

IT'S ABOUT TIME - MIZZOU FINALLY RETIRING JOHN BROWN'S NUMBER

by Dave Roberts

Printed from Phelps County Focus.com February 13, 2019

Rolla businessman John Brown, who legendary Tiger head coach Norm Stewart once described as the most important recruit he ever brought to Mizzou, is going to have his No. 50 jersey retired by the university.

The announcement came the same time that the school confirmed another former Tiger men's standout, Derrick Chievous (1984-88), will have his number officially retired.

Chievous' No. 3 will be retired during a halftime ceremony at Mizzou's game with No. 5-ranked Kentucky Tuesday, February 19 in Columbia.

Chievous and Brown will be the seventh and eighth Tiger men's basketball players to have their numbers retired and hung in the rafters at the Mizzou Arena.

MU Athletic Director Jim Sterk has adjusted the criteria for its jersey retirement policy in all sports, which is allowing Chievous – the school's career scoring leader – and Brown to finally get the honor they so richly deserve.

Brown, a rugged power forward, led the first 20-win Stewart-coached teams for Mizzou and was a two-time All-America selection in 1972-73. He left the program as its all-time career scoring leader and was drafted in the first round by the NBA's Atlanta Hawks. After an NBA career that lasted through 1980, Brown played in Europe before starting full-time in the real estate and developing businesses in Rolla.

He also made the 1972 U.S. Olympic Basketball Team but couldn't go to Munich because of a broken foot.

Prior to all of that, Brown lit Missouri prep basketball on fire at Dixon High School, leading the Bulldogs to the 1969 state championship. Some of his Dixon scoring records still stand today. His Dixon state championship squad averaged more than 100 points per game. In one game that season the Bulldogs led rival Richland 92-17...by halftime!

In an interview for a story I wrote in 2008 for the Waynesville Daily Guide on Brown's induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, Stewart said, "John Brown is one of the five best high school players that I have seen in my 50-some years in basketball. He took his high school team to a state championship and came to Missouri – a Missouri program that really had been dormant for 40 years – and took us to a national level."

Mizzou Legendary John Brown's Jersey Retired

Dixon's own, and now Rolla businessman, John Brown finally witnessed the retiring of his No. 50 jersey at Mizzou arena March 9, 2019. The 6foot 7 forward and his family shared in the momentous occasion.



Derrick Chievous and John Brown at jersey retirement-March 9, 2019.
Photo submitted.



John Brown at jersey retirement-March 9, 2019. Photo submitted.



Cindy Whitaker at John Browns jersey retirement-March 9, 2019.
Photo submitted.