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Sports

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COWBOYS BASKETBALL

Sailors heads to the Hall

UW legend will be inducted on Nov. 18

By **ERIC SCHMOLDT**
Star-Tribune staff writer

Kenny Sailors and Everett Shelton are being reunited nearly 70 years after the two led Wyoming to its only men's basketball national championship.



SAILORS

The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame announced Tuesday that Sailors will be part of its 10-man seventh class

which will be enshrined in November.

"There have been a number of people who have tried to get me in (the Hall of Fame) through the years,"

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SAILORS TRACKER

■ **TUESDAY:** The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame announced its 2012 class.

■ **COME SAIL' AWAY:** Kenny Sailors, widely considered the inventor of the jump shot and the Most Outstanding Player of the 1943 NCAA tournament won by Wyoming, will be inducted as part of the Hall's seventh class.

■ **HE SAID IT:** "It's probably about the last honor I will receive, and it's probably the biggest." — Sailors.

■ **NEXT:** Sailors and the others will be enshrined on Nov. 18 in Kansas City.



COURTESY | UW ATHLETICS

Wyoming basketball legend **Kenny Sailors** (above) was chosen as an inductee for the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

SAILORS

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Sailors said in a UW-issued release. "I want to thank all those individuals, and I want to thank all those who were involved in the selection process. Now that it has happened I'm very proud that I've made it. It's probably about the last honor I will receive, and it's probably the biggest."

Sailors was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 1943 NCAA tournament, won by the Pokes who were coached by Shelton.

Shelton was a member of the inaugural class of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006.

"I'm honored to be selected, even though I am a little late in years, and I'm honored to be joining Coach Shelton in the Hall," Sailors said.

Though the topic usually draws debate, Sailors is often credited with inventing the jump shot. Players had used only the set shot prior to the development, which Sailors created as he struggled to find success against his taller, older brother, Bud.

Sailors worked on the crafty shot and — despite

serving two years with the Marines in World War II — returned in 1946 to earn a second All-America honor. He parlayed his success into a five-year career in the NBA.

"The jump shot has done more to keep me in front of the people who select these type of honors than anything," Sailors said.

Sailors will join fellow players Patrick Ewing (Georgetown) and Phil Ford (North Carolina) as well as seven other coaches, players or influential leaders in the sport of college basketball.

"The Class of 2012 has incredible roots in the game of college basketball — from the player who introduced the jump shot at Wyoming to the domination of a 7-footer at Georgetown," said Reggie Minton, Deputy Executive Director of the NABC and chair of the Hall of Fame selection panel, in the release.

The class will be inducted on Nov. 18 at the Midland Theatre in Kansas City. They will also be honored during this year's Final Four.

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