

All-American Earvin Johnson disputes a call in a NCAA game with LSU.

AP

admitted that he initially wanted the ball to go into his scoring ace, Bird. "We wanted Larry to take the

to the winning basket. They hadn't called that type of walking on us all year."

Dave Whitney named cage man of year

Special To The Clarion-Ledger

STARKVILLE — Coach Dave Whitney of Alcorn State, which finished the year at 28-1 and advanced to the second round of the National Invitation Tournament, has been named "Basketball Man of the Year" by the statewide Babe McCarthy Tipoff Club.

Whitney, who has compiled an impressive 228-70 mark for 10

years at Alcorn, was chosen over several nominees in the fields of basketball coaching, playing, coverage, broadcasting, officiating and support of the game.

Whitney will be honored on April 11 when the McCarthy Tipoff Club holds its first annual awards' banquet at Humphrey Coliseum here. Tickets are still available at \$10 each by writing: McCarthy Banquet

Tickets, Drawer JJ, Starkville, Ms., 39762.

John Wooden, who won 10 NCAA titles in 27 years as head coach at UCLA before his retirement in 1975, will be the featured speaker at the banquet.

Besides the honor paid to Whitney, the club will laud a High School Coach of the Year, High School Player of the Year, Junior

College Coach of the Year, and Juco Player of the Year.

In addition, several players from Mississippi State's 19-9 team will be awarded with such trophies as Most Valuable Player, the Babe McCarthy Leadership Award and several other statistical awards.

Tipoff Club President O.A. Cleveland of Starkville expressed plea-

sure in being able to handle arrangements for the first annual banquet and in Whitney's selection.

"We are very proud and pleased to have Coach Wooden, one of the best-known coaches in college basketball, and Dave Whitney here as our honored guests," Cleveland said. "Both are legends in their own times."