

logo not found or type unknown

Tim Duncan Among NBA Legends Selected for Coveted Hall of Fame

Coronavirus / **Published On April 06, 2020 04:27 AM /**

Ernice Gilbert **April 06, 2020**

Image not found or type unknown



Tim Duncan

Tim Duncan continues to be a bright light for the U.S. Virgin Islands — and the San Antonio Spurs, of course. The NBA legend has won accolades and awards for his many feats, not the least of which being his five NBA championship rings. Now, he is among nine recipients of NBA's most coveted honor: the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Duncan, the late Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnet of the San Antonio Spurs, Los Angeles Lakers and Minnesota Timberwolves, respectively — headlined the 9-person group announced Saturday as this year's class of enshrinees into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The men made it into the Hall of Fame in their first year as finalists. Other finalists include WNBA's Tamika Catchings, two-time NBA champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich, longtime Baylor women's coach Kim Mulkey, 1,000-game winner Barbara Stevens of Bentley and three-time Final Four coach Eddie Sutton. Also headed to the Hall this year is former FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann, selected as a direct-elect by the international committee, according to the Associated Press.

It's "an amazing class," said Mr. Duncan, according to the AP.

Mr. Duncan and Mr. Garnett, 15-time NBA All-Star players, were expected to make the final list. And Mr. Bryant, who died three weeks before the Hall of Fame announced his selection, was an NBA megastar whose talent captured the world's gaze. Mr. Bryant was an 18-time NBA All-Star player.

Mr. Duncan, who spent his entire career playing for the Spurs and is now back with the team as an assistant coach under Gregg Popovich, reminisced on his time on the court as a player.

"It's kind of the end of the journey here," he said of his enshrinement on the ESPN broadcast of the class announcement. "It was an incredible career that I enjoyed so much. To call it a dream come true isn't even doing any justice to it. I never dreamt I'd be at this point."

Mr. Bryant's death meant his widow, Vanessa Bryant, had to speak on his behalf. "Obviously, we wish that he was here with us to celebrate," she said. "But it's definitely the peak of his NBA career and every accomplishment that he had as an athlete was a steppingstone to be here. So we're incredibly proud of him."

Mr. Bryant was also a five-time champion with the Los Angeles Lakers, just as Mr. Duncan was with the San Antonio Spurs.

The enshrinement ceremony in Springfield, Massachusetts, is scheduled for Aug. 29. Should the pandemic force a delay, there is a tentative plan for an October ceremony as well.