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THREE INDIVIDUALS, ONE TEAM SELECTED TO ASC HALL OF HONOR

Class of 2014-15 Inductees Include Kendra Anderson (HSU), Meia Daniels (HPU), Jerrell Freeman (UMHB) and 2007-08 Howard Payne Women's Basketball Team

RICHARDSON, Texas --- Former conference and national players of the year **Kendra Anderson Hassell** of Hardin-Simmons University, **Meia Daniels** of Howard Payne University and **Jerrell Freeman** of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor join the **2007-08 Howard Payne women's basketball** national champion team as the Class of 2014-15 members of the American Southwest Conference Hall of Honor.

The Class of 2014-15 represents the fifth group inducted to the ASC Hall of Honor and includes the first team to be honored. The American Southwest Conference Hall of Honor recognizes outstanding former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and teams who brought pride and honor to the conference through their contributions. On-campus recognition ceremonies are planned for each Hall of Honor inductee during February.

Hassell, who competed in women's basketball at Hardin-Simmons from 2000-2003, was the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) 2003 Division III Player of the Year and three times was named ASC West Division Player of the Year. Hassell was twice chosen as the ASC Female Athlete of the Year (2002, '03).

Daniels, a member of the Howard Payne women's basketball team from 2005-2008, was the WBCA Division III Player of the Year in 2008 after leading the Lady Jackets to the Division III national championship and an undefeated season. Daniels, twice chosen ASC West Division Player of the Year, was selected ASC Female Athlete of the Year in 2007 and 2008.

Freeman competed with the Mary Hardin-Baylor football team from 2004-2007 and was named *D3football.com* 2007 National Defensive Player of the Year and the ASC Defensive Player of the Year. Freeman, who helped the Cru reach the 2007 Division III Championship semifinals, was the ASC Male Athlete of the Year in 2008.

The **2007-08 Howard Payne women's basketball team** holds distinction as the first to win an NCAA Division III team title for the American Southwest Conference. The Lady Jackets posted a 33-0 record en route to winning the 2008 Division III national championship.

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE HALL OF HONOR

Class of 1999-2000

Dr. Chet Sample, Sul Ross State University, Athletic Director

Dr. Robert Mason, Austin College, Athletic Director

Dr. Don Newbury, Howard Payne University, President

Class of 2000-01

Dr. Robert Shimp, McMurry University, President

Class of 2001-02

Jeff Goodin, Hardin-Simmons University, Golf Coach

Class of 2006-07

Fred H. Jacoby, American Southwest Conference, Commissioner

Preston Meyer, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Football Student-Athlete

Cara Smedley Murex, University of Texas at Dallas, Soccer Student-Athlete

Class of 2014-15

Kendra Anderson Hassell, Hardin-Simmons University, Women's Basketball Student-Athlete

Meia Daniels, Howard Payne University, Women's Basketball Student-Athlete

Jerrell Freeman, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Football Student-Athlete

2007-08 Howard Payne Women's Basketball Team, National Champion

-- Information about the ASC Hall of Honor Class of 2014-15 follows --

KENDRA ANDERSON HASSELL
Hardin-Simmons University
Women's Basketball, 2000-2003

Kendra Anderson Hassell is one of the most decorated student-athletes in the Division III era of Hardin-Simmons Athletics. Hassell was named the 2003 WBCA Division III National Player of the Year and twice earned Kodak/WBCA All-America and All-South Region First-Team honors (2002, '03). Hassell is one of two women to twice earn American Southwest Conference Female Athlete of the Year honors, claiming the league's highest student-athlete honor for both the 2001-02 and 2002-03 academic years.

Hassell's accomplishments extend beyond the basketball court. A 2003 HSU graduate with a degree in behavioral science, Hassell is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American and was named the 2003 NCAA Woman of the Year for the State of Texas. Hassell was a finalist for the Division III Jostens Trophy in both 2002 and 2003. *D3hoops.com* recognized Anderson with selection to its women's basketball All-Decade team in 2007.

Hassell was one of the more dominant players in ASC women's basketball history. She led her teams to four ASC conference titles and four NCAA Division III Championship Sweet 16 appearances. She was three times named ASC West Division Player of the Year, All-ASC and All-ASC West Division First-Team (2001, '02, '03). Hassell is the only individual to be named Most Valuable Player in four ASC women's basketball tournaments (2000, '01, '02, '03).

In her final season at Hardin-Simmons, Hassell helped lead the team to the ASC championship and a 27-1 record as the Cowgirls advanced to the Sweet 16. HSU was ranked No. 1 nationally for most of the second semester. Hassell averaged 20.1 points and 10.0 rebounds her senior year. As the Division III National Player of the Year, Hassell played in the WBCA all-star game against a team of the top Division I players.

Hassell completed her career at HSU ranked second all-time in points scored (1,759) averaging 15.6 points per game. She is the all-time leader in field goals attempted (1,292) and is tied for the lead in career field goals made (694). She also finished ranked third all-time in rebounds (955). Hassell holds the HSU record for field goals made in a season (217). In 2002, she scored 38 points against Howard Payne which is tied for the most points in an HSU game for the Division III era. In her four years, the Cowgirls posted a record of 102-11.

Hassell is a member of the Hardin-Simmons University Athletic Hall of Fame (2013) and the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame (2014). She holds a master's degree in exercise science from Oklahoma State University. Hassell is presently an assistant coach with the Abilene Christian University women's basketball program.

MEIA DANIELS
Howard Payne University
Women's Basketball, 2005-2008

A four-time all-conference honoree and three-time West Division Player of the Year, Meia Daniels capped her Howard Payne women's basketball career with a NCAA Division III national championship, selection as the WBCA Division III Player of the Year (2008) and as a finalist for the *Women's Collegiate Sports* 2008 Athlete of the Year award. Daniels is one of two women to twice earn American Southwest Conference Female Athlete of the Year honors, claiming the league's highest student-athlete honor for both the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years.

A point guard, Daniels is one of two women's basketball student-athlete to have been named to the All-ASC team in each of her four seasons (2005, '06, '07, '08). She also earned All-West Division First-Team honors all four seasons and was three times voted ASC West Division Player of the Year (2006, '07, '08). Daniels was the 2005 ASC West Division Freshman of the Year. Howard Payne made four straight ASC Women's Basketball Championship Tournament appearances during Daniels' collegiate career, winning the conference title three times (2005, '07, '08) with Daniels selected the tournament most valuable player in her junior and senior years (2007, '08).

Daniels was named Most Valuable Player of the 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Final Four and selected to the All-Tournament team. The WBCA named Daniels as an all-American in 2008 and honorable mention all-America in 2007. Her list of collegiate honors included WBCA and *D3hoops.com* all-South Region awards, including *D3hoops.com* South Region Player of the Year citations as a junior and senior (2007, '08).

As a player, Daniels was part of an HPU program that posted a 109-12 record and made four trips to the NCAA Division III playoffs. Both Howard Payne and American Southwest Conference records bear Daniels' name. She still holds seven Howard Payne career, season and game records and currently holds two ASC career marks – games played (121) and field goals attempted (1,694) – and five conference season records-- points (649), field goals made (215) and field goals attempted (479). Daniels lists second all-time in career scoring in the ASC and at Howard Payne (2,118).

Daniels holds a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice from HPU (2008) and a master's degree in organizational management from Wayne State College Nebraska (2010). Following graduation from HPU, Daniels spent two seasons as a women's basketball graduate assistant coach at NCAA Division II Wayne State College (Neb.). She helped guide WSC to a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference championship in 2010.

Daniels is a member of the Howard Payne University Athletics Hall of Fame, both as a student-athlete and as a member of the 2007-08 HPU women's basketball national champion team. Daniels is presently Assistant Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator and women's basketball head coach at Howard Payne.

JERRELL FREEMAN
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Football, 2004-2007

An all-conference and all-America award recipient and student-athlete at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Jerrell Freeman is the first football player in American Southwest Conference history to earn national defensive player of the year honors and to continue on to a successful full-time playing career in two professional leagues.

A linebacker, Freeman was tabbed by *D3football.com* as its 2007 national and South Region Defensive Player of the Year after totaling 112 tackles, 18.5 tackles for loss, six sacks and seven pass break-ups while leading a UMHB defense that established conference season records with 55 sacks and 29 interceptions en route to an appearance in the Division III national semifinals.

Freeman was named to the American Football Coaches Association and *D3football.com* all-America and all-region lists in both his junior and senior seasons (2006, '07). He was the *D3football.com* South Region Defensive Player of the Year in 2006 and 2007. Freeman was three times voted to the All-ASC First-Team (2005, '06, '07) and capped his conference career with selection as the 2007 ASC Defensive Player of the Year. Freeman's on-field success and postseason accolades earned him recognition as the 2007-08 American Southwest Conference Male Athlete of the Year, the league's highest student-athlete honor.

During his collegiate career, Freeman was a member of three ASC championship teams and made four runs into the Division III Football Championship, including the 2004 Stagg Bowl team that finished as national runner-up and the 2007 national semifinalist team.

Freeman became the first UMHB player to sign a professional contract when he inked a free-agent deal to play in the National Football League with the Tennessee Titans. Freeman went on to a three-year playing career with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Canadian Football League where he earned all-league honors and played in two Grey Cup games. In January 2012, Freeman signed as a free-agent with the Indianapolis Colts, earning a regular starting position at linebacker early in the 2012 season. He has led the Colts in tackles in each of his first two seasons setting a franchise record and ranking fifth in the NFL for tackles in a season with 203 in 2012.

While playing with the Indianapolis Colts, Freeman returned to Mary Hardin-Baylor and completed his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May 2013.

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY

2007-08 Women's Basketball Team

Stacy Blalock, Stephanie Brewer, Meia Daniels, Makiesha Davis, Mionca Hall, Elaine Hobbs, Hope Hohertz, Kimberly Hoffman, Sarah Pfiester, Daphnie Pippins, Katy Sarem, Tiffany Warner, Chris Kielsmeier (head coach), Lindy Hatfield (assistant coach), Traci Ortiz (student manager).

The American Southwest Conference claimed its first NCAA Division III national team championship when the 2007-08 Howard Payne University women's basketball team capped a perfect 33-0 season with a 68-54 win over Messiah College for the 2008 national title. It was just the fifth time a team had gone undefeated in claiming the Division III women's basketball championship. The HPU women's basketball team was the only collegiate basketball team, men's or women's at any level, to finish the 2007-08 season with an undefeated record.

In addition to winning the first national team title in the ASC, the 2007-08 team also recorded the first national team title for Howard Payne since the institution joined the NCAA in 1996. The 2007-08 women's basketball national championship team was inducted to the Howard Payne University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009.

Howard Payne's championship season included an American Southwest Conference title and West Division championship. The Lady Jackets led Division III women's basketball in home attendance average and extended their Brownwood Coliseum home win streak to 36 games. The HPU win streak vs. ASC opponents stretched to 34 games. Only four of the season's 33 games were decided by 10 or fewer points, and HPU led NCAA Division III women basketball in scoring margin (27.8 pts. per game).

The 2007-08 Lady Jackets established three ASC season records that still stand: points (2,485), free throws made (671) and free throws attempted (885). During the season, Howard Payne earned the first No. 1 national ranking for women's basketball in school history.

In addition to team accolades, the 2007-08 Howard Payne team produced numerous national, region and conference individual award winners, including WBCA Division III National Player of the Year and All-American, Meia Daniels; WBCA and *D3hoops.com* National Coach of the Year, Chris Kielsmeier; WBCA Honorable Mention All-American, Stacey Blalock; and three all-region picks, Daniels, Blalock and Kim Hoffman. The conference postseason awards list included HPU players on the all-ASC team, all-West Division first, second and defensive teams; West Division freshman team; and ASC All-Academic team. ASC West Division awards were presented to Daniels (Player of the Year), Blalock (Defensive Player of the Year) and Kielsmeier (Coach of the Year).

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