

ERACISM

2022-23
HBCU
LEGENDS
AWARDS

MEDIA PARTNER



March 30, 2023

HOUSTON, TX — The awards are named after legendary HBCU players and will highlight the top players in all levels of college basketball. The objective is to recognize the top student athletes in college basketball, while bringing long overdue attention to some of the best players to ever play the game. These players are the top statistical leaders for all levels of college basketball.

A photograph of Rayquan Elliott, a basketball player for Panhandle State, wearing a white jersey with "HIGGIES" and the number 1. He is in a dynamic pose, looking forward with intensity.

RAYQUAN ELLIOTT
PANHANDLE STATE

30.5
POINTS PER
GAME 2022-23

A circular logo featuring a portrait of Travis Grant and the text "TRAVIS GRANT AWARD 2023".

Panhandle State's **Rayquan Elliott** is the recipient of the 2023 Travis Grant award, presented annually to the player with the highest point per-game average in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-4 senior averaged 30.6 points per game, while shooting 48% from the field. Elliott had a career-best 51 points, earlier this season and he went for 40+ on four different occasions.



Caldwell University's **Jarnel Rancy** and Western Kentucky's **Jamarion Sharp** are the co-recipients of the 2023 Zelmo Beaty award, presented annually to the player with the most total blocked shots in all divisions of college basketball.

Both players finished the season with 131 blocks in 32 games. Rancy, a 6-foot-8 sophomore, had a career-best 10 blocks against Bridgeport, earlier this season, and blocked 5+ shots 13 times.



Evangel University's **Autry Accord** is the recipient of the 2023 Marques Haynes award, presented annually to the player with the most total steals in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-1 senior finished the season 111 steals, which was 13 more than the top player in division I college basketball. Accord had a season-high 7 steals against Grand View, earlier this season and seven times he recorded 5+ steals in a game this season.



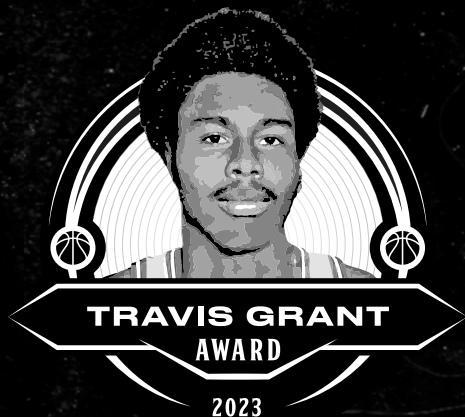
Maine Maritime's **Curt Heinz** is the recipient of the 2023 Willis Reed award, presented annually to the player with the highest rebound per-game average in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot-8 sophomore averaged 15.4 rebounds per game this season. The native of Stuttgart, Germany had a career-high 23 rebounds earlier this season and pulled down 20+ boards on four different occasions.

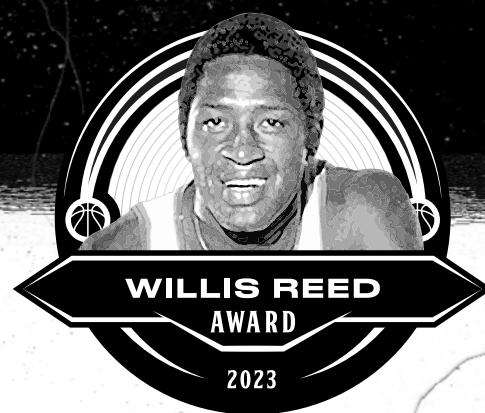


Saint Louis' **Yuri Collins** is the recipient of the 2023 Cleo Hill award, presented annually to the player with the highest assist per-game average in all divisions of college basketball.

The 6-foot junior averaged 10.1 assists per game, which was nearly 2 assists better than Kansas State's Markquis Nowell who finished 2nd among division I players. Collins had a career-best 20 assists vs Tennessee State, earlier this season, and 19 times he had 10 + assists in a game this season.



THE HBCU LEGENDS



One of the primary goals of *ERACISM* is to educate today's fans on the stars of the past and the HBCU Legends Awards, established in 2021-22, will shine a light on players like Kentucky State's Travis Grant who is College Basketball's all-time leading scorer. Thus, the **Travis Grant Award** will annually honor the top scorer in all levels of college basketball. The **Zelmo Beaty Award** will highlight the nation's top shot blocker, the **Marques Haynes Award** will recognize the leader in steals, the **Cleo Hill Award** will highlight college basketball's leader in assists, and the **Willis Reed Award** will be presented annually to the top rebounder in college basketball.

The top 5 for each award will be updated throughout the season and posted weekly so fans can follow along with the statistical leaders for all five awards.

The awards will include eligible players from Division I, Division II, Division III and NAIA collegiate basketball who play in at least 60% of their team's games. Scoring, rebounds, and assists will be per game averages, while blocks and steals will be cumulative totals.

The awards will be presented at the conclusion of the college basketball season.

ZELMO BEATY AWARD — Nicknamed “Big Z” Zelmo Beaty was a force at both ends of the floor during his career at Prairie View A&M University (1958–1962), averaging 25 points and 20 rebounds per game in four seasons. He was a two-time first team NAIA All-American and led the Panthers to an NAIA National Championship in 1962. The Zelmo Beaty Award will be presented annually to the player with the most blocked shots in college basketball.

TRAVIS GRANT AWARD — Known as the “Machine Gun” Travis Grant was part of three consecutive NAIA National Championships in four seasons at Kentucky State University (1968-72). As a sophomore he set a school single-game record with 75 points and averaged 35.4 per game while shooting a ridiculous 70% from the field. He never shot less than 60 percent in any of his four seasons. As a senior he averaged 39.5 points per game and became the first small college player to win the Lapchick Trophy for College Basketball Player of the Year award. He graduated as the all-time and all-division scoring leader in college basketball history with 4,045 points. The Travis Grant Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game scoring average.

MARQUES HAYNES AWARD — A wizard with the basketball, Marques Haynes had a stellar career at Langston University (1942–1946). During his four seasons, the Lions recorded an incredible 112-3 record, which included a 59-game winning streak. He led Langston in scoring all four years and was a four-time All-Conference selection. In 1946 Haynes and Langston upset the Harlem Globetrotters in an exhibition game. One year later Haynes was part of the famed Globetrotters. The Marques Haynes Award will be presented annually to the player with the most total steals in college basketball.

CLEO HILL AWARD — In four seasons at Winston-Salem Teachers College (1957–1961), which is now known as Winston-Salem State, Cleo Hill averaged an impressive 25.4 per game making him the second-highest scorer in program history. Playing for the legendary Clarence “Big House” Gaines, Hill helped the Rams to consecutive Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association titles in his final two seasons. He was a two-time All-CIAA selection and named first-team NAIA All-American as a senior in 1961. The Cleo Hill Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game assist average.

WILLIS REED AWARD — During his four seasons at Grambling State University (1960–1964), Willis Reed helped the Tigers to three Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and an NAIA National Championship in 1961. Known for his inside presence, the two-time All-American also had a lethal jump shot. In his senior season he averaged 26.6 points and 21.3 rebounds per game. The Willis Reed Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game rebounding average.

THE 2021-22 HBCU LEGEND AWARD WINNERS



Kentucky's **Oscar Tshiebwe** led the nation in rebounding in 2021-22 with 15.1 per game.

ZELMO BEATY AWARD

Walker Kessler, Auburn

TRAVIS GRANT AWARD

Ryan Turell, Yeshiva

MARQUES HAYNES AWARD

Myles Burns, Loyola New Orleans

CLEO HILL AWARD

Mikey Buscetto, Mitchell

WILLIS REED AWARD

Oscar Tshiebwe, Kentucky

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Arthur Hightower (Los Angeles Chargers) **David Patrick** (Sacramento State)

Cleo Hill, Jr. (Winston Salem State) **Kelvin Sampson** (Houston)

Donte' Jackson (Grambling) **Gary Stewart** (Stevenson)

James Jones (Yale) **Willis Wilson** (Former NCAA Coach)

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