



2024 DIRENNA AWARDS SHOW

Wednesday, April 10, 2024



WELCOME TO THE 2024 DIRENNA AWARDS SHOW

Wednesday, April 10

Welcome/Introduction of Tonight's Host

Mick Shaffer, Sports Director at KSHB 41

Tom Colwell Lifetime Achievement Award

Sean Reilly

Walt Tylicki Memorial Award

Bob Harbour

GKCBCA Hall of Fame Inductions

Coach Category

Randy Draper

Rick Hetzel

Roger Stirtz

Mark Nusbaum

Player Category

Sarah Campbell (Central 1982)

Jaron Rush (Pembroke Hill 1998)

Eddie Ryan Awards

Men's Teams

David Birch, Shawnee Mission Northwest

Michael Gholston, Jr., Central

Women's Teams

Ryan Robie, De Soto

Darren Smith, Chillicothe

DiRenna Awards

Remarks and Presentation.....Dr. James A. DiRenna Jr.

Female Finalists

Addison Bjorn, Park Hill South

Jaliya Davis, Blue Valley North

Azailah "Zai" Funches, Shawnee Mission South

Jadyn Wooten, Blue Valley

Summer Yancy, Lee's Summit North

Male Finalists

Corbin Allen, Oak Park

David Cobin, De Soto

Michael "Isaia" Howard, Plattsburg

Joey Matteoni, Blue Valley Northwest

Keaton Wagler, Shawnee Mission Northwest

Introduction of All-Star Players and Coaches

Closing Comments

THANK YOU



We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their support of tonight's event and for the sport of High School Basketball in the Kansas City area.

KSHB 41 - Kansas City

Dr. James A. DiRenna Jr and Family

Hasty Awards

810Varsity

Game One

KC High School Hoops

Twin Lakes Insurance Agency

Photos

To view and purchase photos from tonight's awards show and games, visit



www.dwoodsphoto.com

www.dwoodsphoto.com

Special Thanks

To St. Thomas Aquinas High School for hosting the 2024 DiRenna Awards Show & DiRenna All-Star Games



2024 DIRENNA ALL-STAR GAMES

Friday, April 12 • St. Thomas Aquinas HS • Overland Park, Kan.

Women's Game: 6 p.m. CT • Men's Game: 7:30 p.m. CT



TOM COLWELL

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In 2003, the GKBCA Lifetime Achievement Award was renamed the Tom Colwell Lifetime Achievement Award, in honor of the longtime coach at Bishop Miege, Blue Valley North and St. Thomas Aquinas high schools, in addition to prior positions as head coach and athletics director at St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine College).

In his more than 40-year career, Tom taught and coached more than 7,500 students and athletes, and inspired dozens of former students and players to pursue teaching and coaching careers.



Tom Colwell passed away in 2002, but his influence can still be felt throughout the greater Kansas City basketball scene. His former assistant coaches and players include (but are not limited to): Sean Reilly (St. Thomas Aquinas HS), Ed Fritz (Blue Valley Northwest HS), Mark Huppe (Rockhurst University), Bill O'Connor (Rockhurst University) and Doug Bruce (Rockhurst HS Athletics Director).

2024 Recipient

Sean Reilly's distinguished and passionate career in teaching, coaching, and leading began in his formative years as a youth in New York City. These pursuits have spanned over a half a century and have impacted thousands of students and adults and continue to this day.

Upon graduating from St. Mary of the Plains College, Sean taught and coached at Sacred Heart in Dodge City, Kansas. Sean came to the Kansas City area to pursue his teaching/coaching career in 1979 at St. Mary's High School in Independence, Missouri. His dedicated career has included schools both in Missouri and Kansas and in both the public and parochial sectors. Sean shares that he has been both blessed and honored to have worked with many dedicated student-athletes, teachers, coaches, administrators, staff and parents.

Although most recognized from his 14-year teaching and Head Coaching stint at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Sean has also left many treasured moments and memories at the following schools: St. Mary's, Bishop Miege, Shawnee Mission North, Shawnee Mission East, DeSoto, Mill Valley, Turner, Rockhurst HS, Blue Valley Southwest, Blue Valley Northwest, Leawood Middle, Johnson County Community College, and Rockhurst College.

Sean's love and enjoyment for teaching, coaching, and leading extend beyond the school experiences. He has also shared his love for the game of basketball and life with Special Olympics, Catholic Youth Organizations, and summer AAU programs. Beyond his expertise in his first love, basketball, Sean has also coached football, track, and baseball.



Sean has been a much sought-after clinician and keynote speaker at many universities and clinics over the decades. He has traveled throughout the United States and internationally to Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, Canada, and Ireland to share his love of basketball with thousands of athletes and coaches alike.

Sean shares that he has been blessed to have a wonderful and supportive wife Teresa, and family. It is with their love and support that he has been able to accomplish so many things in his career.

The recipient of numerous coaching awards Sean intimates that to date his most cherished recognition was receiving the Marcus Priddy award for outstanding work with athletes outside the athletic arena. But receiving the Tom Colwell Lifetime Achievement Award surpasses that. Sean states, "Coach Colwell was not only a mentor of mine, but a great friend, and a man I loved. My wife and I so respected him that we asked him to be our oldest son's Godfather. So receiving this award is the pinnacle of my career."

Past Recipients

Award Sponsor



- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 2023 | Darwin Rold | 2010 | Jack Smith, Liberty HS |
| 2022 | John Sedler | 2009 | Tom Goddard, Windsor/Raytown HSs |
| 2019 | Jim Rusconi | 2008 | Walt Shublom, Wyandotte HS & Kansas City Kansas CC |
| 2018 | Mark Huppe | 2007 | Jim Draper, Erie/Blue Valley/Arkansas City/Oak Park/Grandview/Blue Valley Northwest HS |
| 2017 | Mike Etnire | 2006 | Lee Kariker, William Jewell College |
| 2016 | Mike Gailey, Lee's Summit | 2005 | Norb Schmidt, long-time KCMO-area coach |
| 2015 | Mike Miller, Olathe North | 2004 | Keith Lindsay, KCK-area basketball |
| 2014 | Joel Heider, Bishop Ward | 2003 | Lafayette Norwood, Johnson County CC |
| 2013 | Mike Brinsko, Highland Park/Shawnee Mission West | 2002 | Jim Gurley, Shawnee Mission South HS |
| 2012 | Joe Grantham, De La Salle/Rockhurst/Park Hill/St. Theresa's | | |
| 2011 | Roger Jackson, Bishop Lillis HS/ Bishop Ward HS/ Rockhurst HS/ Bishop Miege HS | | |

WALT TYLICKI MEMORIAL AWARD



He never coached a state championship, but in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him, Walt Tylicki was truly a champion.

The star of the team, the 12th man, the academically gifted, and the academically challenged, all were equal in his eyes. He was *their* coach.

Walt's abiding faith in the basic goodness and worth of every person was a transforming power in the lives of thousands of young men and women, on and off the court.

Walt Tylicki's legacy serves as the template for selecting recipients of this award.

The GKBCA established the Walt Tylicki Memorial Award in 2006 to recognize longtime educators and coaches who have devoted an entire career to helping people become better athletes and students.

Tylicki, a graduate of Rockhurst University, turned his love of basketball into a long career as a teacher, counselor and assistant coach, spending 29 years at Bishop Miege High School.

2024 Recipient

Bob Harbour just completed his 27th season as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School. When joining the program, he was the Freshman coach. The following year, Rick Hetzel took the position of Head Coach and Coach Harbour moved to JV and Varsity Assistant Coach. For the next 15 years he continued in both roles until Jon Novacek took over as JV Coach and Coach Harbour became the full time Varsity Assistant.



27 years later, the Girls' program at St. Thomas Aquinas has 30 straight State Tournament appearances, 11 State Titles, 6 Runner-up Titles, and 20 Final Four appearances. 36 players have gone on to play at the collegiate level and two former players (Samantha Paradise and Allie Dierks) have returned to the program to serve as Assistant Coaches.

The most rewarding aspect of being a part of this program is seeing players come back to games and practices, share their experiences and successes and continuing to take pride in the program.

Bob Harbour resides at Lake Quivera with his wife Patty. He has a son (Casey) who also attended St. Thomas Aquinas and lives in Wichita with his wife Sarah. He has two grandsons (Dayton and Cooper). After owning Harbour Construction for 40 years, he is now retired and devotes his time to the basketball program.

Award Sponsor



Past Recipients

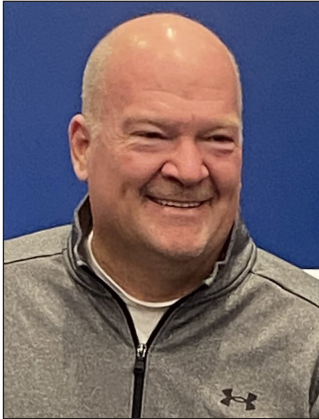
- 2023 Lewis Smith
- 2022 Rob James, Liberty North, Minnetonka
- 2019 Jim Page, Truman
- 2018 John Morris, Rockhurst
- 2017 Kevin Harrison, Fort Osage, Kirksville, Lee's Summit, Raytown, Lee's Summit North, Lee's Summit West
- 2016 Richard Murphy, St. Pius X
- 2015 Jude Gerstner, St. Thomas Aquinas
- 2014 Tim Bishop, Shawnee Mission West/Olathe Northwest
- 2013 Kevin Levetzow, Park Hill
- 2012 Mike Nelson, Park Hill South
- 2011 Kelly Ponzer, Shawnee Mission South High School/ Shawnee Mission School District
- 2010 Jim Hutchens, Kearney School District
- 2009 Larry Park, Avila University/Ottawa University/ University of Missouri-Kansas City/Rockhurst University
- 2008 Bill Reardon, Bishop Miege High School
- 2007 Randy Freivogel & Allen Stillman, Leavenworth High School
- 2006 Jim Carr, Olathe South High School

GKCBCA HALL OF FAME

Since 1999, the Greater Kansas City Basketball Coaches Association has honored area coaches and individuals with induction into the GKCBCA Hall of Fame.

The criteria for selection include: minimum of 20 years as a head basketball coach (high school or college), with 15 years in the Kansas City area, a minimum of 300 career wins as a high school varsity or college head coach, positive role model for players, school and community; and achieved positive impact/influence on Kansas City basketball and their own program(s).

Class of 2024, Coaches Category



RANDY DRAPER

Draper began his head coaching career in Madison, Mo. He coached the girls' and boys' junior high and the boys' varsity basketball teams. Draper also coached boys' baseball in the fall and spring.

After one year at Madison, he returned to the University of Missouri serving as a graduate assistant for two years under Coach Stewart. Draper then spent seven years in Camdenton before continuing his career in Grain Valley, Mo., where he has spent 24 seasons, and he continues today.

In his 32 years as a head basketball coach, Coach Draper spent the first 19 years coaching boys and the last 13 years coaching girls. Draper's teams have recorded 530 wins, with 420 wins at Grain Valley. His Grain Valley

teams have won six District championships, five of which were with the girls' teams. Two of his girls' teams also advanced to the state quarterfinals.

Draper was inducted into Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2019.

Coach Draper is the son of the late Jim Draper, a longtime basketball coach and the winner of the 2007 Tom Colwell Lifetime Achievement Award. He is married to Michelle, and they have one son, Michael, who is a third generation coach.



RICK HETZEL

Rick Hetzel's coaching career began in 1976 in the Kansas City area as a middle school basketball coach. Later, while attending the University of Missouri Kansas City Coach Hetzel became a student assistant for the men's basketball team, moving to a full time assistant in 1985.

Hetzel began his high school coaching career in 1986 as the boy's JV coach under Mark Nusbaum at O'Hara High School. After starting a family of his own, Hetzel chose to begin his career coaching girls and became the girl's JV coach at Notre Dame de Sion High School.

In 1995 Coach Hetzel started teaching and coaching at Saint Thomas Aquinas and has been the head girl's coach at Aquinas for the past 26 seasons. During his tenure Hetzel has accumulated a 534-102 record with 11 Eastern

Kansas League Championships and a postseason record of 105-15. Aquinas has advanced to the state tournament all 26 years of his career there and has won 11 State Championships, including an undefeated season in 2011 and a run of 7 State Championships in a row from 2016-2023.

Coach Hetzel and his staff have won the Eddie Ryan Coaching award 4 times and he was named the Midwest Coach of the Year in 2004.

He is married to his wife Marcy and they have 6 children, 7 grandchildren, and one great big dog.



ROGER STIRTZ

Roger Stirtz was a part of Liberty coaching staff for 28 years, including 23 as the Head Coach. During his tenure, the Jays have amassed 430 victories 7 Conference Championships and 10 District Championships. In addition, the Blue Jays reached the Final Four on four different occasions, winning the State Championship in 2001.

Stirtz was named the recipient of the Eddie Ryan Coach of the Year Award in 2007 and was inducted in the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2023.

"I would like to thank my wife Renee of 31 years, sons Mason (wife Carly), Caden (wife Kinsley), Bennett and Cooper and also my in laws Ken and Mary Russell who rarely missed a game. I would also like to thank my

athletic directors Steve Butler, Mark Holderbaum, and Jason Cahill. Finally, thank you to all the tremendous families in Liberty who helped raise outstanding young men for our program to coach for 28 years. It was a blessing."



MARK NUSBAUM

Mark Nusbaum has spent 41 years in coaching including serving as the JV Coach at O'Hara (2 years) and the Varsity Assistant at St. Thomas Aquinas (7 years) in addition to 32 years as a Head Basketball Coach.

During those 32 years as a Head Basketball Coach, he served at 5 different high schools including Russell, IA (3 years); Albia, IA (2 years); O'Hara (8 years); Liberty (5 years) and Rockhurst (14 years). During this time he amassed an impressive record of 569 wins against only 278 losses.

During this time he led his teams to 6 Conference Championships; 6 District Championships; 6 Final Fours, 3 third place finishes; 1 second place finish and captured 2 state championships at Liberty in 1998 (undefeated

season) and Rockhurst in 2014.

Nusbaum has received numerous Coach of the Year Awards during his career including the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association (MBCA); Eddie Ryan and Paul Lambert awards. In addition, Coach Nusbaum was named to the MBCA Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Rockhurst High School Hall of Fame in 2023.

Class of 2024, Players Category



SARAH CAMPBELL

Central

Sarah Campbell is one of the pioneers of the sport of women's basketball. As a freshman at Central High School, she led her team to the MO Class 3A state championship. She received national recognition during her high school career being named an All-American and set a single game scoring record (for both boys and girls) with 54 points.

Upon arriving at the University of Missouri she was a 4-year starter, and was named the MVP of the Big 8 tournament. Campbell was also selected to represent the United States as a member of the ABA-Jones Cup where she played a key role averaging 10 points and 10 assists as they captured the gold medal. This effort helped earn her an invitation to the 1984 US Olympic Team tryouts.

Campbell then embarked on her professional career and spent a year with the Swedish Foundation where she averaged 30 points per game. Upon returning to the US, she joined the WBA Missouri Mustangs where she continued to set scoring records. Campbell was a 3x MVP and 4x All-Star before retiring and moving on to the coaching ranks.

Her coaching career included time at the high school and college levels before moving on to the professional level with the Kansas Nuggets. Campbell then made the transition to the ownership ranks with the Kansas City Majestic.

As a player, coach and owner during her career she has served as one of the "Trailblazers" for the sport of women's basketball and has been honored as such by the Women's Blue Chip Basketball League alongside other women including Lynette Woodard, Lisa Leslie and Tamika Catchings.

Currently, Campbell serves as a National Customer Service Manager for Quest Diagnostics.



JARON RUSH

Pembroke Hill

Jaron Rush is one of the most highly decorated high school basketball players ever at both the local and national level. At the local level, he led his team to a record of 112-9 and scored an incredible 3,387 points. He was a 4x selection to the All-Metro and 1st Team All-State teams and is the only 3-time DiRenna Award winner in the 71-year history of the award.

At the national level, Rush was selected to the McDonald's All-American Game, was a 2x Parade All-American, Junior Olympics MVP in Paris, France his sophomore year and was ranked #1 in the nation as an 8th grader through his junior year.

Currently, Jaron owns and operates Rush Training KC where he trains both boys and girls beginning at the youth level all the way through high school, college and the professional ranks on all things related to basketball including footwork, shooting, defense and ball handling.

Jaron is grateful for love and support of his wife and children, Shea, Talia and Taytum.

Class of 2024 Coaches Randy Draper Rick Hetzel Roger Stirtz Mark Nusbaum Players Sarah Campbell Jaron Rush	Class of 2023 Players Kimberly Scoggin-Bush Quinton Day Marcus Walker Class of 2022 Coaches Jeff Atkins Steve Cassidy Jim Super	Class of 2019 Coaches Bill O'Connor Brad Oyler Players Martinez Denmon Calvin Thompson Class of 2018 Coaches Brett Goodwin Mark Scanlon Players LeAnn Wilcox	Class of 2017 Coaches Ed Fritz Ann Fritz Rick Zych Players Greg Gurley Clay Johnson Betty Lennox Class of 2016 Tricia Lillygren Larry Hogan	Class of 2015 Steve Broughton Mark Spigarelli Class of 2014 Edwin Ryan Wayne Van Dine Class of 2013 Roger Giger Dan Miller Class of 2012 Fred Turner	Class of 2011 Steve Ingram William A. Madison III Class of 2010 Bill Durham Kenny Vance Class of 2009 Jim Baker John McFall Class of 2008 Rocky Lamar Brad Gaines	Class of 2007 Kermit Deterding Ken Kerwin Class of 2006 Dale Williams Bill Lenz Class of 2005 Chuck Minor Ron Millard Class of 2004 Glen McDonald Pete Hile	Class of 2003 Diana Tingler Tom Colwell Class of 2002 Herb Webster Max Hayes Class of 2001 Terry English Gil Hanlin Wayne Lathrop Randy Springs	Class of 2000 Doug Bruce Larry Holley Tom O'Dell Paul Sexton Class of 1999 Jack Bush Jim Campbell Larry Jansen Bud Lathrop Fred Pohlman Walt Shublom

EDDIE RYAN COACHING AWARD

The Eddie Ryan Award is presented annually to the top boys and girls coach in the Greater Kansas City area.

Eddie Ryan began his coaching career in 1948 where he served as head coach at Rockhurst College. After a brief stint at Rockhurst, he later went on to coach Pembroke Country Day School until his tragic death in 1964.

During his tenure at Pembroke, he led the Raiders to four consecutive Missouri state tournaments from 1955-58, capturing the state title in 1956 and 1957. During his 10-year career at Pembroke, Ryan compiled an overall record of 213-60, winning 19 or more games in all but two seasons.

In 1966, former players of Eddie Ryan established the award in memory of their coach. In addition to his outstanding record, Ryan was noted for his unselfish desire to work with high school age athletes and was respected for the positive influence he exerted on his players.

It is in the spirit of Ryan's hard work, success, integrity, sportsmanship and disregard for personal recognition that the award is presented. The inscription on the "Eddie Ryan" plaque was composed

PRESENTED BY



by Ernie Mehl, former sports editor of The Kansas City Star, and reads:
"We who played for him and who still care for him as he cared for us, dedicate this award to Eddie Ryan in the belief that what he taught and what he coached, the morals he instilled, the code he himself respected and asked that it be accepted by others; in his concern for all, his warmth, his sincerity is best remembered and which will, like the sun, beam down through the years, all these constitute a memorial which will live in our hearts."

Past Recipients

Boys Coaches

2023	Chris Neff, Staley & Aaron Ihm, Bue Valley Northwest	1994	Jack Bush, Central
2022	Chris Neff, Staley & Matt Rice, De Soto	1993	Chuck Minor Schlagle
2021	Ryan Phifer, Blue Valley North & Max Sollars, Van Horn	1992	John McFall, Olathe South
2019	Reggie Morris, Grandview	1991	Tom Colwell, Blue Valley North
2018	Rob Heitman, Hogan Prep	1990	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South & Paul Sexton, SM South
2017	Michael Schieber, Lee's Summit West	1989	Doug Bruce, Rockhurst
2016	Mike Bennett, Mill Valley	1988	Glen McDonald, Lee's Summit
2015	Jimmy Cain, Blue Springs South	1987	Doug Bruce, Rockhurst
2014	Rod Briggs, Lansing	1986	Phil Seifert, Pembroke Hill
2013	Ed Fritz, Blue Valley Northwest	1985	Harold Brown, Lathrop
2012	Mike McBride, Basehor-Linwood	1984	Randy Springs, Wyandotte
2011	Dan Parra, Sumner Academy	1983	Vic Mitchell, Van Horn
2010	Gary Belcher, Kearney & Rick Zych, Bishop Miege	1982	Randy Springs, Wyandotte
2009	Randy Farris, Grandview	1981	Gil Hanlin, Blue Springs
2008	Mark Scanlon, Raytown	1980	Warren Landess, William Chrisman
2007	Roger Stirtz, Liberty	1979	Jack Bush, Central
2006	Kevin Nichols, Cameron	1978	Jack Bush, Central
2005	Todd Magwire, O'Hara	1977	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South
2004	John McFall, Olathe South	1976	Max Hayes, Center
2003	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South	1975	Tom Goddard, Raytown
2002	Rick O'Neil, Spring Hill	1974	Jack Bush, Central
2001	Rick Zych, Bishop Miege	1973	Bill Madison, Manual
2000	Larry Hogan, Leavenworth & Chuck Minor, Schlagle	1972	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South
1999	Rick Allison, Pembroke Hill	1971	Bill Madison, Manual
1998	Mark Nusbaum, Liberty	1970	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South
1997	Todd Magwire, Bishop Hogan	1969	Roy Flook, Sumner Academy
1996	Don Bechard, Gardner-Edgerton	1968	Bud Lathrop, Raytown South
1995	Fritz Gabler, Barstow	1967	Walt Shublum, Wyandotte
		1966	Jim Wilkinson, Central

Girls Coaches

2023	Elyseia Dunn, Raytown & Jeff Dickson, Lawrence
2022	Kory Lower, Blue Springs South & Brandon Parker, Eudora
2021	Terry English, Bishop Miege
2019	Jeff Lacy, North Kansas City
2018	Rick Hetzel, St. Thomas Aquinas
2017	Bob Fenzel, St. Pius X
2016	Brett Goodwin, St. Joseph Benton
2015	Terry English, Bishop Miege
2014	Tricia Lillygren, Lee's Summit North
2013	Rick Hetzel, St. Thomas Aquinas
2012	Joel Branstrom, Olathe Northwest & Andrew Unrein, Blue Valley
2011	Rick Hetzel, St. Thomas Aquinas
2010	Steve Ingram, Olathe South
2009	Chris Stubbs, Platte County
2008	Kristin Mallory, Lawrence
2007	Brad Oyler, Liberty
2006	Ron Millard, Shawnee Mission South
2005	Ann Fritz, Blue Valley North & Mark Spigarelli, Pembroke Hill
2004	Rick Hetzel, St. Thomas Aquinas & Brian Bubalo, Lee's Summit
2003	Terry English, Bishop Miege
2002	Tricia Lillygren, Lee's Summit North
2001	Rick Hetzel, St. Thomas Aquinas
2000	Ann Fritz, Blue Valley North & Steve Ingram, Olathe South
1999	Mark Spigarelli, Pembroke Hill
1998	Ann Fritz, Blue Valley North
1997	Jim Baker, Liberty
1996	Larry Jansen, Lee's Summit
1995	Mark Spigarelli, Pembroke Hill & Terry English, Bishop Miege

* No recipients were named in the 2019-20 season due to the season being cancelled before it was completed.

2024 EDDIE RYAN AWARD RECIPIENTS



DARREN SMITH
Chillicothe

Darren Smith just completed his 10th season as the girls basketball coach at Chillicothe and his 20th overall as a head basketball coach. This season he led his team to a 28-2 record, a Midland Empire Conference Championship and a 3rd place finish in Class 4.

Prior to Chillicothe, Smith served as the boys basketball coach at Meadville for 10 years. His overall record in 20 years is 435-124 including a mark of 224-56 in his ten years as the girls basketball coach at Chillicothe.

Smith currently serves as the Athletic Director at Chillicothe in addition to his duties as the girls basketball coach. Coach Smith has received several recognitions this season including being named the MEC Coach of the Year, the Class 4 District 16 Coach of the Year and he will be inducted in the Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame later this month.



RYAN ROBIE
De Soto

Ryan Robie just completed his 9th season as the head girls basketball coach at De Soto High School where he started his coaching career. Robie led his team to a 19-4 record this season which tied a school record for wins in a season. Overall, he has a career record of 131-70.

His 2023-24 team only lost to one team in the state of Kansas, Topeka Seaman, who went on to be state champions.

In addition to receiving the Eddie Ryan Award, he was a finalist for 5A coach of the year from Sports in Kansas and will be one of the Co-Coaches for the Kansas Women's team in the DiRenna All-Star Game on April 12.



MICHAEL GHOLSTON, JR.
Central

Michael Gholston, Jr., just completed his third season at Central High School, leading his team to a 23-8 record and a 4th place finish in the Class 4 tournament. This was their first appearance in the state tournament final four in 25 years for Central High School.

In addition to their success at the state tournament, they captured the Interscholastic League (IL) title with a perfect 10-0 record.

Coach Gholston has received several recognitions for his success including being named the Interscholastic League (IL) Coach of Year twice, the Class 4 District 15 Coach of the Year and being selected to receive the Eddie Ryan Coach of the Year Award this season.



DAVID BIRCH
Shawnee Mission Northwest

David Birch led his team to an undefeated season (25-0) en route to winning the Sunflower League Championship and defeating state powerhouse Wichita Heights to capture the KS Class 6A championship while delivering the first boys basketball state title in school history

In addition to being named the 2024 Kansas Boys Eddie Ryan Award Coach of the Year, he was named the 2024 Sports in Kansas 6A and the Kansas State Class 6A Boys Coach of the Year.

Prior to joining the Cougars, he served as the Head Coach at Piper in 2020 going 22-1 and taking them to the Forever Four before COVID ended the season prematurely. He was named the 2020 Sports in Kansas 4A Coach of the Year at the conclusion of that season. Birch is 72-20 in his four years at Northwest and 94-21 overall in his career as a head coach.

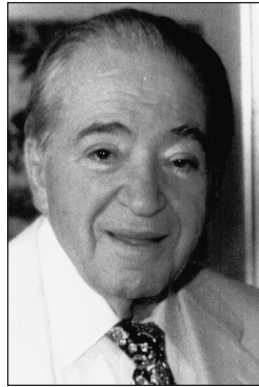
THE DIRENNA AWARDS

From Small Beginnings Come Great Things

In 1954, Dr. James A. DiRenna Sr. and Dr. D.M Nigro were dedicated to supporting the Don Bosco Center - the center of sports for young athletes from the Northeast Kansas City community. With the assistance of the University of Notre Dame and the Rockne foundation, they worked on developing national community sporting programs and recognizing star athletes in football and basketball. Dr. Nigro established the football award, DiRenna the basketball award.

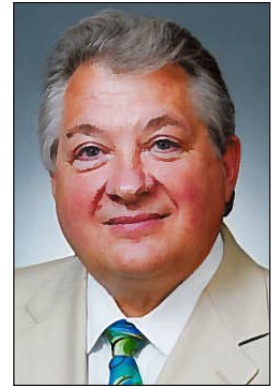
The DiRenna Award began in 1954, annually honoring the top basketball player in the Kansas City area. Alan Brofman was appointed coordinator of the award working with Bruce Rice (Sports Anchor at Channel 5) and Ernie Mehl, then sports editor of the Kansas City Star. In the early years the award was presented to a student who was the top basketball player within the Missouri region where the Kansas City Star/Times was thrown.

In the 1980s due to changes in legislative issues concerning Kansas high school athletes, Kansas students were invited and allowed to participate. Now the award recruiting area includes approximately a 50mile radius of the greater metropolitan Kansas City area.



When Brofman leaves Kansas City, Dr. James A. DiRenna Jr. took over the coordination of the award in 1985. DiRenna Jr partnered with Kevin Gray of the Kansas City Sports Commission and a sports marketing/publicity consultant. They helped facilitate the creation of the Greater Kansas City Basketball Coaches Association. Then, in 1997 DiRenna Jr. adds the The DiRenna Award for Women.

Presently, Larry House serves as coordinator of the award and the coach's association as Executive Director. With the help of the association, the local coaches submit athletes' names. Currently, the finalists and the winner are determined through a voting process involving the association's board members and other coaches from both Missouri and Kansas at the annual spring selection night meeting. This year marks the 69th Anniversary of the Men's DiRenna Award and the 26th Anniversary of the Women's DiRenna Award.



Dr. DiRenna, who passed away in 1996, was a well-known surgeon, teacher and hospital developer. His son, Dr. James A. DiRenna, Jr, has continued the family tradition of this award with the assistance of the coaches association. This award is presented annually at the DiRenna All-Star Awards Show, which is part of the DiRenna All-Star Games.

Past Recipients

Males

2023 Kyan Evans, Staley
 2022 Aidan Shaw, Blue Valley
 2021 Zeke Mayo, Lawrence
 & Mark Mitchell Jr, Bishop Miege
 2020 Tamar Bates, Piper
 2019 Christian Braun, Blue Valley Northwest
 2018 Ochai Agbaji, Oak Park
 2017 Jacob Gilyard, Barstow
 2016 Jeriah Horne, Barstow
 & Blake Spellman, Lee's Summit
 2015 Kevin Puryear, Blue Springs South
 2014 Clayton Custer, Blue Valley Northwest
 2013 Semi Ojeleye, Ottawa
 2012 Benny Parker, Sumner Academy
 2011 Tyler Kalinoski, Olathe East
 2010 Daylen Robinson, Northeast
 2009 Alec Burks, Grandview
 2008 Marcus Denmon, Hogan Prep
 2007 Conner Teahan, Rockhurst
 2006 Isaac Miles, Bishop Miege
 2005 Marcus Walker, O'Hara
 2004 Marcus Walker, O'Hara
 2003 Quinton Day, Paseo
 2002 Quinton Day, Paseo
 2001 Wayne Simien, Leavenworth
 2000 Matt Frieje, Shawnee Mission West
 1999 Kareem Rush, Pembroke Hill
 1998 JaRon Rush, Pembroke Hill
 & Victor Williams, Wyandotte
 1997 JaRon Rush, Pembroke Hill
 1996 JaRon Rush, Pembroke Hill
 1995 Derek Hood, Central
 1994 Eric Bowie, Raytown South
 1993 Vinson Smith, Schlagle
 1992 Chad Elston, Shawnee Mission West
 1991 Greg Gurley, Shawnee Mission South
 1990 Jevon Crudup, Raytown South

1989 Chris Heller, Rockhurst
 1988 Anthony Peeler, Paseo
 1987 John Cooper, Rockhurst
 1986 Harold Mitchem, Rockhurst
 1985 Tim Honeycutt, Raytown South
 1984 Barry Bailey, Central
 1983 Shawn Case, Van Horn
 1982 Calvin Thompson, Wyandotte
 1981 Steve Harris, Blue Springs
 1980 Russ Morman, William Chrisman
 1979 Jon Sundvold, Blue Springs
 1978 Michael Coleman, Central
 1977 John Crawford, Northeast
 1976 Mick & Rick Allison, Center
 1975 Steve Schall, Raytown South
 1974 Clay Johnson, Manual
 1973 Mike Goodpaster, William Chrisman
 1972 Walter Johnson, Lincoln
 1971 Felix Jerman, Manual
 1970 Kevin Wall, Rockhurst
 1969 Martinez Denmon, Lincoln
 1968 Kent Scott, Raytown South
 1967 John Stacy, Bishop Hogan
 1966 John Stacy, Bishop Hogan
 1965 Bruce Sloan, Center
 1964 Warren Armstrong, Central
 1963 Bob Bauers, Rockhurst
 1962 Larry Norris, Southeast
 1961 Don Dee, Lillis
 1960 John Cunneen, Redemptorist
 1959 Jim Whipple, Van Horn
 1958 Jackie Gilbert, Lincoln
 1957 John Hickman, Central
 1956 Jim Hoffman, Northeast
 1955 Roger Wendell, East
 1954 Kent Bryan, Southeast

Females

2023 Grace Slaughter, Grain Valley
 2022 Beatrice Culliton, St. Thomas Aquinas
 2021 Payton Verhulst, Bishop Miege
 2020 Payton Verhulst, Bishop Miege
 2019 Chandler Prater, North Kansas City
 2018 Chandler Prater, North Kansas City,
 2017 Abby Hipp, St. Pius X
 2016 Morgan Fleming, Liberty
 2015 Tyler Johnson, Leavenworth
 2014 Becca Jonas, Truman
 2013 Lizzy Wendell, Blue Springs
 2012 Emiah Bingley, Lee's Summit West
 2011 Natalie Knight, Olathe South
 2010 Natalie Knight, Olathe South
 2009 Morgan Johnson, Platte County
 2008 Taber Spani, Metro Academy
 2007 Danielle Adams, Lee's Summit
 2006 Morgan Henderson, Notre Dame de Sion
 2005 Keisha Walker, Hickman Mills
 2004 Erneisa Bailey, Pembroke Hill
 2003 Erneisa Bailey, Pembroke Hill
 2002 Claire Coggins, Lee's Summit North
 2001 Christie Brown, Lee's Summit North
 2000 Tracy Lozier, Blue Valley North
 1999 Tracy Lozier, Blue Valley North
 1998 Shahidrah Roberts, Blue Valley North
 1997 Cheryl Rowles, Park Hill

2024 Male DiRenna Finalists



Corbin Allen, Oak Park averaged 17.5 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals and 4 assists per game this season while leading his team to Suburban Red Conference Championship and a 4th place finish in Missouri Class 6. Corbin was named 1st team All-Conference and the Suburban Red Player of the Year this year. He was also selected the Class 6 District 8 Player of the Year and 1st Team All-State Class 6. Just a junior, Corbin will return to the Northmen next season.



Joey Matteoni, Blue Valley Northwest, was a two-year starter who helped the Huskies capture the 2023 Class 6A state championship and qualify for state in 2024. He averaged 22 points and 10 rebounds per game this season. Joey was a two-time All-Eastern Kansas League selection and was the league MVP this season. He was selected 1st team Class 6A All-State and a member of the Top 5 Players in Kansas All-Classes team this season. Joey will continue his career next season at Northwest Missouri State University.



David Cobin, De Soto, ranks #1 in school history for points (1,267), assist (287), steals (236) and is third in career rebounds (397). He led his team to a 18-5 record and their second KS 5A tournament berth in 3 years including a runner-up finish in 2022. David is a 2x United Conference Player of the Year and 3x member of the UKC All-Conference team. He was selected 1st team Class 5A All-State and a member of the Top 5 Players in Kansas All-Classes Team.



Keaton Wagler, Shawnee Mission Northwest helped lead the Cougars to an undefeated season (25-0) en route to winning the Sunflower League championship and the Kansas Class 6A state championship. Keaton averaged 12.5 points, 6 rebounds, 3.5 assists per game and shot 50% from beyond the 3-point line this season. He was named 1st team Team All-Sunflower League and 1st Team Class 6A All-State. Keaton was also named to the 2nd 5 of the Top 15 Players Kansas All-Classes team this season. Just a junior, he will return to Shawnee Mission Northwest next season.



Michael "Isaia" Howard, Plattsburg is a 2x time DiRenna Award finalist. He averaged 34.4 points, 13.2 rebounds, 5.26 steals and 4.3 assists this season. His 3,001 points, 1,327 rebounds, and 541 steals over his four year career are all school records. Isaia also led his team to 2 state quarterfinals and a school record 88 wins over the past four seasons. He was a 4x KCI 1st Team All Conference and Player of the Year and 4x Class 2 District 8 Player of the Year. In addition, he was a 3x 1st Team Class 2 All-State selection and was named the Class 2 Player of the year the past two seasons. Isaia has committed to



North Dakota State to continue his playing career next season.

2024 Female DiRenna Finalists



Addison Bjorn, Park Hill South, averaged 18.5 points, 10.9 rebounds, 2.6 steals, and 3.7 assists this season and has already surpassed 1000+ career points as just a sophomore. She is a 2x 1st team Suburban Silver All-Conference and Player of the Year. Addison was also named the Class 6 District 8 Player of the Year and to the Class 6 All-State Team. She was a member of the 2023 USA Women's U16 National Team that won the gold medal at the 2023 FIBA Americas National Championship. She has already received over 45 collegiate offers including UConn, Stanford, Texas

and Notre Dame. Addison is just a sophomore and will return to Park Hill South next season.



Jadyn Wooten, Blue Valley, is a 2-time DiRenna Award finalist and was selected as the Kansas Girls Gatorade Player of the Year for 2023-24. She averaged 19.1 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 6.4 assists this season. She holds 10 school records including single season and career scoring, single game and career steals, and single season and career assists. Wooten is a 2x EKL Player of the Year and 2x Class 6A 1st team All-State. In addition she is also a 2x selection to the Top 5 All Classes Team and was named the KS Class 6A Player of the Year as a sophomore. Wooten will continue

her career at Oklahoma State next season.



Jaliya Davis, Blue Valley North, is a 2x DiRenna Award finalist. She averaged 23.6 points and 8.9 rebounds this season while leading her team to a 3rd place finish in Class 6A and a Class 6A state championship in 2023. As a sophomore she broke the school single-season scoring record with 463 points and broke her own record this season with 496 points while shooting 63.5% from the field. Jaliya has received several recognitions including being a 2x 1st Team All-EKL and 2x Class 6A 1st Team All-State honoree. This season she was also named to the Top 5 Kansas All Classes

team. Just a junior, she will return to Blue Valley North next season.



Summer Yancy, Lee's Summit North, averaged 19 points, 10 rebounds, 2 steals and 3 assists this season. She set new schools records for most rebounds in a game (22), blocks in a game (8) and double-doubles in a season (15). Yancy was a 3x 1st Team Suburban Gold honoree, 2x Class 6 District 6 Player of the Year and was a 3x selection to the Class 6 All-State team.

Yancy will continue her playing career at the University of Central Florida next season.



Azailah "Zai" Funches, Shawnee Mission South, played a key role in leading her team to an undefeated EKL title and the Class 6A state championship. She averaged 14.7 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 assists this season. She was named to the 1st Team All-EKL and the 2nd team Class 6A All-State Team. Wooten will continue her playing career at Oral Roberts University next season.



WOMEN'S GAME

KANSAS WOMEN'S ALL-STAR ROSTER

No.	Name	School
2	Addison Tower	De Soto
5	Jamya McPherson	St. Thomas Aquinas
10	Izzy Joyce	Shawnee Mission West
12	Jadyn Wooten	Blue Valley
14	Abigail Long	Shawnee Mission East
15	Harley Baker	Basehor-Linwood
20	Camryn Smith	Shawnee Mission South
22	Braylee Rogers	Olathe East
24	Ella Anderson	Olathe South
30	Aaliyah Moss	Gardner Edgerton
32	Tyara Davis	Blue Valley North
34	Jillian Huckabey	Olathe Northwest
42	Azailah "Zai" Funches	Shawnee Mission South
44	Ashley VanElders	Shawnee Mission South
45	Lainie Douglas	Blue Valley Northwest

Coaches:

Ryan Robie, De Soto
 Jessica (Jess) Kelley, De Soto
 Joe Leiker, Gardner Edgerton
 Katie McClunkins, Gardner Edgerton

MISSOURI WOMEN'S ALL-STAR ROSTER

No.	Name	School
2	Holly Woods	Pembroke Hill
5	Layla Scott	Truman
10	Keylie Beane	Lathrop
12	Rylee Thompson	Smithville
14	Jayla Cornelius	Blue Springs
15	Dy'Anna Nicholson	Raytown South
20	Jolie Bonderer	Chillicothe
22	Ava Pickens	Staley
24	Adriana Benassi	Lee's Summit
30	Kennedy Herring	Liberty North
32	Avery Simmons	Park Hill South
34	Sh'Rya Wright	Grandview
42	Summer Yancy	Lee's Summit North
44	Kendall Puryear	Blue Springs South
45	Cady Huffman	Lee's Summit West

Coaches:

Kiera Hardy, St. Teresa's Academy
 Katrina Johnigan, Center
 Mary Kroening, St. Michael the Archangel
 Krishna Lee, St. Michael the Archangel

MEN'S GAME

KANSAS MEN'S ALL-STAR ROSTER

No.	Name	School
2	David Cobin	De Soto
5	Gavin Harvey	Blue Valley West
10	Jackson Bonczynski	Blue Valley Southwest
12	Abdoulaye Kante	Shawnee Mission East
14	Micah Deaver	Olathe East
15	Logan Sullivan	Eudora
20	Matthew Corrales	Olathe South
22	Teddy Saylor	Shawnee Mission East
24	Jaron Lashley	Blue Valley North
30	Jake Fritz	Blue Valley Northwest
32	Greg Ballard	Blue Valley North
34	Dean Markes	Blue Valley
42	Devin Kerr	Piper
44	Mason Kemp	Mill Valley
45	Joey Matteoni	Blue Valley Northwest

Coaches:

Steve Wallace, Piper
 Derrick Jackson, Piper
 Kurt Bangle, Mill Valley
 Alex Houlton, Mill Valley

MISSOURI MEN'S ALL-STAR ROSTER

No.	Name	School
2	Grant Redd	St. Pius X
5	Pierre Smith	Ruskin
10	Ky Coleman	Winnetonka
12	Josiah Kirkwood	Grandview
14	Tim Wooden Jr.	Central
15	Trey Taylor	William Chrisman
20	Ashton Jermain	Raymore-Peculiar
22	Logan Bishop	Lee's Summit West
24	Michael Smith Jr.	Grandview
30	Chaz Watson	Lee's Summit West
32	Brandon Moore	Central
34	Za'Corrie Kerr	Van Horn
42	Michael "Isaiah" Howard	Plattsburg
44	Judah Vignery	Platte County
45	Samuel Dada	North Kansas City

Coaches:

Scott Jermain, Raymore-Peculiar
 Ryan Sperry, Raymore-Peculiar
 RJ Newton, St. Michael the Archangel
 Richard Smith, St. Michael the Archangel

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL



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