

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2024

Peabody Magnet High School's Head Basketball Coach, Charles Smith, Returns Home from Naismith Hall of Fame Induction

Coach Charles Smith was greeted by the entire student body, community members, spirit teams and the band as he walked back on campus sporting his Naismith Hall of Fame iconic orange jacket. Smith walked the halls of PMHS before entering the gym to join an assembly where he addressed the students and faculty.

Smith was part of a 13-member class inducted last Sunday in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"I've always felt that Peabody Magnet High School and the Peabody basketball program have goodwill ambassadors. I try to represent that up in Springfield, Massachusetts. I mentioned my hometown, which is located in Rapides Parish. I mentioned that without Peabody Magnet High School, without the students and their belief in me, there would be no Coach Smith. I give them honor today for this tremendous honor and celebration," said Coach Smith.

Smith took the stage in Springfield and delivered a heartfelt, and at times, humorous speech. His love for teaching, his students, and Rapides Parish echoed throughout his address.

Smith is only the sixth high school basketball coach to be inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame. He's also been named ESPN's national Coach of the Year after a 41-0 record in 2010 and coached in the McDonald's All-American Game in 2020.

All of these accolades don't compare to Smith's view that academics is chief among an athlete's journey.

"Since Superintendent Powell came on board, he has stressed academics, and I have always done that in my 54 years of teaching. In order to be an athlete, you must first be academically sound. Because of that, I have been able to put kids into major universities like UConn, Alabama, and USC. They have gone on to be a vice president of a Fortune 500 Company to doctors, lawyers, and pilots. To me, that's the most important part and that's what owning the mission is all about. Even the greatest basketball player of all time, Michael Jordan, doesn't play basketball anymore. Sports only last a while but academics will last a lifetime," said Coach Smith.

Coach Smith's humility, talent, and commitment to his school community is unmatched. His return back to school today marked a celebration of perseverance, belief, and a winning mindset.

[PHOTOS](#)

[WATCH COACH SMITH'S SPEECH ON THE NBA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL HERE](#)



318-487-0888



contactus@rpsb.us



www.rpsb.us