

LHSAA Celebrates Black History: Seimone Augustus – Women’s Basketball Phenom from Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE—As we celebrate Black History Month, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) proudly recognizes Seimone Augustus, a trailblazer in women’s basketball whose journey began right here in Louisiana. From her dominance at Capitol High School in Baton Rouge to her legendary career in the WNBA, Augustus has left an indelible mark on the sport and continues to inspire future generations.

Seimone Augustus’ basketball story began in the heart of Louisiana. A standout at Capitol High School, Augustus quickly established herself as one of the most electrifying high school athletes in the country. With a smooth jump shot, elite athleticism, and an unparalleled work ethic, she led Capitol to back-to-back state titles in 2001 and 2002 under head coach Alvin Stewart. She won 52 straight games to end her high school career, including an undefeated season in 2002.

Augustus was a finalist for the Naismith Female Prep Basketball Player of the Year Award and named the 2002 Student Sports National Player of the Year. She also earned the Girl’s Basketball National Player of the Year title, along with Parade and McDonald’s All-America honors in 2001 and 2002. A three-time USA Today and Street and Smith All-American, she was named MVP of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association High School All-America Game and the inaugural McDonald’s All-America game in Madison Square Garden.

A four-time Louisiana Class 4A Player of the Year, Augustus was also named Louisiana’s Gatorade Circle of Champions Player of the Year in 2001 and 2002. She became only the second player in Louisiana history to be named Miss Basketball in back-to-back years. Over her high school career, she amassed 3,600 points, 1,728 rebounds, 864 assists, 576 blocked shots, and 432 steals, averaging 24.8 points, 11.9 rebounds, 6.0 assists, 4.0 blocks, and 3.0 steals per game. As a senior, she averaged 28 points, 13 rebounds, six assists, and five steals. She was also invited to participate in the 2001 USA Basketball Junior World Qualifying Trials.

Augustus continued her basketball journey at Louisiana State University (LSU), where she cemented her legacy as one of the greatest players in women’s college basketball

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history. Under Coach Sue Gunter and later Pokey Chatman, she led the Lady Tigers to three consecutive Final Four appearances. A two-time NCAA National Player of the Year and three-time All-American, Augustus finished her LSU career with over 2,700 points, making her one of the most prolific scorers in school history. Her impact helped elevate LSU women's basketball to national prominence.

In 2006, Augustus was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA Draft by the Minnesota Lynx. Over the course of her illustrious career, she became a four-time WNBA champion, an eight-time All-Star, and one of the most respected players in league history. Her ability to perform in clutch moments and her leadership on and off the court made her a cornerstone of the Lynx dynasty. Internationally, she represented Team USA, winning three Olympic gold medals and solidifying her place among the all-time greats.

Beyond her accolades, Augustus has been a champion for equality, using her platform to advocate for social justice and inclusion in sports. She has become a mentor to young athletes, encouraging them to chase their dreams, work hard, and break barriers. As Augustus herself once said, "With the change you hope to see, you can't be quiet and hope it's going to be silently changed. You have to be bold. You have to be courageous. You have to sacrifice yourself at times for others who are shy about speaking on topics, or are fearful to use their voice because of whatever the consequences may be. That's something I've learned in my life."

As we reflect on Black History Month, the LHSAA is honored to celebrate Seimone Augustus—not just for her basketball excellence, but for her leadership, resilience, and contributions to the community. Her journey from Baton Rouge to the pinnacle of basketball serves as an inspiration to young athletes across Louisiana and beyond.

For more information on LHSAA's Black History Month features and other honorees, visit lhsaa.org and follow the LHSAA on social media @LHSAAsports.

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