

George Brogdon
Personal Contributor

George Brogdon is one of the “most-seen” people around Memphis, working more than 2,000 college and professional games played in the Bluff City since the mid-1980s. But there was one time that George wasn’t there. It was October of 1987, and George trained to compete in the IRONMAN Triathlon World Championship in Hawaii. One conflict, though: the triathlon was scheduled for October 10th, a college football Saturday that then-Memphis State pulled off a 10-7 upset over Alabama 10-7 at the Liberty Bowl. One ol’ Southern sports adage states: never schedule anything on college football fall Saturdays.

Since then, George has followed the old Southern sport adage, “never schedule anything on college football Saturdays,” and has rarely missed any of the city’s sporting events as a member of the table crew for football and basketball.

In 1984, George got his “foot-in-the-door” with the USFL’s Memphis Showboats but found his niche when college basketball added the shot clock around that same time. George volunteered for the position and has been the shot clock operator for the last 41 years.

His dependability has not gone unnoticed. He has worked conference and NCAA tournaments, but the pinnacle of his shot clock career came in 2018 and 2019 when the NBA selected him to be a part of the first neutral crew to work the NBA Finals.

But George’s reach in, and impact on, Memphis and the surrounding areas’ sports scene is more than sitting courtside. He has been active in the Memphis sports community since his childhood. He was a baseball All-Star in the Frayser Recreation Association, and later, he was active in softball, basketball and summer league hoops for the Memphis Parks Commission.

George’s investment in sports in Memphis goes even further — from his start as a community center director to his positions with Germantown as parks and recreation assistant director and assistant city administrator. In 1997, his work helped Germantown Parks and Recreation receive a National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal for being the best in the nation, one of only four Gold Medals ever to be awarded in the state of Tennessee.

After his time with Germantown, George joined the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a consultant for its recreation division. From 2016-23, George assisted 31 counties in improving their parks and recreation programs, including a splash pad at Audubon Park and new soccer fields in Lakeland and Arlington.

A Memphis State graduate, George uses his time as a parks and recreation consultant to help other areas apply for grants to help develop better opportunities for their citizens. He does this while starting up a Christmas tree farm in Fayette County.

Please welcome to the Hall of Fame, Personal Contributor — George Brogdon.