been an invaluable resource to the NAIA on eligibility issues and has served as Eligibility Chair for the Hawks' and Lady Hawks' conference from 1986 to present. Cowan served as athletic director from 1979-1992, and was voted Athletic Director of the Year in 1992 while being honored the same year as the college's Teacher of the Year.



Pete and Barbara Hackett, parents of the late Joe Hackett, are presented with his plaque.



Malin Edsand receives her Hall of Fame plaque from emcee Bob Berry.



Tramaine Paul accepts her Hall of Fame plaque from emcee Bob Berry.



Richard Creelius ('77) presents Richard Cowan with his Hall of Fame plaque.