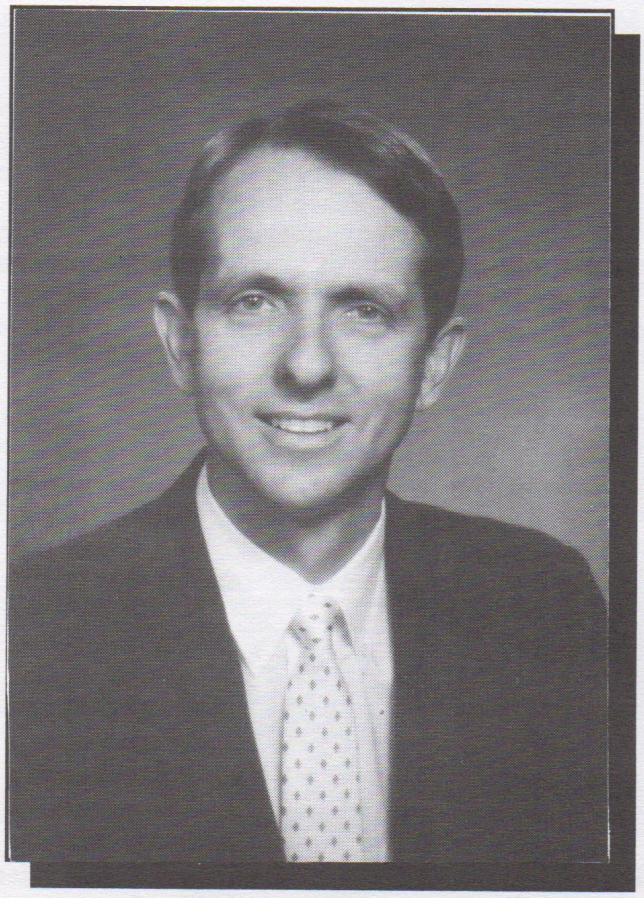
HALL OF FAME DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

THOMAS HURSEY



Tom Hursey should be called The Mr. Basketball of Michigan. Currently a math teacher and recently retired boys basketball coach at Midland High School, Tom still keeps very active in Michigan basketball as an officer of the Basketball Coaches Association.

In 1974, Tom and Ron Vondette came up with a bright idea. They decided to form a group for area high school basketball coaches to share ideas and express concerns. It started out with a handful of members. By 1976 it developed into a state-wide organization named the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. Today, membership has grown to nearly 1800, largely because of Tom's continuing involvement.

Tom is like the C.E.O. of a large company. His official title is that of Executive Secretary but also includes the job as association treasurer. His involvement includes member registrations, editor and publisher of quarterly newsletter, tabulating and recognizing hundreds of coaching and player awards, the fall Converse Clinic, Hall of Fame week-end and All Star Games. He is involved with scholarships, grants and donations. He oversaw the founding of the "Mr. Basketball" and "Miss Basketball" awards and post-season academic awards for individual players and team awards.

Throughout the past twenty years, Tom has been involved in numerous issues affecting the game of basketball, including removing the "seatbelt rule". He stays on top of rule changes and closely watches for any new developments that may affect the game.

Although retiring last year as head boys coach at Midland High School, he continues to be involved with Midland High School sports as an announcer for home basketball and football games, as well as being the boys golf coach.

If you were to ask basketball coaches around the state who they think of when they think of state basketball, the majority would say, "Tom Hursey, of course!" Tom does not see his involvement as a job (although a full-time job it is at times), but rather "my hobby". He takes pride in what he does, he is highly respected by many and his dedication to the sport of basketball is unselfish and sincere.

Tom Hursey is truly "a friend of Michigan basketball". Due to Tom's terrific effort with The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, the Distinguished Service Award will now be called The Thomas Hursey Distinguished Service Hall of Honor Award.