

## HONORING BILL WALTON



William Theodore Walton, III (Bill) was born on November 5th, 1952, in San Diego, California.

His long career in basketball began in 4th grade. While in high school he was only player to ever make the USA Senior Men's National Basketball Team and play in the World Championship and/or Olympics. Walton is the first of only 2 male CA high school basketball student-athletes to be enshrined in the National High School Hall of Fame.

Walton enrolled at UCLA in 1970, where he played center for John Wooden's Varsity team for 3 seasons, after an undefeated year with the freshman team. He was a member of 2 undefeated NCAA championship teams compiling an NCAA record 88 consecutive game winning streak.

Bill Walton is a 3-time recipient of the NCAA Player of the Year Award. Walton is a 3-time All-America College Player and winner of the Sullivan Award for the United States Best Amateur Athlete of 1973. He was named to the Pacific 8 All-Conference first team 3 times and was Pac-8 Conference Player of the Year for three consecutive years. At UCLA Walton was a scholar-athlete who also earned Academic All-America honors three years in a row.

Walton's professional career began when he was the #1 overall pick in the 1974 NBA Draft by the Portland Trailblazers. He was a member of their championship team in 1977. 9 years later he earned another championship title with the Boston Celtics in 1986.

Walton is one of only 4 players in the history of basketball to have won multiple NCAA and multiple NBA Championships. Walton is also the second of only 5 players in the history of the NBA to lead the league in both blocked shots and rebounding in the same season.

He remains active in basketball through clinics, camps, coaching, and television commentary. He started his broadcasting career in 1990 as an analyst for the then Prime Ticket Network. Walton worked for CBS Sports in the early 90's during the NCAA Final Four and then for NBC for many years. He has been honored multiple times by the Southern CA Sports Broadcasters Association with the Best Television Analyst/Commentator award. In 2009, Walton was named one of the top 50 sports broadcasters of all time by the American Sportscasters Association.

In 1993, Walton was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. Walton also became a member of the Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 1994. For his television broadcasting work, Walton has been nominated for numerous Emmy awards and in 2001 won an Emmy for best live sports television broadcast. In 1997 Walton was selected as one of the NBA's Fifty Greatest Players of all Time. The NCAA honored Walton with their Silver Anniversary Award in 1999 for having made significant professional and civic contributions since he completed his intercollegiate eligibility 25 years ago.

Walton is currently the Executive Chairman of Connect SD Sport Innovators (SDSI), a non-profit, business accelerating, trade organization that connects and drives the growth of Southern California's vibrant sports economy by offering innovative programs and services for startups, mature companies and service providers.