

1944

MELVIN BAER, ROBERT ROBBINS, DAN DUCICH, CHOSEN PLAYERS OF YEAR

Three of the finest basketball players to perform in Southern California prep school circles in recent years are to be the recipients of Helms Athletic Foundation medal awards on Saturday morning, March 4th, at Silverwoods Athletic Hall of Fame. The players chosen for the awards -- Melvin Baer, of Pasadena Junior College; Robert Robbins, Long Beach Polytechnic High School; and Dan Ducich, of Los Angeles High School -- have been selected for Player of the Year honors for the 1944 prep school basketball season, in Junior College, C.I.F., and Los Angeles City High School divisions, by members of All Southern California Board of Basketball.

All Southern California Board of Basketball is composed of the following members: John Beckman, Los Angeles Daily News; Bill Clark, Los Angeles Examiner; Larry Coy, Los Angeles Herald-Express; John de la Vega, Los Angeles Times; Dick Saunders, Hollywood Citizen-News; Rube Samuelson, Pasadena Star-News; Eddie West, Santa Ana Register; and Bob Hall, Long Beach Press-Telegram. Helms Athletic Foundation serves as the cooperative organization for the Board.

MELVIN BAER, Pasadena Junior College. Baer was the sparkplug of the championship Junior College quintet from Pasadena. He was a brilliant all-around performer, excelling on defense as well as offense. Baer is one of the most outstanding junior college players developed in Southern California in many years, and might well be named on an All-Southern California all-time team.

Baer participated in 24 games this year, scoring a total of 487 points. He stands 6 feet, 3 inches in height, weighs 180 pounds, and is a second-year man in Junior College. He was chosen on the All-Southern California Junior College team last year.

ROBERT ROBBINS, Long Beach High School. Robbins was chosen for Player of the Year honors not only because he was a splendid all-around competitor, but because he possessed the qualities of leadership. He was the captain of the successful Long Beach High School team, which went to the finals of the Beverly Hills High School tournament, which was held at the close of the 1944 season. Robbins was chosen on the All-Tournament Team, because of his outstanding play.

Robert Robbins competed in 13 regular-season contests. In addition to his sterling work as a guard, Bob was a splendid shot. He tallied a total of 130 points during the season, exclusive of the Beverly Hills tourney. Robbins stands 6 feet, 3 inches in height, and weighs 165. He is a Senior.

DAN DUCICH, Los Angeles High School. Many Los Angeles City High School coaches say that Dan Ducich is one of the greatest players ever to perform in the prep school ranks of this district. There is no doubt about it, Ducich was a sensation during the past year. In 12 Western League encounters, Los Angeles High School's 'fancy-Dan' accounted for a total of 257 points -- and average of better than 21 points per game! Ducich was not only an expert shot, but he was a standout on defense. He stood 6 foot, 3 inches in height, and weighed 198. He is a Senior.

Dan's coach, Horace Bresee, contends that he is the greatest prep school basketball player he has ever seen -- and Bresee has seen a lot of them over a lengthy period.

MELVIN BAER, ROBERT ROBBINS AND DAN DUCICH will have their names added to the Paul H. Helms Player of the Year Trophy, and will have their names posted in the Silverwoods Athletic Hall of Fame, on the Hall of Fame plaques. The following players, in years past, have been chosen for honors:

YEAR	JUNIOR COLLEGE	C.I.F. HIGH SCHOOL	LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL
1938	VIC TOWNSEND, Compton	STUART LEWIS, Whittier	JOHN MANDIC, Roosevelt
1939	TOM KESSEY, Fullerton	BOB HOWARD, Long Beach	RICHARD LINDSLEY, N. Rock
1940	FRANCIS GARLAND, Los Ang.	ED GILLEAN, Long Beach	DICK FREY, Banning
1941	HENRY FOHRING, Los Ang.	HORACE BRIGHTMAN, Wilson	GIL TURNBULL, Hamilton
1942	BOB HOWARD, Long Beach	IRVIN NOREN, Pasadena	DERINGTON & RETRELL, Banning
1943	IRVIN NOREN, Pasadena	ALAN GRIMLEY, Glendale	VIC LARSON, Washington
		BOB HOBBS, Orange	

From: Helms Athletic Foundation RELEASE DATE: THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 2ND
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 3RD

ALL-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA C.I.F. TEAM

POS.	PLAYER	TEAM	HEIGHT WEIGHT		YEAR IN		POINTS SCORED
					SCHOOL	GAMES	
F	AARON ATTRIDGE	Newport Harbor	5' 9	155	Sr.	16	218
F	MARTY ACOSTA	Redondo	5'10	160	Sr.	14	187
G	BILL LEWIS	Burbank	6' 2	165	Sr.	12	115
G	ROBERT ROBBINS	Long Beach	6' 3	165	Sr.	13	130
G	BOB PETERMAN	Glendale	6' 1	164	Sr.	12	61

Comments: Attridge averaged 16 points in Sunset League games, and was chosen All-Huntington Beach Tournament forward. He was the star of the team which won the So. Counties Tournament, and which won 15 games and lost 1 during year.

Acosta was the brilliant all-around forward who sparked the Redondo team which won 12 of 14 games played during the season. He averaged better than 13 points per game, excelling in all departments of play.

Lewis was a splendid shot, good tip-in man, fast, and set up plays for his Burbank team. He was the intelligent type of player, constantly out-smarting opposing players.

Robbins was an outstanding defensive player, and fine shot. He was the captain of his Long Beach team, and was an inspirational leader. The Long Beach quintet, of which he was the brightest star, was one of the strongest in Southern California.

Peterman was an exceptional defensive player, good shot, unselfish 'feeder' to other Glendale players, strong on rebounds, and alert. He was the key man in the Glendale team which was undefeated in 12 games.

The All-C.I.F. quintet was not a heavy one, none of the men weighing more than 165. The forwards were under six foot in height, but the guard and center topped the six-foot mark. Bob Robbins, of Long Beach, was the tallest man on the squad, standing 6 foot, 3 inches. All were Seniors.

*** SECOND TEAM

POS.	PLAYER	TEAM	HEIGHT WEIGHT		YEAR IN		POINTS SCORED
					SCHOOL	GAMES	
F	HERBERT SEMMELMEYER	Beverly Hills	6' 5	170	Sr.	12	126
F	HAL ABBOTT	Pasadena	5' 8	134	Sr.	11	121
G	JACK BURZELL	South Pasadena	6' 3	170	Sr.	8	99
G	EDWIN SNIDER	Compton	6' 0	170	Sr.	16	158
G	SALVADOR GUMINA	San Diego	5'11	165	Sr.	12	96

Comment: Semmelmeyer, Beverly Hills center, was moved to forward. He was an excellent tip-in man, and controlled the backboard. He stood 6' 5.

Abbott, Pasadena forward, was small but fast. He was a good shot, and a fine floor-man. Abbott was always a scoring threat.

Burzell, So. Pasadena center, was a good pivot man, fine shot, and smooth ball handler. He was captain of his team.

Snider, Compton ace, was one of the best shots among the guards, in Southern California. An expert ball handler and floor man.

Gumina, was the most important cog in the San Diego team which is rated one of the best in the history of the school. Gumina was instrumental in San Diego's holding opponents to 16 points average per game.

*** THIRD TEAM

POS.	PLAYER	TEAM	HEIGHT WEIGHT		YEAR IN		POINTS SCORED
					SCHOOL	GAMES	
F	CARL KRAUSHAAR	Montebello	6' 4	190	Sr.	12	169
F	ANTHONY RAMIREZ	Mark Keppel	5'10	150	Sr.	10	103
G	IRVIN BRAHAMS	Laguna Beach	6' 4	170	Sr.	9	103
G	SHAROL BUCK	Citrus	6' 0	160	Sr.	12	146
G	EUGENE WREN	Fillmore	6' 1	180	Sr.	8	40

Comments: Kraushaar, Montebello, big and strong. Pivot man. Defensive ace. Splendid shot. Averaged 14 points per game.

Ramirez; Keppel; good shot, and strong defensive player. Fast.

Brahams, Laguna, All-Orange County, All-Hunt. Beach Tournament. Exceptional shot, and very strong defensive player.

Buck: Citrus high scorer, fine floor man and ball handler.

From: Helms Athletic Foundation RELEASE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

ALL-SO. CALIF. JUNIOR COLLEGE TEAM

POS.	PLAYER	TEAM	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	YEAR IN		POINTS SCORED
					SCHOOL	GAMES	
F	TED ECKERMAN	Pasadena	6' 2	178	1st	24	450
F	LOU KOTNIK	Fullerton	5' 10	165	2nd	25	467
C	MELVIN BAER	Pasadena	6' 3	180	2nd	24	487
G	JOE HICKS	Compton	6' 1	180	1st	16	143
G	BOB WYRICK	Santa Ana	6' 1	165	1st	13	122

Comment: This was truly the "dream team." The five players chosen for All-Southern California Junior College honors by the Helms Athletic Foundation All-Southern California Board of Basketball, scored a total of 1,693 points. Lou Kotnik, Fullerton flash, was high man on the squad, with 491 points. Baer followed with 487, while Eckerman tallied 450.

Three of the players chosen on the all-star squad were first-year men in junior college. They are Eckerman, Hicks and Wyrick. Pasadena's Melvin Baer is the tallest man on the mythical team, standing 6 feet, 3 inches in height. Baer and Hicks are the heaviest on the squad, both weighing 180 pounds. Ted Eckerman tips the beam at 178.

Eckerman, Kotnik and Baer are sharpshooters of the first order. All three averaged around 20 points per game. Kotnik hit the jack-pot in a game against Pasadena J.C., registering 35 points. He flipped in 29 points in another game, against the San Bernardino Air Base team. Baer and Eckerman frequently tallied more than 20 points in a game.

Joe Hicks, Compton's stellar guard, was an outstanding competitor on defense, and was also a high-scorer. He averaged nearly ten points per game.

Santa Ana's Bob Wyrick began the season at a guard position, but because of his ability to hit the basket was shifted to a forward post. Wyrick excelled on defense, and was a good floor man.

Mel Baer, sensational Pasadena court-man, gained All-Southern California Junior College honors for the second time, having been chosen for a forward position on the All-Southern California team in 1943.

The All-Southern California Junior College Basketball Team of 1943 (last year) as chosen by All Southern California Board of Basketball, follows:

1943 ALL-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM

F	MELVIN BAER	Pasadena
F	JEFF KEMP	Compton
C	NICK BUZOLECH	Compton
G	IRVIN NOREN	Pasadena
G	AUBREY ROCK	Compton

Southern California Junior College Basketball Players of the Year, as chosen by All Southern California Board of Basketball, for years past follows:

1938	Vic Townsend	Compton
1939	Ton Keesey	Fullerton
1940	Francis Garland	Los Angeles
1941	Henry Fohring	Los Angeles
1942	Bob Howard	Long Beach
1943	Irvin Noren	Pasadena

ALL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOARD OF BASKETBALL FOR 1944

John Beckman, L.A. Daily News	John de la Vega, L.A. Times
Bill Clark, L.A. Examiner	Dick Saunders, Hollyd Citizen-News
Larry Cox, L.A. Herald-Express	Bob Hill, Long Beach Press-Telegram
Ray Samuelson, P. Star-News	Edwin West, Santa Ana Register