

BCAM Distinguished Service Award – 2009 recipient Dan Christner

--“auto”biography written by Dan Christner

Dan is a 1974 graduate of Livonia Franklin and a 1978 graduate of Northern Michigan University where is he was twice cut from the varsity in favor of the more talented Tom Izzo and Mike Garland. After those disappointments he thought about going into officiating but reports that his grades in college were too high.

As a high school player he boasts of once singlehandedly holding Highland Park's Terry DuRod to a mere 29 points in a game. Dan's varsity coaching record is a similarly mediocre 143-142, with stints at Chesaning and Brighton.

"It became apparent to me that the only way that I was ever going to get in the "Hall of Anything" was through service to the great game of basketball. So in 1979 I joined BCAM and began serving on the Board of Directors in 1980, where I continue to this day."

While teaching Current Events and U.S. History at Chesaning and Brighton, he was elected commencement speaker six times and "Most Influential Teacher" four times while also serving as chairman of the BHS Social Studies Department. For the past 14 seasons he has coached freshmen girls and middle school boys having "finally found a group of players who know less about the game than I do."

He counts his 41-year marriage to his wife Elizabeth Ann as his greatest honor and achievement. They have two sons: Charlie, a middle school science teacher and head baseball coach at Brighton High School and Jesse, a social studies teacher at BHS and middle school basketball coach. Dan is also the proud grandfather of Jackson, Emerie and a player to be named later.