



# COLLEGE INSIDER .COM

*"Joe Dwyer and Angela Lento are first class individuals and CollegeInsider.com has always conducted business with college basketball's best interest at heart. Their manner and professionalism, combined with enthusiasm and great creativity, have made CollegeInsider.com one of the industry's best."*

**LUTE OLSON**  
**Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame**  
**Class of 2002**

**SINCE  
1996**

CollegeInsider.com has been covering online sports almost as long as online sports coverage has existed. CI migrated from a print format to the web in 1996 and the following year the first "Coach Columns" appeared on the site. These columns gave fans the opportunity to hear from a host of Division I coaches in a more relaxed, free form environment and were an immediate hit.

At one point nearly 200 coaches were participating including Rick Byrd (Belmont), Seth Greenberg (Long Beach State), Bob Huggins (Cincinnati), Gene Keady (Purdue), Jim Larranaga (George Mason), Phil Martelli (Saint Joseph's), Lute Olson (Arizona), Bruce Pearl (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Buzz Peterson (Tennessee), Bo Ryan (Wisconsin), Kelvin Sampson (Oklahoma), Bill Self (Tulsa), Roy Williams (Kansas) and Jay Wright (Hofstra).

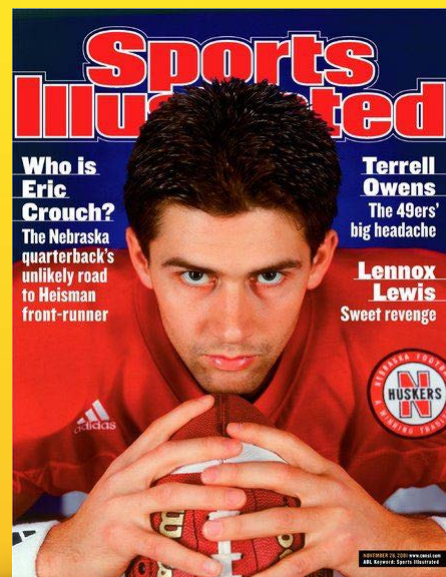
In the July 27, 1998 issue of ESPN the Magazine, College Insider was ranked No. 24 on the magazine's list of 99 things to do before you die. ESPN's the Rickster, NBA All-Star Jason Kidd and volleyball star Gabby Reece compiled the comprehensive list of who, what, where, when, why and how to watch in the world of sports. The panel assessed CI with the following: "Imagine trading e-mails with Bob Huggins and Mike Jarvis. More than 175 college hoops coaches sound off on the issues of the day. And a host of well-placed columnists serve up the latest dish from the court."



## TRADEMARKED ®

1999 saw the introduction of the Mid-Major Top 25 ®, which has since become an integral part of the college basketball landscape. The measuring stick for mid-major programs has a 31-member voting panel consisting of current division I coaches. Among those coaches who have served on the voting panel include Randy Bennett (Saint Mary's), Rick Byrd (Belmont), Jim Larranaga (George Mason), Gregg Marshall (Wichita State) and Brad Stevens (Butler).

Sports Illustrated senior writer John O'Keefe wrote about the poll in his column in November of 2001, highlighting what a unique niche the Mid-Major Top 25 ® filled in the college hoops world. The poll, which has since been trademarked, currently has a voting panel that features 31 active Division I head coaches.



*"The Mid-Major Top 25 has been a game-changer for College Basketball. Before the poll was created the only barometer for mid-major schools was how they performed in March. The Mid-Major Top 25 has brought much deserved attention to schools throughout the entire season. CollegeInsider.com and the Mid-Major Top 25 has completely changed college basketball."*

**RICK BYRD**  
Former Head Coach, Belmont

## THE AWARDS

In 2003 College Insider established the Jim Phelan Award, which honored the Mount St. Mary's legendary coach. The award is presented annually to the top division I head coach. It was the first of 17 National Awards, which have been established in the years that followed. Among the prestigious national honors is the Kay Yow Award, which is presented annually to the top Division I Women's head coach. All of the awards pay homage to some of the greats in the history of the game.

The annual College Insider Awards Event is one of most attended events at the Final Four, with an impressive list of award presenters including Dana Altman (Oregon), John Beilein (Michigan), Mike Brey (Notre Dame), Rick Byrd (Belmont), Jamie Dixon (TCU), Len Elmore (CBS Sports), Seth Greenberg (ESPN), Chris Mack (Louisville), Gregg Marshall (Wichita State) and John Thompson III (Georgetown).







### GENE BARTOW AWARD

presented to a current or former coach for his contributions to the game



### JACK BENNETT AWARD

presented to a non-Division I coach who represents winning with integrity



### HUGH DURHAM AWARD

presented the top mid-major coach in Division I college basketball



### CLARENCE GAINES AWARD

presented to the top coach in Division II college basketball



### LOU HENSON AWARD

presented to the top mid-major player in Division I college basketball



### BEN JOBE AWARD

presented to the top minority coach in Division I college basketball



### JOHN MCLENDON AWARD

presented to the top collegiate head coach and includes Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA and NJCAA



### DON MEYER AWARD

presented to the top coach in NAIA college basketball



### JIM PHELAN AWARD

presented to the top coach in Division I college basketball



### SKIP PROSSER AWARD

presented to the Division I coach who achieves success on the court and displays great moral integrity off the court as well



### RILEY WALLACE AWARD

presented the top transfer in Division I college basketball



### KAY YOW AWARD

presented the top transfer in Division I college basketball



### LEFTY DRIESELL AWARD

presented annually to top defensive player in Division I college basketball



### JOE B. HALL AWARD

presented the top first-year coach in Division I college basketball



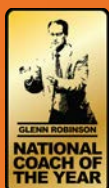
### KYLE MACY AWARD

presented annually to the top freshman in Division I college basketball



### LUTE OLSON AWARD

presented to the top player in Division I college basketball



### GLENN ROBINSON AWARD

presented to the top Division III coach in college basketball

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The College Insider VIP Party is easily one of the most prestigious events at the Final Four. The biggest names in the coaching profession and some of the biggest stars in the industry have attended the annual event.

*"It's an outstanding event. Joe Dwyer and Angela Lento have done an incredible job with the website, the CIT, their annual awards and the VIP party is just another huge win for CollegeInsider.com. It's one of the most sought-after tickets at the Final Four and just another example of the great work that Joe and Angela have done for the game of college basketball."*

**DANA ALTMAN**  
Head Coach, Oregon



### EMMY AWARD WINNING

CollegeInsider.com continued its tradition of getting behind the scenes by introducing the "All-Access Series." Programs such as Butler, and then-head coach Brad Stevens, lifted the veil and provided a glimpse into their inner workings while CI cameras took it all in. The 2012-13 All-Access features highlighting Iona College, LIU-Brooklyn and Manhattan College won a 2013 Emmy Award.

In 2014 CollegeInsider.com was nominated for its second Emmy in as many years for "Anatomy of a Game Winning Shot." CollegeInsider.com was the only independent non-television entity among the 211 total National Emmy nominees. CollegeInsider.com received a third nomination in 2014, a fourth in 2015 and fifth in 2018.



## MAKING PRESEASON HISTORY

In 2009 CollegeInsider.com introduced its' postseason tournament devoted exclusively mid-major programs. Over the past eleven years the CIT has had more schools make their postseason debut (39) and more programs win their first-ever postseason game (38) than all other tournaments combined during the ten seasons since the CIT was established.

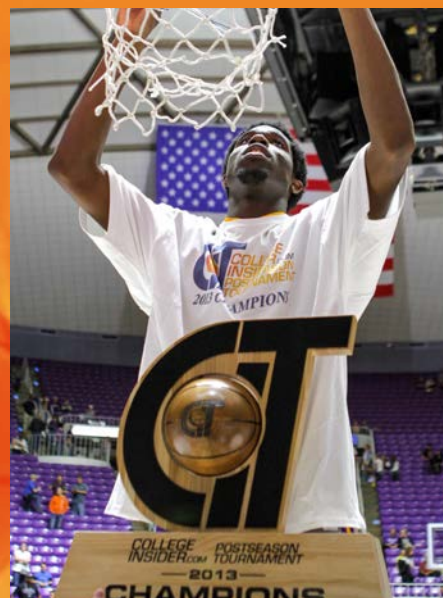


In just ten years the CIT has provided plenty of excitement while making college basketball history in the process. The 2009 CIT provided the longest game-ending shot in Division I postseason history, when Chris Roberts hit a 75-footer at the buzzer to put Bradley into the semifinals. In 2010, Fairfield rallied from 27 points down, with 16:08 remaining in the second half to advance to the second round. The comeback was the biggest in Division I postseason history.

In addition, the CIT has produced three NBA Lottery picks and two Top 10 selections in Weber State's Damian Lillard (6th overall in 2012) and UL Lafayette's Elfrid Payton (10th overall in 2014). When Lillard was named 2012 NBA Rookie of the Year it marked the first time since 1955 that a tournament, other than the NCAA Tournament had produced the NBA Rookie of the Year.

In 2016 the CIT became the first NCAA postseason tournament to have a "Classic" as part of a tournament, when Grand Canyon hosted South Carolina State in the inaugural Coach John McLendon Classic (game was played in the first round). The great response to putting a "Bowl Game" inside a tournament helped to introduce the Hugh Durham Classic, Lou Henson Classic and Riley Wallace Classic in 2017 (and the Jim Phelan Classic in 2018). The CIT made more history in 2017 when it became the first postseason tournament of any kind to be broadcast via Facebook Live.

The first four Tournaments were broadcast by Fox College Sports and CBS Sports Network has been the home of the CIT since 2013. Similar to the NCAA Tournament the CIT has a Selection Committee, made up of 14 current Division I Athletic Directors.



*"I said many times during our America East and NCAA Tournament runs that our experience in the 2017 CIT Tournament paid huge dividends for our team's success in the 2018 post season. Losing in the first round of the 2017 America East Tournament was difficult, but the confidence that we gained in reaching the CIT semi-finals was invaluable."*

**RYAN ODOM**  
Head Coach, UMBC



IT STARTED IN **THE CIT**

**THE FIRST  
16 SEED TO  
EVER BEAT A  
NO. 1 SEED**

**IN 2017 UMBC ADVANCED TO THE CIT SEMIFINALS...  
IN 2018, THEY SHOCKED THE WORLD!**





## CREATIVE CONTENT

CI has also shown the lighter side of the coaching profession, with The Runway to the Fashionable Four being a prime example. The annual competition was started in 1998 to bring attention to coaches and their sideline styles. With active participation from a host of the game's most prominent leaders, the "Runway to the Fashionable Four" became a big hit with fans. It culminates every March in a bracketed competition to crown the sport's best dressed head and assistant coaches.

And in 2014 "The 100 Sexiest" took center stage. The fun tongue-and-cheek feature brought a lot of attention to coaches and media members associated with college basketball. On the day of its release, CollegeInsider.com received over 2 million unique visitors.



Another very popular attraction was the creation of Shots from the Heart ® in 2010. The season-long free throw shooting event helped to raise awareness for heart disease and it included some of the biggest names in the coaching and in the sports industry. The idea was simple and it generated a lot interest from fans and media alike.

Steve Alford (New Mexico), John Beilein (Michigan), Ato Boldon (Olympian & World Champion), Mike Brey (Notre Dame), Jamie Dixon (Pittsburgh), Antonio Gates (San Diego Chargers), Seth Greenberg (ESPN), Fred Hoiberg (Iowa State), Lon Kruger (UNLV), Jim Larranaga (Miami), Chris Mack (Xavier), Sean Miller (Arizona), Bo Ryan (Wisconsin), Kelvin Sampson (Houston Rockets), Bill Self (Kansas), Tubby Smith (Minnesota) and Brad Stevens (Butler) are among those who have participated. The friendly competition also pays tribute to the late Skip Prosser, who succumbed to a massive heart attack in 2007.


CollegeInsider.com was one of the first online entities to start transitioning to more multimedia content. Over the past few years the website has been dominated by video features and podcast interviews. Brian Doyle's ability as an interviewer is second to none, which is why his frequent podcasts have become so popular. Kevaney Martin is a rising star in the sports industry and her "Mid-Major Minute" has become a key component to the website. Recent additions include "Beyond the Arc" with Suzi Mellano and the "Corner 3" with Brian Mull, which has quickly gained a devoted following. One of the most popular offerings are the weekly "Off the Bounce" features with Angela Lento who has established herself as one of the top analysts in the country, covering mid-major college basketball.

*"Nobody covers mid-major basketball any better or more in-depth than Angela Lento. Angela knows the game, she knows everybody in the game, and she has the fashion game absolutely nailed. When I want the real scoop on the mid-major scene, I read Angela Lento."*

**JAY BILAS**  
Basketball Analyst, ESPN

Over the years, CI has consistently provided some of the most compelling print material on the Web, helping to bring fans of college hoops closer to the game they love. The site has continued to evolve, providing even greater access to the game across a host of platforms.





*“There are a lot of good people covering the game of college basketball, but there are none better than Joe Dwyer and Angela Lento. When I was a young coach, just trying to win a game at Sam Houston State, they treated me the same way they treated coaches like Bob Huggins and Lute Olson. They work hard and have great integrity and that’s why so many coaches across the country have the utmost respect for Joe, Angela and CollegeInsider.com.”*

**BOB MARLIN**

**Head Coach, Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns**

