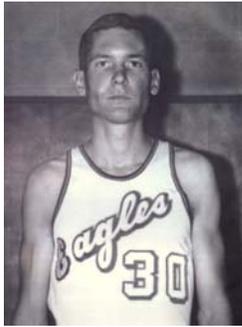


Ellis named to Bridgewater Hall of Fame



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(Photo: Bridgewater College/Submitted)

BRIDGEWATER — Jim Ellis spent six seasons coaching basketball at Stuarts Draft High School in the 1970s, culminating with his selection as The News Leader's All-City/County boys coach of the year in 1975.

But before he was starring on the sideline, he was starring on the court at Bridgewater College. And on Oct. 15 at 2:30 p.m., he'll be inducted into Bridgewater's Hall of Fame.

Ellis averaged a double-double during his three seasons with the Eagles, averaging 18.6 points and 11.2 rebounds per game. He also averaged 4.4 assists per game.

"I'm honored that they put me in the Hall of Fame," said Ellis, who will join three other inductees this year. In addition to the ceremony that afternoon, the inductees will be introduced at halftime of Bridgewater's football game against Shenandoah University Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.

In addition to coaching at Stuarts Draft High School, Ellis taught there for eight years. He also taught for 21 years at Stuarts Draft Middle School, two years at North River Junior High School and a year at Wilson Memorial High School. He still lives in Stuarts Draft.

Ellis is a member of the Bridgewater class of 1967. He averaged 21 points and 11.8 rebounds a game his senior season and was named to Virginia's All-State Small College first team. That year, Bridgewater set a program record with 18 wins, advancing to the championship game of the Mason-Dixon Tournament where the Eagles fell to Mount Saint Mary's.

He still holds program single-season records for free throws made (168) and attempted (214), both set during the 1966-67 season. He also recorded the program's first triple-double that season when he scored 23 points, pulled down 18 rebounds and dished out 10 assists in Bridgewater's game against Western Maryland.

At the time, his coach, Mel Myers, called Ellis "the best combined ball-handler, boardman and scorer the college has ever had."

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