

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Dan Karsjens and Brock Lehman have been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches of the Year.

2024-25 Dan Karsjens, AGWSR High School

I believe that Coach Karsjens is worthy of this award for many reasons! He has, year after year, put countless hours into helping the youth and high school programs of AGWSR, working to build great relationships and athletes on the basketball floor! This is most likely his last year of coaching and he has been willing to do this position unpaid this year without hesitation, to let a younger coach have the paying assistant spot!

He also drives the team bus and has been willing to do that for a long time! Coach Karsjens shows up everyday to practice with a smile on his face. Throughout his years as an assistant, he has been involved in walking our athletes through drills and activities on the practice floor which have helped us to be successful as a basketball team on the court! He would do anything for any of the athletes at the AGWSR school district, and his dedication has not gone unnoticed. If this ends up being his last year as a coach, I was glad to have him on my staff for my first year being a coach, as he has become a great mentor to me, showing me what it takes to be a successful coach, and someone that so many people respect! I don't believe there is anyone more deserving for this award than Coach Karsjens.

David Koop, Head Coach, AGWSR HS

2024-25 Brock Lehman, Sioux Center High School



Coach Lehman has developed genuine relationships with so many of the student athletes he's coached in the girls' basketball program. His connection with student athletes is deeper than developing only basketball skills. He's supported them and taught them valuable lessons in their daily lives. Coach Lehman has been a constant support for each student athlete in challenges they face in their own daily lives. He's a constant challenger of each student-athlete to get the most out of them in everything they do. He instills a deep belief with each student athlete he coaches that they can accomplish more than they believed they were capable of.

After being diagnosed with colon cancer during the '23-'24 basketball season he showed grit and determination throughout the season as he went through treatments and continued coaching the team when he was able. The amount of support Coach Lehman received from past and current players and families was evidence of how much of a positive impact Coach Lehman has had on so many students in 20+ years of coaching in the girls basketball program. Coach Lehman has been a top varsity assistant on my coaching staff for 23 seasons and has served as either our JVR or JV head coach during this same time. In these 23 seasons, we've won 5 Siouxland Conference championships, qualified for 6 state tournaments (2 quarterfinalists, 1 semi-finalist, 2 state runners-up and 1 state championship.). We've coached numerous all-conference and all-state student athletes, with many of those student athletes going on to play at the collegiate level.

Doug Winterfeld, Head Coach, Sioux Center HS

Others nominated include:

Ryan Stusse, Hinton
Jill Beran, Riceville
Chris Barkema, Roland-Story
Greg Towne, Central Lyon
Kent Bailey, Fort Madison High School
Judy Nissly, Dallas Center-Grimes
Cortney Kueter, Bellevue Marquette Catholic
Tiffanie Saak, Grundy Center
Alex Schultejans, Clear Creek Amana

Brian Kraft, Coon Rapids-Bayard
Liz Eser, Oelwein
Jeff Moore, Centerville CSD
Megan Heitmann, Marshalltown Community School District
Lance Zeleny, Sergeant Bluff-Luton
Mark Kohorst, Harlan Community
Kevin Goedken, North Linn
Sidney Baumgartner, LeMars Community
Joel Danner, Dowling Catholic
Nick Willenborg, Waverly-Shell Rock
Joe Bartolo, Bishop Garrigan

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Tom Kirby and Dave Arns have been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches of the Year.

2023-24 Tom Kirby, Mason City High School

Coach Kirby has been a valuable member of the Mason City Coaching Staff for 17 years. He has embraced his role with passion and is willing to help in any areas needed. He is in charge of the out of bounds plays and also coordinates the defense for the team. He is also the chief scout and prepares scouting reports for every opponent. During his 17 years, the Mason City girls basketball team has made 7 state tournament appearances, won the state title in 2016, and won 4 conference championships.

Sixteen years ago he was put in charge of our Coaches vs Cancer activities and he has turned that into a huge event each year for the community. Mason City has consistently raised one of the top dollar amounts throughout the state for C vs C and it is because of the tireless work of Coach Kirby. The Mason City Coaches vs Cancer campaign has raised well over \$200,000 during the 16 years Coach Kirby has been in charge of the initiative.

He always goes above and beyond with everything that does. He has made a huge impact not only on the athletes, but on the whole community.



2023-24 Dave Arns, Waverly Shell Rock High School

Dave is a huge asset to the Waverly Shell Rock program, since he joined the staff 13 years ago, they have never won less than 15 games and have won 12 conference titles. They have also been to the state tournament 5 times. He is a great person who cares deeply for kids and is a great teacher of the game. Additionally, Dave has been the head boys basketball, head girls basketball, head football (2 state titles), freshman boys basketball coach and held numerous other positions in the district when he was a math teacher. He retired two years ago from teaching and has continued to impact our basketball team as a coach only.

Others nominated include:

Judy Nissly, Dallas Center-Grimes
Joel Danner, Dowling Catholic
Dean Furness, Martensdale - St. Marys
Liz Eser, Oelwein

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Russ Mapes and Kevin Larsen have been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches of the Year.

2022-23 Russ Mapes, Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln HS

Russ started volunteer coaching at Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln in 1988. He has been a stable presence for over three decades and continues to be an invaluable asset to the program. Russ served his community as a police officer and has since retired so he can spend even more time around the program. Russ comes to every practice that he can, except the days he helps watch his great grandkids. His role with the program is to help design practice and give advice and individual feedback for all the athletes in practice and during games. For over thirty years, he has taken stats during games to help manage substitutions and bench personnel. "Perhaps his most important role is that he is a grandfatherly figure to almost every girl in the program" says Head Coach Chad Schaa. He is always giving advice and encouragement to the players and has been an important member of our staff through generations of athletes. One key memory for many of our current player happened last year when he dressed up as Santa Claus for practice, much to the delight of the team! "I can't think of a better person to receive this award" concluded Schaa.



2022-23 Kevin Larsen, Newell-Fonda HS

Kevin Larsen used to coach at Pomeroy Palmer as their head coach. His Daughters lived in the Newell-Fonda District and when his oldest Claudia started playing youth basketball, he began coaching her Newell-Fonda youth teams. When Claudia entered high school, I asked him if he wanted to be the Assistant Coach at Newell-Fonda as we had an opening. Kevin continued to coach his other daughter's youth teams (Olivia, Ella and Greta) and helped with the High School team as well. Kevin is one of those people who has a loud booming voice and has a way of teaching kids the fundamentals of the game in a practical and easy-going manner. He was a great addition to our program and has performed admirably in the areas of scouting, teaching the game, running practices, and making sure that everything behind the scenes runs smoothly. Kevin is always willing to help anyone out and makes a regular habit of pulling kids aside to give them a "pep talk". Another area where Kevin excels is promotion of the program. He shares many stories of the awesome experiences that not only his daughters enjoyed during their time at Newell-Fonda but many others as well. "Kevin is the ultimate people person who goes above and beyond to make others feel special" said Head Coach Dick Jungers. Newell-Fonda is enjoying a successful run that is no coincidence. A big piece of that success is Kevin sharing his knowledge, skills and experiences with players and coaches of Newell-Fonda. Newell-Fonda has a varsity record going into this season of 273 wins and 40 losses since Kevin Joined the staff. "I can think of no coach that is more deserving of this award than Coach Larsen" said Jungers



Others nominated include:

Jeff Donaldson, Bishop Heelan
Mark Henningsen, Alta-Aurelia
Brian Kraft, Coon Rapids-Bayard
Judy Nissly, Dallas Center Grimes
Rich Kloster, Dallas Center Grimes
Joel Danner, Dowling Catholic
Mike Kruse, Gilbert
Ashley Tessum, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn
Damon Bryan, Interstate 35 Community
Mark Hein, Johnston
Justin Yetmar, Kuemper Catholic
Wade Wubben, Manson Northwest Webster
Tom Kirby, Mason City
Jill Beran, Riceville
Chris Barkema, Roland-Story
Tanya Meyer, Sioux City West
Beau Zaruba, Springville
Andre Humphrey, Underwood
AJ Cassidy, Waterloo West
Brandon Broersma, Western Christian
Jill Muenchrath, Westwood

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Gary Schuster (Wahlert Catholic), has been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year.

2021-22 Gary Schuster, Dubuque Wahlert HS

Gary has been coaching basketball at Dubuque Wahlert for over 30 years. He has coached at multiple levels, including two years at the junior high level, nine years at the freshmen level, seven years as a sophomore assistant and head coach, and is in his 15th year as an assistant Varsity coach. Gary has been involved with Wahlert basketball in some capacity all of the seven times the program has gone to the State tournament. He also, coached a sophomore team to the conference title while coaching at that level. He has done, willingly, whatever needs to be done for the good of the team and the program. If a lower level coach is absent, he has stepped in to run the practice to help out. If our manager is gone for the day, Gary jumps in to run the clock and keep score for practice drills. He helps with the logistics of practice time and works with some of the administrative issues that come up on a daily basis and throughout the season. He has been engaged with off-season workouts and open gyms, Little Eagles basketball camp, and travels to team camps with Varsity and JV athletes. Gary has worked well with our female athletes, always trying to develop the student athlete as a whole, teaching skills that enhance players potential on and off the field and helping them become good teammates. Besides coaching basketball at Wahlert, he also coached in the softball program for over 20 years. Coach Spiegler commented "I would like to thank him for his dedication and commitment to Wahlert Golden Eagles Girls' Basketball!"

Others nominated include:

Dan Tuhn, Baxter
Todd Pearson, Norwalk
Steve Cochran, ADM
Jeff Gillette, Gilbert
Shannon Dykstra, Central Springs
Wade Wubben, Manson Northwest Webster
Tyler Husak, Springville
Dave Runchey, Ankeny Centennial
Cortney Kueter, Marquette Catholic
Ryan Stusse, Hinton
Judy Nissly, Dallas Center-Grimes
Rich Kloster, Dallas Center-Grimes
Jeff Pratt, West Monona
Burns, Adam, Denison



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2019-20 Jade Niemyer, MOC-FV HS

Jade Niemyer began his coaching career serving as an assistant coach for 3 years at Adair-Casey. He would then move on to a brief two year stint on the bench at Galva-Holstein, before ultimately moving to Orange City. Jade Niemyer has been an assistant coach for many years. He started coaching with Loren De Jong at MOC-FV where he served for 7 years. Jade was vital to helping the boys basketball teams get to the state tournament in the early 2000s and helped guide the team to a state title in 2006. A few years later Jade switched over to the girls basketball squad where he was a key assistant. Jade has helped guide the MOC-FV Girls for 10+ years. Jade assisted the MOC-FV girls basketball squad to a state title in 2014. Jade has an incredible basketball mind. He provides tremendous basketball expertise, especially on the defensive side of the ball. This year has been a special year for Jade where he has the opportunity to coach his daughter in her Senior season. Jade is an incredible dad and coach who makes those around him better. As someone who is in their first year of coaching, Jade has been nothing short of phenomenal in helping me learn the ropes. Coach Hilbrands commented "I would like to thank him for his dedication and commitment to Lady Dutch Basketball!"

2019-20 Carol Schleih, West Marshall JH

Carol Schleih is a native of Johnston, Iowa. She graduated from Iowa State University in 1981 where she lettered four years in basketball and was Captain of her team her senior year. She was a head girls coach at Galva-Holstein, and assistant at Waukon, before coming to West Marshall in 1991. She was a varsity assistant at West Marshall for five years and has been the Jr High head coach for the past 24 years. During her time at West Marshall, she was a highly respected and well-liked middle school science teacher, before retiring in 2017. She has continued as the Jr. High girls coach. Carol is a very knowledgeable and hard-working junior high coach. She cares little about her coaching record, but cares greatly about student-athletes. "Our Varsity teams the past three decades have had just 3 losing seasons. Much of that success is because of Carol's dedication to our program and our girls." commented Head Coach Fred Zeller. She has always been a loyal and reliable coach and teacher for West Marshall kids, the program and varsity coaches.

Congratulations coaches and thank you for your more than two decades of service to high school athletes in your program. Coaches Schleih & Niemeier will be awarded a plaque to acknowledge this award at the "Larry Niemeyer" Senior All-Star Games on April 4 & 5 at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Others nominated include:

Adam Burns, Dennison
Christopher Demarque, Lewis Central
Mark Hein, Johnston
Jeana Heitman, Williamsburg
Michael Huffman, North Mahaska High School
Tom Kirby Mason City
Cortney Kueter, Bellevue Marquette Catholic
Troy Pearson, Knoxville
Rob Wedebrand, Valley, West Des Moines

2018-19 Ernie Bolibaugh, Cascade- Western Dubuque

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Ernie Bolibaugh, Cascade High School in the Western Dubuque School District, has been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year.

Ernie Bolibaugh is a superb basketball coach and even better man. "He is, by far, one of the central reasons for what we have been able to accomplish," said Sconsa. That would include a state title in 2018 and a state tournament berth in 2019. "His basketball acumen is amazing and his attention to detail is unmatched. His ability to teach the game and motivate our players are so impressive that he constantly inspires me to do a better job as a coach and teacher." Sconsa also noted his rapport with the players is something to be marveled at each and every day. His dedication to the Cascade Girls' Basketball program was particularly important to Sconsa as he commented on the number of miles he has driven to events and shootouts over the summer and the amount of time he spends watching film are stuff of legend. Ernie is now Director of Transportation for the Dubuque Community Schools and even though he is constantly busy with this enormous job, he still finds time to come to all the practices, our games, and even finds time to provide individual workouts to the players at Cascade. Coach Bolibaugh was praised for effectiveness and Sconsa feels truly blessed and fortunate to have him in the Cascade Girls' Basketball program. Coach Bolibaugh is Sconsa's closest confidant and best friend and he can think of no one more deserving than Ernie Bolibaugh for this prestigious award.

Congratulations coach and thank you for your over two decades of service to high school athletes in your program. Coach Bolibaugh will be awarded a plaque to acknowledge this award at the "Larry Niemeyer" Senior All-Star Games on April 7 & 8.

Others nominated include:

Donohue, Jason, Roland-Story
Neary, Kathy, Gehlen Catholic, Algona
Huffman Mike, North Mahaska
Hein, Mark, Johnston
Kueter, Cortney, Bellevue Marquette Catholic
Messerli, Pete- Marion
Rolston, Devvin, North Scott
Tompkins, Chad, Linn-Mar
Wilson, Kevin, West Hancock

2017-18 Chris Robins, Murray

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Chris Robins, Murray High School in Murray, has been named one of the Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches of the Year.

Chris Robins has been an assistant coach at Murray High School for all 23 years of her coaching career. "Chris has been an integral part in the success of the Murray Lady Mustangs." says head coach Jerry Shields. Robins, owner of **Chris' Photography** in nearby Osceola, has been "a great inspiration for all of the Lady Mustangs that have come through in the years that we have been coaching." Shields commented that she is always willing to go the extra mile, by helping with officiating JH and JV basketball games, as well as helping me with the varsity girls and coaching the JV girls. "She's willing to stay after practice to help someone with their shot." said Shields. Chris is very deserving of this award. Robins will be honored with a plaque of recognition at the IGCA Hall of Fame Banquet in Cedar Rapids on April 7. Congratulations Coach Robins on more than twenty years of helping high school athletes grow and mature.

2017-18 Terry Schouten, Unity Christian

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Terry Schouten, Unity Christian High School in Orange City, has been named one of the Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches of the Year.

Terry Schouten has been an assistant coach at Unity Christian for seven years. He has been coaching for 30 plus years, most of those in South Dakota. Head coach Jay Schuiteman says "he has a ton of knowledge about the game and is a great teacher. He is very good with the details and how to break things down for the girls." Schuiteman praised his knowledge of the game and declared he had "a play for everything and if we need one drawn up, I let him do it." Schouten has been on the bench for all three of Unity's title games the last three years. Schuiteman praised Schouten as "a special person who is able to step into an assistant roll after being a head coach for two decades." Schouten will be honored with a plaque of recognition at the IGCA Hall of Fame Banquet in Cedar Rapids on April 7. Congratulations Coach Schouten on three decades of contributions to high school athletics.

Others nominated include:

Ernie Bolibaugh- Cascade High School
Chuck Stevens- Ames
Chris Demarque- Lewis Central
Dean Whaley- Manson NW Webster
Engleman, Karen- West Sioux, Hawarden
Rhendi Oelmann- Dike New Hartford
Dave Close -Cedar Rapids Kennedy
Emily Zailac- Southeast Polk

2016-17 Stephanie Potts, CR Xavier High School

The IGCA would like to announce that coach Stephanie Potts, Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, has been named the Girls Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year.

Coach Potts has been Coach Tom Lilly's assistant coach for 23 years and is crucial in the overall success of Xavier's Girls Basketball program. She started at Regis HS which then became part of Xavier HS for the last 19 years. She has grown into an assistant coach that every head coach would love to have. She has always done what is needed for the players and program. She has come with a ton of energy everyday and often has been the perfect dose of medicine when Coach Lilly needs a pick me up. Coach Potts is engaged year-round. She spends countless hours coaching one of the feeder school's teams which involves coaching 2 teams several nights a week along with weekend tournaments. She is engaged with off-season workouts, summer league play and travels to team camps with varsity and JV athletes. Currently she is in charge of our varsity videotaping and HUDL exchange. She communicates to all the media outlets following each contest. Most importantly she assists in scouting and preparing the game plan for each opponent. She is in charge of substituting players in and out of the game. This is a true sign of her skill and the trust of a head coach when they will relinquish those duties to an assistant. Coach Potts also takes it upon herself to implement team bonding activities within the entire program.

Congratulations coach and thank you for your over two decades of service to high school athletes in your program. Coach Potts will be awarded a plaque to acknowledge this award at the "Larry Niemeyer" Senior All-Star Games on April 1 & 2.

Others nominated include:

Jim Myers- Burlington Notre Dame
Mark Hein- Johnston
Dave O'Connor- Belmond Klemme
Dave Arns- Waverly Shell Rock
Emily Zailac- Southeast Polk
Brian Kraft- Coon Rapids-Bayard
Steve Stumpff- Cedar Rapids, Prairie
David Beisch- Algona