

## Chauncey Billups to be inducted into National High School Hall of Fame

By Neil H. Devlin *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

Posted:

Buffzone.com

AURORA — Chauncey Billups' basketball odyssey, which began in Park Hill and has taken him to significant stops through high school, college and the NBA, will circle back to Denver this summer.

On June 27, when the National Federation of State High School Associations hosts its annual summer meeting, the former George Washington High School star will be inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center.

Colorado High School Activities Association assistant commissioner Bert Borgmann, who nominated Billups and pushed for his induction - he included various letters of recommendation, including from *The Denver Post* - called Billups' appointment "just fabulous. ... It's great for him and great for Colorado."

Included in this year's class of 13 is former Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann, who was a three-sport star at South River High in New Jersey.

Billups was a four-time player of the year at GW and won *The Denver Post's* first three Mr. Colorado Basketball awards. He led the Patriots to a semifinals showing, then big-school titles in 1993 and 1994. GW didn't threepeat when he was a senior, probably because Billups was sidelined with a shoulder injury. He stayed home for college, at the University of Colorado, and led the Buffaloes to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in more than 30 years when he was a sophomore.

The third pick in the 1997 NBA draft, Billups is in his 16th NBA season playing for the Los Angeles Clippers. He has played for seven teams, including the Nuggets twice, was an NBA Finals MVP, made five all-star teams and was all-NBA three times.

He was inducted into the CHSAA hall of fame in January.

"I talked to him last week, when we were trying to notify everyone, and I think he was really excited," said Borgmann, who's active on several NFHS boards.

Billups will bring the number of Coloradans into the National Hall to 20. He joins Earl "Dutch" Clark (1995), Tanya Haave (2001), Tracy Hill (2012), Joe Romig (1990) and Byron "Whizzer" White (1987) as athletes. As for coaches and administrators, Jim Baggot (1994), Alice Barron (1992), Rob Conklin (2002), Bill Fanning (1998), Kaye Garms (1995), Lloyd Gaskill (1992), Dick Katte (2004), Jane Gibson-McHugh (1996), Lo Hunter (1999), Warren Mitchell (2008), Pat Panek (1995), Al Schalge (1996), Frank Sferra (2003) and Sharon Wilch (1998) as state representatives.