



# COLLEGIATE HONORS

Glenn VanWieren, Hope College

The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan has selected its annual Academic/Athletic Honor Teams for men's and women's basketball coaches & players.

## 2001-2002 COLLEGE COACHES OF THE YEAR

**KEVIN LUKE**  
MENS'  
Michigan Tech

If there is one thing that Kevin Luke knows, it is Michigan Tech basketball. The eighth year coach has spent most of his life in the program. He started off as a player from 1977-80, returned in 1987 to serve as an assistant and chief recruiter thru the 1993-1994 season. Kevin was then hired as the head basketball coach and has done a tremendous job with the program. During his eight years as the coach of the Huskies, no GLIAC team has won more conference games than the Huskies 93 wins. Coach Luke has won the GLIAC three times in his MI Tech career, including the past two seasons. He coached his team to a 27-3 record this season and a birth in the NCAA tournament. The honors just seem to keep coming in for Coach Luke, along with the accomplishments already recognized: he has been named the GLIAC Coach of the Year and the NABC Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year for the 2001-2002 season.

While at Michigan Tech, Coach Luke's teams have won an average of 19 games a season, including three of the four 20 win seasons in the school's history. He is now the Huskies all-time winningest coach with a record of 151-81. His teams also do a great job in the classroom; his team has an excellent cumulative GPA of 3.42.

**CARLA STERK**  
WOMENS'  
Cornerstone University

It is safe to say that Carla Sterk knows a thing or two about basketball. In just three seasons, she has made the Cornerstone program one of the elite in the WHAC. In her 1st year, Coach Sterk led her Golden Eagles to the WHAC championship. In her 2nd season, her team won the WHAC conference championship, earning the schools 1st ever national tournament bid, and then went on to the Sweet Sixteen in the NAIA Division II tournament. But this Grand Rapids native wanted more and she got it.

The 2001-2002 season saw the Golden Eagles post a 25-12 record; win the WHAC tournament again, again earning a bid to the national tournament, and this time finishing as Runners-Up National Champions.

Before being given the head-coaching job at Cornerstone, Coach Sterk served as an assistant at her alma mater of Central Michigan University for one year. She was also a four-year starter for the Chippewa's and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

Coach Sterk was the WHAC Coach of the Year in the 2000-01 season and has compiled a 73-29 record in her three seasons with Cornerstone.

**CARLOS BRIGGS**  
MENS' JR COLLEGE  
Schoolcraft Jr College

Carlos Briggs lost 10 players to traditional 4-year colleges after the 2000-01 season. That happens to most junior colleges and they have a down year the following season, but not Schoolcraft Jr College. They came out of the gates in 2001-02 full throttle and never locked back. They won a national record of 34 consecutive game wins before finally being knocked off in the National Final Four, but they recovered to finish the season with a victory and a 3rd place nationally. Schoolcraft finished the year 35-1 and ended the regular season at 32-0 and ranked #1 in the nation.

Coach Briggs is building a dynasty in Livonia; they have won three straight conference titles and have gotten better each season. The reign began in 1998-99 when they finished 2nd in the conference, but won the state title. In 1999-2000, Schoolcraft was state runners-up; in 2000-01 they became the state champions and made the national tournament for the 1st time in school history, and then they made their fantastic run to the Final Four in the 2001-02 season.

Coach Briggs has been named district, regional and state Coach of the Year in the junior college ranks and was nominated for national coach of the year. His record at Schoolcraft is 141-24.

**RON WELCH**  
WOMENS' JR COLLEGE  
Kalamazoo Valley Community

It has been a hard struggle to the top for Ron Welch and his staff at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, but the hard work is now paying off. When Coach Welch and his staff arrived, KVCC had not had a double digit win season, but with their hard work, those losing ways have become a thing of the past. They solidified their spot among the best community colleges in the nation with a 31-4 record and 4th place finish in the national tourney. They finished the regular season ranked 4th in the nation with a record of 25-1.

Coach Welch has turned the program around by convincing the local talent to stay home to play basketball and as his record shows, he is doing a nice job of recruiting. He has been named the MCCA Western Coach of the Year for the last two seasons as well as the NJCAA Region XII District "G" Coach of the Year for the past two seasons.

Coach Welch has truly turned things around at KVCC. He has a 129-80 record at KVCC, and that is with 67 of those losses coming in the first four seasons he was there. Coach Welch has done a tremendous job with KVCC program and is very worthy of being the first BCAM Women's Jr College Coach of the Year.