
NBA Legend Bill Russell to be Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award at First-Ever NBA Awards on TNT, Monday, June 26

Thursday, June 15, 2017

The **NBA** and **Turner** today announced **Bill Russell** – a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer and 11-time NBA Champion with the Boston Celtics – will receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the first-ever **NBA Awards on TNT**, airing **Monday, June 26**, with coverage beginning at **9 p.m. ET**.

Among his numerous athletic achievements, Russell was the first player to win an Olympic Gold Medal, an NBA Championship and a college title. While playing at the University of San Francisco, he led his team to back-to-back championships (1955 and 1956). A civil rights pioneer, Russell became the first African American to coach a major professional sports team (1966) and win a championship when he guided the Celtics to back-to-back titles (1968 and 1969).

One of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History, Russell won five NBA MVP Awards, earned 12 NBA All-Star selections and left an indelible mark as a superb shotblocker who revolutionized NBA defensive concepts. The annual NBA Finals MVP Award is named in honor of Russell, an NBA Champion in all but two of his seasons as a player with Boston.

The **NBA Awards on TNT** – [hosted by Drake](#) – will be held at **Basketball City** at **Pier 36** in **New York City**, as the [NBA honors all of the league's top performers on one night for the first time](#).

The 2017 NBA Awards on TNT will feature integrations with the Sports Emmy Award-winning Inside the NBA studio team of **Ernie Johnson, Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith** and **Shaquille O'Neal**, along with the league's biggest stars, a musical performance by [Nicki Minaj](#), and celebrity presenters.

The *NBA Awards* on TNT, created by Turner Sports and the NBA, is produced by dick clark productions.

About Turner Sports

Turner Sports, a division of Turner, is an industry leader in the delivery of premium sports content across all multimedia screens. Turner Sports' television coverage includes the NBA, Major League Baseball, NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, ELEAGUE and professional golf. The company also manages some of the most popular sports destinations across broadband and mobile platforms including Bleacher Report and its top-rated Team Stream app, [NCAA.com](#) and the critically acclaimed NCAA March Madness Live suite of products, [PGA.com](#) and the Sports Emmy Award-winning PGA Championship LIVE, as well as an accompanying collection of mobile sites and connected device apps. Turner Sports and the NBA also jointly manage NBA Digital, a robust collection of offerings including NBA TV, [NBA.com](#), NBA LEAGUE PASS, NBA Mobile, the NBA App, [NBADLEAGUE.com](#) and [WNBA.com](#).

About dick clark productions

dick clark productions (dcp) is the world's largest producer and proprietor of televised live event entertainment programming with the "Academy of Country Music Awards," "American Music Awards," "Billboard Music Awards," "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest," "Golden Globe Awards," "Miss America," "Hollywood Film Awards" and the "Streamy Awards." Weekly television programming includes "So You Think You Can Dance" from 19 Entertainment and dcp. dcp also owns



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