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DON MEYER
NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR
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DORDT'S BRIAN VAN HAAFTEN RECIPIENT OF 2025 DON MEYER AWARD

Presented annually to the top head coach in NAIA college basketball.

SAN ANTONIO, TX -- Dordt's Brian Van Haaften is the recipient of 2025 Don Meyer National Coach of the Year award, which is presented annually to the top head coach in NAIA college basketball.

Van Haaften led Dordt University to a 28-4 record, a No. 6 ranking and 2nd round appearance in the NAIA Men's Basketball Championship. The 28 wins is tied for the second most all-time in program history.

"When all these things come together, special things happen," said Joe Dwyer, President of CollegeInsider.com. "It was a special season for Brian Van Haaften who has had a lot of special seasons in his illustrious career. Everybody want to win, but mentoring young men to win in life is more important to Coach Van Haaften."

Van Haaften was named Great Plains Athletic Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Defenders to the regular season GPAC title and an 18-2 overall mark and the program's fourth straight NAIA National Championship berth. He entered the postseason with a 27-3 record, the best winning percentage for a single season and is his fourth 20-plus win season at Dordt.

The seven seniors on this year's roster; Tyson Boer, Bryce Coppock, Ben Fairclough, Ben Loverude, Tyler Prins, Luke Rankin and Xavier Van Beek posted a 93-33 record and qualified for the NAIA Championship all four years

Van Haaften's record in seven seasons at Dordt is 152-63 and his .678 winning percentage is the best on record at Dordt. His overall collegiate coaching record is 566-241.

The Don Meyer Award is named in honor of the sport's winningest coaches.

In 38 seasons at Hamline, Lipscomb and Northern State, Don Meyer compiled an astounding 923-324 record. He led Lipscomb to the NAIA national championship in 1986 and coached the two highest-scoring players in the history of college basketball, John Pierce and Philip Hutcheson.

His 1989-90 team at Lipscomb won a record 41 games and was the highest scoring team in college basketball history.

In 2010, he received the John Bunn Award at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Meyer retired from coaching in February 2010. Coach Meyer lost his long battle with cancer on May 18, 2014, at the age of 69.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

Scott Moore, Grace (2024); Ted Albert, Indiana Tech (2023); Stacy Hollowell, Loyola New Orleans (2022); Delano Thomas, Shawnee State (2021); Jim Sykes, Morningside College (2020); Jeff Rutter, Arizona Christian (2019); Craig Doty, Graceland University (2018); Tony Ingle, Dalton State (2017); Delton Deal, York College (2016); Larry Cordaro, LSU-Alexandria (2015); Jason Shelton, Freed-Hardeman (2014); Brandon Rinta, Lewis-Clark State (2013); Paul Peck, Lindsey Wilson College (2012); Andy Sharpe, Martin Methodist (2011).

ABOUT COLLEGEINSIDER.COM

Established in 1996, CollegeInsider.com has been at the forefront of promoting college basketball online. 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*. College Insider created the Mid-Major Top 25®, the measuring stick for men's and women's programs outside of the proverbial power leagues, and has 18 national awards presented annually, including the Lute Olson Award, Lou Henson Award, and the John McLendon Award. The CollegeInsider.com All-Access series has been nominated for 5 Emmy Awards and won 2013 Emmy, for its' feature on New York City Basketball (Iona, LIU-Brooklyn and Manhattan). CI also created *This Game No Secret*, which debuted during the 2016 CIT and now has become an annual event, which has included programs like Duke, Houston, Miami, Ohio State, Ole Miss, Texas and Virginia.