

2000-2001 COLLEGE COACHES OF THE YEAR

BRIAN MOREHOUSE
WOMENS'
HOPE COLLEGE

PERRY WATSON
MENS'
UNIV of DETROIT MERCY

DAVID SELMON
JR COLLEGE * GRAND RAPIDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BRIAN MOREHOUSE, HOPE COLLEGE * Coaching is in Brian Morehouse's blood. His father, Dean, led the varsity boys' basketball team for thirty years at Fremont High School, and seems to have handed both a love for the game and a skill at directing it down to his son. Now the director of the Dow Physical Education and Health Center, Brian Morehouse was a student assistant during his undergraduate years at Hope. He then moved into the men's junior varsity position, and after two years there, made his move to the head coach of the women's varsity team. In his five years with the Lady Flying Dutch, Coach Morehouse hasn't been content with going anywhere but up. When he took over the program in the 1996-97 season, the Dutch finished the year 15-12. In each consecutive year, the team record has grown steadily better, and culminates with this season's finish of 25-3. Along the way this year, the 2000-2001 women's team captured the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship. With their 25-3 record, made their mark as the first team in Hope's history to have three consecutive 20-win campaigns. On top of all this, Coach Morehouse was also voted the Division III Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year by the College Basketball Coaches Association.

PERRY WATSON, UNIVERSITY of DETROIT MERCY * Perry Watson had a goal in mind when he came to the University of Detroit Mercy. He had just finished two years as an assistant at the University of Michigan, which culminated in two NCAA championship games, and before that, he had established a nationally-renowned program at Detroit Southwestern High School. When he came in as head coach for the Titans, then, Coach Watson was determined to build them into annual conference contenders. And the Titan's appear to be on the rise, as for their fourth straight year they collect more than twenty wins, going 25-12 overall for the 2000-2001 season. Within their league, Watson's Titans went 11-3, and played their way into the N.I.T. Final Four. Coach Watson's seven seasons at Detroit Mercy have been dubbed the "Watson Years", and during this time frame, Watson has produced six winning campaigns and a 133-64 record. He has coached six All-MCC players in his tenure, as well as two Conference Players of the Year (current Philadelphia 76ers Jermaine Jackson and Rashad Phillips) and two Newcomers of the Year (Derrick Hayes and Phillips). No other coach has ever led the Titans into either first or second place in the MCC standings, nor did any of Watson's predecessors ever coach Detroit to even two straight opening-round victories in conference tournament play. Coach Watson has brought a spark to Titan Basketball, but it's doubtful that he will be content until this spark becomes a roaring flame --- a force to be reckoned with.

DAVID SELMON, GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE * Dave Selmon had led GRCC's men's basketball team for ten seasons, and has compiled some pretty impressive statistics along the way. However, it is his commitment to his players beyond the basketball court that have made Coach Selmon stand out among the crowd. Raider players have one of the top graduation rates in the state of Michigan at the junior college level, graduating more than 60% of sophomores since Selmon took over the program in 1991. Coach Selmon is a member of Ta-Wa-Si, a group that promotes scholarships for prep players entering the college ranks, and strongly advocates education. Along with his work in the academic arena, Dave Selmon has done amazing things on the athletic end as well. His career record with the Raiders is 236-50, placing among the best coaches in the country in victories, division titles (eight), winning percentage (.821), and tenure with one team. Coach Selmon has been named Michigan Coach of the Year seven times during his career at GRCC and captured a national Coach of the Year award in 1995, when the Raiders finished runner-up to the National Champions. This year, the Raiders finished 22-2, collecting a .917 winning percentage and adding yet another great season to Coach Selmon's record.