

Five Earn Nod for ASU Athletics Hall of Fame

Written by Appalachian Sports Information
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Five former standout student-athletes have been selected for induction to the Appalachian State University Athletics Hall of Fame, ASU's Former Athletes Association announced on Monday.

The honorees include track-and-field all-American Robert Johnson (1994-96), men's basketball standout Allan Price (1966-69) and a trio of football stars: Larry Harbin (1961-64), Dwayne Pelham (1986-90) and Richie Williams (2002-05). Additionally, ASU gridiron great Tommy Sofield will receive ASU athletics' 2011 Special Service Award. All six honorees will be recognized at Appalachian athletics' Hall of Fame Induction Breakfast on Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center. A limited number of tickets are available at \$15 per person and reservations can be made by contacting Lynda Young at (828) 262-3108 or younglt@appstate.edu. The group will also be honored at halftime of that afternoon's Appalachian-North Carolina A&T gridiron clash at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

LARRY HARBIN (Football — 1961-64)

Three-position star ranks among ASU's all-time leaders in punting and interceptions ... two-time all-Carolinas Conference honoree (1963, 1964) ... remains ASU's all-time leader with 25 career interceptions (a record that has stood for 47 seasons) ... held ASU single-season record with eight interceptions for 45 years until broken in 2008 by three-time All-American Mark LeGree ... owns three of the top-eight single-season interception totals in school history (eight in 1963, seven in 1964, six in 1962) ... averaged 42.9 yards per punt as a senior in 1964, which was a school record at the time and still ranks seventh in ASU history ... 39.1-yard career punting average is good for 10th in ASU's all-time annals ... twice ranked among the nation's top 15 in punting (40.7 ypp in 1963, 42.9 ypp in 1964) ... also team's leading receiver as split end in 1963 (19 receptions for 387 yards) and 1964 (24 receptions for 363 yards) ... served as team captain as a senior ... named all-state by the Greensboro Daily News in 1964 ... selected by Detroit Lions in the eighth round (108th overall) of the 1965 NFL Draft ... named to ASU football's 75th-anniversary team in 2003.

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ROBERT JOHNSON (Men's Track and Field — 1994-96)

Earned all-America honors in both indoor and outdoor triple jump ... 1996 Southern Conference outdoor track and field Most Outstanding Athlete ... holds ASU's outdoor high jump record (7-1.25), ranks third in indoor triple jump (52-8.0) and fourth in outdoor triple jump (53-8.0) ... three-time Southern Conference individual champion (1995 indoor triple jump — 51-0.5, 1996 outdoor high jump — 7-1.25, and triple jump — 49-11.75) ... earned all-SoCon honors in the long jump, 200 meters and 4x100 meter relay at the 1996 SoCon Outdoor Championship ... three-time Southern Conference team champion (1995 indoor, 1995 and '96 outdoor) ... following his 1996 graduation, notched top-10 USA Outdoor Championships triple-jump finishes in 1998, '99 and '00, and competed in the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Trials ... served as an assistant coach at ASU from 1997-2003, coaching Mountaineers to 28 SoCon individual titles ... continued his career in coaching as an assistant coach for men's and women's jumpers and women's sprints and hurdles at the University of Oregon ... at UO, he has presided over 27 all-America awards, 13 conference titles and two NCAA titles ... 2009 and 2011 NCAA Women's Indoor Track and Field Assistant Coach of the Year.

DWAYNE PELHAM (Football — 1986-90)

Two-year all-conference performer at linebacker despite beginning his collegiate career as a running back ... rushed for 18 yards on four carriers over first two seasons before sophomore campaign (1987) was cut short due to ankle injury ... moved to defense as a redshirt sophomore

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in 1988 and started final two seasons at linebacker (1989, 1990) ... named second-team all-Southern Conference as a junior (1989) and first-team as a senior (1990) ... led ASU with 115 tackles as a junior ... 92 solo tackles in 1989 were second in school history at the time and still rank third in ASU's all-time annals ... eight forced fumbles in 1989 remain a single-season school record ... was a member of three SoCon-championship squads in five seasons ... served as a team captain as a senior ... fourth member of ASU's 1990 starting defense to be inducted into ASU Athletics Hall of Fame (joining Avery Hall, Johnny Jennings and Rico Mack) ... signed free-agent contracts with the NFL's Miami Dolphins and CFL's Edmonton Eskimos following completion of ASU career.

ALLAN PRICE (Men's Basketball — 1966-69)

Twice led the Mountaineers in both scoring and rebounding (15.0 points and 9.8 rebounds per game in 1967-68, 21.9 points and 13.0 rebounds per game in 1968-69) ... 591 points in 1968-69 were the second-most in program history at the time ... finished career as ASU's fifth all-time leading scorer with 1,422 points, including a 51.1 field-goal percentage ... last ASU player to average 13.0 rebounds in a season (1968-69) ... ranks third in program history with 10.3 rebounds per game ... two-time all-Carolinas Conference honoree ... led the Mountaineers in field-goal percentage three times and free-throw percentage once ... helped head coach Bob Light's squad compile 47 wins in three seasons, including the program's third-ever 20-win season in 1966-67.

RICHIE WILLIAMS (Football — 2002-05)

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Quarterbacked ASU to its first-ever NCAA Division I-AA national championship in 2005 ... is the first member of the national championship-era Mountaineers selected for induction to ASU Athletics Hall of Fame ... finished career as Southern Conference's all-time leader in total offense (9,370 yards — remains third in league's all-time annals) ... held 38 school records at the conclusion of his career, including single-game (413 yards), single-season (3,109 yards) and career (7,759 yards) passing, single-game (517 yards), single-season (3,745 yards) and career total offense (9,370 yards) and single-game (6), single-season (32) and career (81) touchdowns responsible for ... still holds 11 ASU records, including consecutive completions (28) and completion percentage (.889) in a game for his 40-for-45, 413-yard effort in the Mountaineers' 30-29 victory over No. 2 Furman in 2004 ... despite a severe ankle injury suffered in the previous week's national-semifinal win over Furman, came off the bench to throw for 129 second-half yards and lead ASU back from a 16-7 halftime deficit in the Apps' 21-16 triumph over Northern Iowa in the 2005 national championship game ... was 2005 SoCon Offensive Player of the Year ... finalist for 2004 and 2005 Walter Payton Awards (15th in 2004, sixth in 2005) ... 2005 first-team all-American (I-AA.org) ... played three seasons with the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2006-08) ... named CFL's Offensive Player of the Week after leading Hamilton to 45-21 rout over the Toronto Argonauts in 2008 ... spent 2009 season as an offensive quality-control assistant at ASU, helping the Mountaineers to an 11-3 record and appearance in the NCAA Division I Football Championship semifinals.

TOMMY SOFIELD (Special Service Award)

Lettered in football for the Mountaineers from 1973-75 ... graduated from ASU in 1976 ... active member of the Appalachian family for decades ... provided the lead gift for ASU's Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, which opened in 2007 ... served on athletics facilities enhancement campaign committee and currently sits on ASU's athletics feasibility study committee ... helped found the ASU Former Athletes Association ... a member of Yosef Club and ASU Chancellor's Society ... owner of Boone-based companies U.S. Buildings and U.S. Chemicals ... the Sofield family is an integral part of the High Country community with family members having served on numerous boards and commissions that have enhanced their local community.

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