

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.

2003-2004 COLLEGE COACHES OF THE YEAR

ROGERIC TURNER

MENS' JR COLLEGE

Wayne Co Community

After working as an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Michigan in Dearborn **Coach Rogeric Turner** moved on to take the position of Head Men's Basketball Coach at Wayne County Community College District in 1998.

Coach Turner graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health.

During his tenure at WCCCD, **Coach Turner** has sent 42 of his athletes on to traditional four-year colleges. Twice, **Coach Turner** has been named Eastern Division Coach of the Year (2002 and 2003).

In 2004, **Coach Turner** led the Wildcats to a 20-8 record and to the Final Four of the Michigan 2004 Tournament.

STEVE HAWKINS

MENS'

Western Michigan University

In his first year as Head Coach of the Broncos, **Steve Hawkins** has done some amazing things. When **Hawkins** was hired in May of 2003, after serving as the top assistant for the Broncos the previous three years, he took over a program that was on the rise. Even with the WMU program on the rise, few people in the basketball community expected **Hawkins** would have so much success so early.

Steve led the Broncos to a school record of 26 wins, ending the season with a 26-5 record. The Broncos were crowned the 2003-04 MAC regular season champions and earned their first ever MAC Tournament Championship giving them an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. For the first time in school history, the Broncos posted back-to-back 20 win seasons.

Throughout the season, the Broncos were ranked among the nation's top mid-major programs by three different national polls.

During the 2003-04 season, under **Coach Hawkins**, WMU defeated College of Charleston 83-78 on national television as part of ESPN's Bracket Buster Saturday. The game was the first nationally televised game from University Arena.

Coach Hawkins was honored for his great season by being named Rookie Coach of the Year by the Basketball Times.

SUZY MERCHANT

WOMENS'

Eastern Michigan University

The success **Coach Merchant** is having at EMU is nothing new to her. She has been around the basketball court her entire life. After a standout high school career in Traverse City and a stellar college career at Central MI University, **Suzy Merchant** got into coaching. Her 1st head coaching job was at Saginaw Valley State with the women's basketball team. In 3 years at the helm for Saginaw Valley, **Merchant** compiled a 54-29 record. After SVSU, she moved to Eastern Michigan and took over as Head Women's Coach in 1998. At EMU **Coach Merchant** experienced unprecedented success, putting together 5 winning seasons in her first 6 years with the Eagles.

This season, **Merchant's** team was 22-8, which was the best finish in school history. Included in those 22 wins was a streak of 12 consecutive victories. The 2003-04 season also saw EMU capture the program's first conference title which granted them an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament where they nearly upset #3 seed Boston College. The Eagles trip to the NCAA tournament was a first for the school. Other accomplishments for the Eagles this season included **Coach Merchant** becoming the first female coach in any sport at EMU to win a MAC title. EMU guard, Marion Crandall, led the nation in 3 pt field goal percentage, shooting an amazing 50.7% from behind the arc. The Eagles had a lot of talent this year and **Coach Merchant** is happy that most of that talent is returning. The Eagles were tied for the 14th youngest team in Division I Basketball.

CARRIE LOHR

WOMENS' JR COLLEGE

St Clair Co Community

Coach Lohr has spent a lot of time at SCCC over the past two decades. She graduated from SCCC in 1992 with an Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts degree, while playing basketball for 2 years. After receiving her Bachelor degree from the University of Michigan in Dearborn, she returned to SCCC in 1994.

Coach Lohr started her coaching career at SCCC at that time as an Assistant Women's B'ball Coach. She then served a brief two-year stint at Oakland University serving as an Assistant Women's B'ball Coach and Recruiting Coordinator from 1997-99. In 2002 she returned to SCCC to become the Head Women's B'ball Coach.

In her two years as Head Coach, **Carrie Lohr** has had two winning seasons, a 15-12 record in 2002-03 and a 20-11 record in 2003-04. The 20 wins that SCCC posted in '04 was the teams' first 20-win season since 1994. **Coach Lohr** recruited a 1st Team All-American student-athlete in 2003-04 and had a team GPA of 3.0. After taking over a program with an 11-7 record, **Coach Lohr** has accumulated a 35-23 record as head coach.