
NJCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER



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INTRODUCTION

JULY 2017

Welcome to the official newsletter of the NJCAA National Men's Basketball Coaches Association. I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to represent the dedicated and hard-working coaches of the NJCAA. I want to thank my predecessor, and immediate Past-President, Joel Wooton, for his incredible work to bring our Association forward the past two years. I will look to continue Joel's vision of providing a voice for all of our members from every level with how we proceed within NJCAA Basketball and will continue to strive to find ways for all of us to professionally develop and give back to the game that we love.

As a long-time board member within this amazing organization, I am extremely proud of the work that has been done; the NJCAA All-Star Game, the Hall of Fame process & selection and a seat at the table of the NABC Board of Directors to name a few. I look forward to taking the organization to new heights with new initiatives that will be laid out in future communications with our membership.

My work as Dean of Student Development Services, Director of Athletics, and Head Coach at Sullivan County Community College in New York the past 19 years, in conjunction with my elected position as the NJCAA Region XV Men's Director (7 years), NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Committee Chairman (3 years) and Executive Director and host of the NJCAA DIII National Men's Basketball Championship Tournament (7 years), along with my work as a long standing member of this organization and its Board of Directors, has given me a unique perspective from all sides to assist in moving our Association forward during my tenure as President.

I look forward to working closely with our Association's Executive Director Thom McDonald, as well as 1st VP Todd Franklin (Vincennes), 2nd VP Steve Christiansen (Triton) and Treasurer Dennis Pilcher (Iowa Central) to ensure that NJCAA Basketball continues to grow at all levels of competition. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work closely with some of the most successful coaches in the game at all levels, and my experience with moving players to all four-year and professional levels of basketball will assist in moving our mission forward.

I believe the NJCAA gives our players incredible opportunities. It will be my mission to continue to provide those opportunities at all levels of competition, as well as to motivate all of our coaches across the country to join our movement forward.

I would like to wish all of you the very best of luck this upcoming season and look forward to seeing and/or meeting all of you in Hutch, Danville or right here at Sullivan in March!

Yours in Basketball,

Chris DePew
President
NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association



MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT

Starting August 1, 2017, Christopher D. DePew will begin his two-year term as president of the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association (JCBCA).

Currently, DePew is in his 16th year as the Director of Athletics and 19th overall at SUNY Sullivan. Prior to becoming the Director of Athletics, he served one year as the Coordinator of Athletic Facilities, Intramurals and Equipment and three years as the only full-time professor in the Sport Management & Physical Education Department.

DePew also has a wealth of experience in the coaching ranks. DePew served as SUNY Sullivan's head softball coach for three years, assistant men's basketball coach for two years, head men's golf coach for two years and head men's basketball coach for nine years during his tenure.

In February of 2006, Coach DePew was elected as the NJCAA Region XV Men's Assistant Director responsible for the oversight of all junior college athletic programs from Long Island and New York City areas as well as the lower Hudson Valley. In 2013, he was elected as the NJCAA Region XV Men's Director. He is presently the national chairman of NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball and sits on the NJCAA National Football, Division III Golf, and Lacrosse Committees. DePew also proudly serves as executive director of the NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament which has been held on the campus of SUNY Sullivan since 2011.

Nationally, in 2017, Coach DePew is completing his elected two-year stint as the 1st Vice President of the NJCAA National Men's Basketball Coaches Association that supports all junior college men's basketball coaches. Coach DePew has been elected as the Association's President from Aug. 1, 2017 through July 31, 2019. He additionally sits on the Board of Directors of the Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY) for the past 12 years.

As head coach at SUNY Sullivan, Coach DePew recorded a record of 219-28 (.886 winning %). In 2007, Coach DePew led the Generals to the NJCAA National Championship with an undefeated record of 32-0. He was named the NJCAA National Basketball Coach of the Year as well as the District V Coach of the Year, Region XV Coach of the Year and the Basketball Coaches Association of New York Junior College Coach of the Year. He was selected to coach the East Team in the National Junior College All-Star Game in Kilgore, Texas. Additional accomplishments during his tenure as a Coach include four Region XV Championships (1999, 2001, 2002, 2007), seven Mid-Hudson Conference Championships (1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009) and five trips to the NJCAA National Championship Tournament winning it all in 2007 and finishing 2001 and 2002 as the NJCAA National Runner-up.

In his spare time, DePew is extremely active in his community serving on several non-profit Board of Directors, town committees, and organizations, but most importantly serving as a volunteer coach for his son's Little League, youth football and modified basketball & baseball teams. On top of that, he additionally currently serves as the Chief of the Kerhonkson Volunteer Fire Company of which he has been an active member for 33 years joining when he was just 16 years old following a multi-generation family tradition. He was honored with the Volunteer Fire Service's Highest Honor, Life Membership, of that organization in January of 2016.

Coach DePew earned degrees from SUNY Ulster ('89) and SUNY Cortland ('91). DePew resides in Kerhonkson, New York with his wife Heather and their 13 year old son, David.



JCBCA OFFICERS



JULY 2017



PRESIDENT

CHRIS DePEW
SUNY SULLIVAN (NY)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THOM McDONALD
REGION XI



PAST PRESIDENT

JOEL WOOTON
SOUTHEAST (NE)



1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TODD FRANKLIN
VINCENNES (IN)



2ND VICE PRESIDENT

STEVE CHRISTIANSEN
TRITON (IL)



3RD VICE PRESIDENT

TO BE DETERMINED



TREASURER

DENNIS PILCHER
IOWA CENTRAL



2017 ALL-STAR GAME



Division II & III All-Stars defeat Division I All-Stars 109-91



LAS VEGAS, Nevada - The NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association held their annual All-Star Game at the Orleans Arena Saturday, April 29th in Las Vegas. The game itself paired 12 Division I NJCAA sophomore against 12 Division II and Division III sophomores (7 Division II, 5 Division III). The Division II/III All-Stars defeated the Division I All-Stars 109-91.

ALL-STAR GAME AWARDS

Ken Rochlitz Award (DI MVP) - Shannon Bogues, McLennan (TX)

Jay Harrington Award (DII/DIII MVP) - Isaiah Green, Lansing (MI)

Scott Schumacher Award (DI Sportsmanship) - James Batemon, North Dakota SCS

Leon Spencer Award (DII/DIII Sportsmanship) - Rasheide Bell, South Suburban (IL)

Dan Spark Award (DI Coach) - Jeremy Shulman, Eastern Florida State

John Spezia Award (DII Coach) - Todd Lorensen, Southwestern (IA)

Bob Tipson Award (DIII Coach) - Tim McGraw, North Lake (TX)

Francis Flax Award - (Best Small Man) - Jordan Johnson, Southwestern (IA)



2017 ALL-STAR GAME



Banquet honoring Hall of Fame inductees took place Friday night before All-Star Game

LAS VEGAS, Nevada - Prior to the All-Star Game, the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association introduced the NJCAA Men's Basketball Hall of Fame inductees at a banquet on Friday evening. During the banquet, the Coaches Association recognized the Class of 2017 Men's Basketball Hall of Fame as well as the NABC Coach and Player of the Year.



Present were Hall of Fame inductees Craig Tucker (Coffeyville), Eddie Robinson (Brown Mackie/Trinity Valley), Michael Ingram (Lansing), and Joe Kuhn (Joliet). Gus Stevens (Vincennes) was recognized at halftime of a game at the NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Former head men's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin, Bo Ryan, served as the keynote speaker.



HALL OF FAME

JULY 2017

JCBCA NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 CLASS

The NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Hall of Fame Class.

Nominations must be submitted no later than Oct. 1st, 2017. After review by the Hall of Fame Committee, the Class of 2018 will be announced in January 2018.

Current members of the NJCAA Men's Basketball Hall of Fame have a variety of backgrounds. The Class of 2017 included a contributor for the first time since 2002, former Vincennes University (Ind.) sports information director Gus Stevens.

Other members include former NJCAA players that had remarkable college careers, as well as those that went on to excel in the NBA and other professional leagues. Many coaches who left outstanding legacies at the their programs are also included among the ranks of NJCAA Hall of Famers.

Please nominate any one you believe deserving of this honor at:

[HTTPS://GOO.GL/BPZEFB](https://goo.gl/BPZEFB)

Please send all nominations to njcaambbcoaches@gmail.com with the subject of 'NJCAA MBB Hall of Fame -- (Nominee's First and Last Name)'

TODD LORENSEN NAMED NABC COACH OF THE YEAR



After leading the Division II Southwestern (Iowa) Community College Spartans to their first national title in any sport, men's basketball head coach Todd Lorensen was named by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) as their NJCAA National Coach of the Year.

When Lorensen took over the Southwestern program in 2014, the Spartans were in the midst of a 15-game losing streak to ICCAC opponents and had finished up their sixth consecutive .500 or under season with an 8-22 record.

In Lorensen's first year at the helm, the Spartans went 23-10 and reached the Region XI semifinals. His second year, the Spartans won a share of the regular season Region title.

Read Coach Lorensen's Exclusive Q&A with the JCBCA on page 9.

SHAKUR JUISTON NAMED NABC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The NABC named Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College's Shakur Juiston as its NJCAA National Player of the Year. Juiston led the Blue Dragons to their third men's basketball national championship, their first since 1994. Hutchinson finished the season with a 35-2 overall record

Juiston averaged a double-double with 17.3 points and 12.1 rebounds per game. Juiston also led Division I NJCAA in total rebounding with 446 on the season.

Juiston also was the recipient of the Jayhawk Conference and Region VI Player of the Year as well as being selected as an NJCAA First-Team All-American and named the NJCAA Division I National Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Juiston signed with UNLV to continue his basketball career.



Executive Director Thom McDonald provides update on NJCAA's first year with NABC representation

On Nov. 9, 2016, JCBCA Executive Director Thom McDonald was named to the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) Board of Directors- the first time the NJCAA had representation with the largest association of college basketball coaches in the country. Through the first nine months of McDonald's seat on the board, the NABC has provided many meaningful experiences that could be utilized in the ranks of junior college basketball.

In May 2017, the NABC Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Ind. for their spring meeting. Topics discussed included defining and addressing amateur status with foreign players, a joint NABC-NCAA Rules Committee meeting and the new NCAA rules, end of season awards, and a review of the national tournaments for all divisions of NCAA, NJCAA, and NAIA were presented. Membership was also addressed and a bigger push for coaches at two-year schools across the country to join will be made. Mark Emmert (president of the NCAA) and Kiki VanDeWeghe (Executive Vice President, Basketball Operations, NBA) were also in attendance.

The highlight of the week was when a mock Selection Process activity was held using the same room set-up, information and process for the Division I NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament selection that the real committee uses so that coaches could see all the analytics and factors that go into how the NCAA 68-team Division I tournament field is set.

McDonald thought the time spent in Indianapolis was invaluable.

"This has been an unbelievable opportunity for the [junior college] coaches association to have a representative on the board of directors. We have met some great people that could help us with tournament seeding and scheduling," said McDonald.

The NABC Board of Directors will have their summer meeting Aug. 29-30 in Kansas City.





NABC NJCAA COACH OF THE YEAR TODD LORENSEN JOINS US FOR Q&A SESSION

Photos courtesy of Southwestern Community College, Danville Community College, ICCAC

July 11, 2017



Southwestern (Iowa) Community College head coach Todd Lorensen joined us for a Q&A session after a fairy tale season for the men's basketball program; one that saw the program break many school records, earn numerous awards and honors, and draw the attention and support of the community and the state en route to the first national championship of any sport in school history.

We asked a variety of questions to Coach Lorensen ranging from where he got his start to what the success that Southwestern has had the previous few seasons has meant for him personally, as well as the school and community.

Coach Lorensen took over as the head coach in August 2014 at a Southwestern program coming off a 8-22 season the year prior and had not had a winning season since the 2008-2009 campaign.

In Lorensen's first season at the helm, the Spartans finished 23-10, finished third in the Division II ICCAC regular season standings and advanced to the Region XI semifinals.

In just his second year he compiled a team that finished tied for the regular season championship. But an upset loss in the Region XI quarterfinals left the Spartans hungry for more the following season.

Southwestern finished the job in the 2016-2017 season. The Spartans finished the season 36-1, the only loss coming at national powerhouse and then defending national champion Kirkwood 78-75. Southwestern avenged their lone loss in the Region XI championship game. The Spartans then pulled off four straight wins; over Southern Maryland, Pima (Ariz.), Richard Bland (Va.), and Louisburg (N.C.) to claim their first-ever national title.



JCBCA Q&A

TODD LORENSEN



Q1 | How did you get your start in coaching? When did you know it was something you wanted to pursue?

LORENSEN: I'm the son of high school coach so I've always been around the game. It was during my sophomore year of college that I decided it wanted to pursue it as a profession. Like many coaches, my first year in the business was at my alma mater [Grand View University].

Q2 | Who are some of your mentors?

LORENSEN: My father has been the most influential on me in terms of how to treat people and players. Although I am biased he is one of the best human being there is around.

All of the coaches I've worked for have molded me into who I am today. I still do a lot of things schematically from Nebraska-Omaha on the offensive side of things and my time under Matt Woodley is where all of our defensive philosophies came from.

Q3 | Explain your style of coaching and how you approach your players?

LORENSEN: Coaching is 100% about developing relationships. A quote I think of often is from Buzz Williams: "He ain't an X. He ain't an O. He's a person. Pour your soul into him. It doesn't matter where he's going on your scribbles if he doesn't trust you."

Our staff works really hard to make sure our guys know we want them to be successful. Sometimes it's just talking in the office, getting shots up with a key player who's struggling, or watching some extra film with them. Essentially trying to create an atmosphere where our players feel valued.

Q4 | Describe your style of play and what you think makes your teams most successful?

LORENSEN: Offensively I like to get up and down. Kids like playing that way and I enjoy coaching that style. We like to space the floor and play 5 out. Our goal is to coach our players on what a good shot/bad shot if for them and then trust they will make good decisions in game action. Of course we have sets to exploit a mismatch but we really try to let our guys play and keep our hands off them as much as possible.

On defense we play almost exclusively man-to-man. We switch ball screens 1-5 most of the time, full front the post, and rely on weak side help to protect against the lob. We will play zone at times but very rarely. If we want a change of pace we will do it with our ball screen coverage or pick up full court.

We really value our players input so I think the trust we've created with them has helped give them the confidence to play at a high level. Our guys have developed a culture that values winning.



Southwestern's recent success has sparked a big community following in Creston, Iowa where large crowds became the norm in a championship season.

JCBCA Q&A

TODD LORENSEN



Q5 | Talk about the rebuilding process that you have gone through at Southwestern over the last three years, what have been some of the biggest challenges or obstacles?

LORENSEN: I accepted the job on July 30, [2014] so the first year was just trying to figure things out. We were fortunate to add some high level players and have a successful year.

Going into the second year our staff felt like we had the “pieces” to be really good. We had a great year, won a conference championship, broke the single season wins record at Southwestern, had an All-American selection, and had some “signature” wins on our resume. This season is one I will never forget but it still had challenges. We had a post player leave us in the summer and another player tore his Achilles and was out for the season.

I feel like we are past it now but a major challenge was getting recruits to believe we could win at the highest level here. We had to share a vision and a plan and now we sell what we’ve been able to accomplish. Like many places we battle with resources, facilities, and staffing.

Q6 | How have you created a successful environment and attracted athletes to come to Creston, Iowa?

LORENSEN: I think the biggest selling point has been our staff and the fact we got players/families to want to play for us and then trust us while they were here. Once our players are here they fall in love with Creston. It is an amazing community with great people.

When it’s all said and done our best attribute as an institution is the people who work here. There’s a ton of pride and loyalty.

Q7 | What stood out with the 2017 team that made them special?

LORENSEN: A lot of the cliché stuff coaches talk about. They bought into a vision and worked hard on a regular basis. We sold them on the idea of giving up a little bit of themselves for the betterment of the team.

We had a very deep team which made our practices extremely competitive something that I think was a huge factor in our ability to be so consistent all season long.

On the court we could win in a variety of ways. Some nights we shot so well it carried us and other nights we had to rely on our defense. The fact we had 5-6 guys who could lead us in scoring on a given night was great to have.



JCBCA Q&A

TODD LORENSEN



Q8 | Describe what a championship season meant to the Creston community, to your players, and to you.

LORENSEN: It was a fairy tale season and the community was behind us the entire time. I think it brought a ton of joy the area and lots of excitement. Our crowds were great all year and the atmosphere for our regional championship game was off the charts. Our crowd at the national tournament solidified how much support we got.

Our players will remember this for the rest of their lives. This team has a bond that will be there forever- time, distance, or any other factor can never take it away. A championship lasts a lifetime and there will be a banner on our campus forever.

Personally, it has been rewarding in many ways. My first year as a head coach we went 6-19 [at Iowa Wesleyan] and as a young head coach (28 years old at the time) I could have started to question my ability to be successful. To be able to win a championship makes all the long nights of recruiting, game planning, etc all worth it.

Now it has me motivated to try and do it again.

Q9 | You were recognized as the NABC Coach of the Year for the NJCAA, what does that mean to you to receive all the recognition you have following the season?

LORENSEN: It has been very flattering to receive so many awards for our great season. Ultimately those awards are the by product of the people you have around you. I've had great assistants and some extremely talented players that made all of this possible.

I was fortunate to speak at the Nike Basketball Clinic [in April 2017 in Las Vegas, Nev.] in large part, if not all, due to the awards and accolades I received. Never in a million years did I think I'd be speaking after Bob Knight!



A large number of Southwestern fans made the seven-hour journey to the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Tournament

Q10 | What do you wish to accomplish moving forward in your coaching career?

LORENSEN: I think a lot of coaches- and I'm definitely guilty of this,- get too worried about the next step in their career. I've always felt if I work hard and do a great job in my current position the rest will take care of itself.

Whether it is at the junior college or a different level I want to continue to impact young men through the game of basketball. The relationships created in this profession is truly remarkable.

JCBCA Q&A

TODD LORENSEN



Q11 | What makes Junior College basketball special, different from other types of basketball? What are its strengths, benefits?

LORENSEN: I absolutely love JC [junior college] basketball. There are so many talented players and coaches at this level. Junior college has been given a rough reputation at times but the more I'm around the more I appreciate this level.

Most staffs are pretty small and coaches have other duties on campus. You really have to be creative with your time to accomplish the tasks you have every day/week.

I feel a huge strength of junior college basketball is the players are so driven to prove the naysayers wrong. Whether it was they didn't qualify academically or didn't get recruited to the level they were hoping. The benefit is it gives so many young men a chance to redeem themselves and make it to the next level.



Coach Lorensen coached the Division II/III All-Stars along with North Lake (TX) head coach Tim McGraw in the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game in Las Vegas, NV on April 29th, 2017. They faced the Division I All-Stars coached by Eastern Florida State's Jeremy Shulman.



Coach Lorensen and members of the Southwestern Community College men's basketball team were invited to the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines after winning their first national championship in school history.

Q12 | How do you see the landscape changing over the next several years? What would you do to change or improve the game?

LORENSEN: At the highest levels there's so much money involved you always wonder if that will cause major changes. I sure hope not but it's certainly possible.

I think the emphasize of the [NBA] G-League (formerly D-League) getting better and paying players more will help slow this down if it were to ever happen.

The new efforts by USA Basketball to get more education to young coaches is something I think needs to continue and grow even more. Having coaches more involved is always good.

