

HALL of FAME INDUCTEES

Mark Gainforth – Unionville-Sebewaing Area HS

In just 24 years Coach Mark Gainforth created a dynasty at USA high school. He has won an amazing 423 games to only 133 losses, with a winning percentage of over 75%. His boys' teams have amassed 13 conference championships, 14 districts, 4 regionals, one final four and were state runners up in 2005.

A life-long resident of the Unionville area, he began coaching junior high basketball fresh out of college in 1979. From there he moved on to JV, but then spent a 7 year stint as an assistant men's basketball coach at SVSU. Finally in 1996, Mark obtained the varsity boy's job at USA. Along the way he also coached boy's varsity track now and again, winning a MiTCA Class C state title in 2006. Four times he was voted BCAM Regional Coach of the Year and was named BCAM Class C COY in 2005. He is a five-time All-Thumb Coach of the Year. Mark was a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal and interim superintendent for USA schools for 26 years.

Mark has a lot of people he would like to thank! He says his success would not have been possible without the patience and sacrifice from wife Brenda, and children Shaun, Isaiah and Megan. His mom, who introduced him to sports, was his inspiration and a huge supporter of USA athletics. He wishes to thank his high school coaches, teammates and college coaches at CMU. He appreciates that Coach Bob Pratt at SVSU gave him an opportunity to coach at the collegiate level. Lastly, he would like to thank longtime assistant Steve Bohn as well as his other assistant coaches and peers. He feels honored to be able to represent the players, their parents and the USA community.



Chad Mortimer – Hanover-Horton HS



Coach Chad Mortimer coached for 23 years at Hanover-Horton High School and during that tenure he did not even have 100 losses! His 454 – 98 record figures out to an 82% winning percentage. In almost all of his 23 seasons, Coach Mortimer's teams have been able to bring home at least one end-of-season trophy. He boasts 14 league championships, 18 district championships, 9 regionals, and 3 final fours (2003, 2016 and 2021).

Chad has been awarded numerous coach of the year awards for his teams' success including multiple Cascade Conference COYs (including the last 4 years in a row). He is a 4 time BCAM regional COY, and has also won multiple Jackson area coach of the year awards. He builds his program with hard working kids and starts at the ground level with a very successful youth program. He gives back to his community and spends countless hours at the school.

Chad's wife Stephanie and children Katie and Conner are everything to him. He wishes to thank them for their love and support. He also thanks his parents, siblings and entire family for always being there for him as well as assistant coach Gary Hull for his dedication, loyalty and friendship. Chad notes that all the coaches in the Hanover Horton program over the years, the Hanover Horton community and fans, and all his players in 23 seasons were essential to his coaching success. It was a joy to coach all of them.

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Bruce Koopman – McBain HS

This is not a typo, Bruce Koopman has amassed 751 wins in 32 years including 504 with the boys' program and 247 with the girls' program all at McBain High School. During that time he has lost just 248 games for over a 75% winning percentage. Coach Koopman's teams have won 20 conference championships, 18 districts, 7 regionals, 4 final fours were state runners up in 2011 and State Champions in 2002. Coach is a three-time BCAM Regional Coach of the Year winner for boys and was AP Class C Girls Coach of the Year in 1994 as well as the BCAM Class C Girls COY that same year.

He considers his success his players' success and said he has been blessed to coach so many wonderful student athletes from a small rural northern Michigan farming town. He attributes his program's excellence to hardworking kids that believed in the program, played with character, played hard and played as a team.

Bruce said first and foremost he has to thank his wife Lisa for all her support and patience for 33 years. His 3 children (Machaela, Jarrett and Olivia) have been his biggest fans and wants to thank them for their love, understanding and endless support. He also wishes to thank his many assistant coaches through the years for their hard work, dedication and expertise. Bruce further notes that the McBain community and people at the school have contributed tremendously to his motivation, encouragement and criticism to make him better as a coach. He feels blessed to have been able to coach at his alma mater.



Mark White – Renaissance, Southeastern, Adrian College, River Rouge, Romulus Summit North

Coach Mark White has been at 5 different schools in his 23 years of head coaching, and the one constant variable is he wins. He has won over 70 percent of his games at the high school and college level. His teams have one 21 league or district titles, 8 regional titles, he has been to the final four 6 times and won State Championships in 2004 and 2006. He also had a successful 7 year stint at his alma mater Adrian College.

Because of his team's success, Mark has been awarded numerous coaching honors. He has many conference coach of the year awards, DPS Overall COY, BCAM Regional COY, BCAM Class B COY and BCAM Overall COY. He also had many successful seasons and obtained several AAU awards.

Coach White stated that he is extremely grateful to be recognized but it would not have happened without all of his amazing players, staff, and support of administration at all of his stops. He would like to give special thanks to his wife Tanesia, children (Charles, Jordan, Darian, Mark, and Christian) and family who have inspired him and made tremendous sacrifices to allow him his pursuit of coaching basketball. Most importantly Mark gives thanks to God for giving him life, purpose and the gift to glorify Him. It is Mark's goal to honor Him in everything he has accomplished.