

HALL OF FAME 2022



KANSAS BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

Mike Brinsko



“A Road Less Traveled”

I started my athletic career in 1961 when I made the varsity baseball team as a starting center fielder in Webster City, Iowa. That same year to pacify my dad, I tried out for the Varsity/JV basketball team and eventually got cut. It ticked me off as an immature teenager so I spent my 3 high school years paroling center field and disappointing my dad. I continued my baseball career with a 2 year stint in junior college and then went to UNI as a walk-on but unfortunately that fall I tore my knee up. The only bright spot of my stay at UNI was I met my future wife, Diana Sanders, for what would be 54 wonderful years of marriage. Upon graduation, I decided to be a teacher and a coach. My first job gave me the head baseball job and a great teaching assignment but I had to agree to also coach both the JV and Freshmen Basketball team. By the time, I took my 2nd job I was smitten with being a big time high school basketball coach. So it truly is a road less traveled that a baseball junkie for 15 years decided to climb the ladder of success in a sport I never played. The thrill of developing players and watch them grow as a team; the snap decisions that win or lose games based on your substitutions and play calling; the badgering referees and the adrenaline rush with the crowds right on top of you as your team rallies in th final minutes. There is no sport that gives the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat so well. Now in retirement here in Pueblo, Colorado with 3 grown children: Chris, Andi and Tony who gave us 4 wonderful grandchildren life is great. And to top it off to be honored to be a recipient of a Hall of Fame induction that is the icing on the cake. I would be remiss if I did not thank a bunch of folks who made my career possible. My wife and kids for putting up with a grumpy guy for 5 months a year; the over 600 players I coached who helped me learn the trade; the dozens of assistants whose guidance greatly enhanced my hoops I.Q.; not mention the parents, fans, administrators and Zebras who were a big part of the finished product. Thank you all. Without all of you, I probably would have been out of coaching in a dozen years. Love you all!!

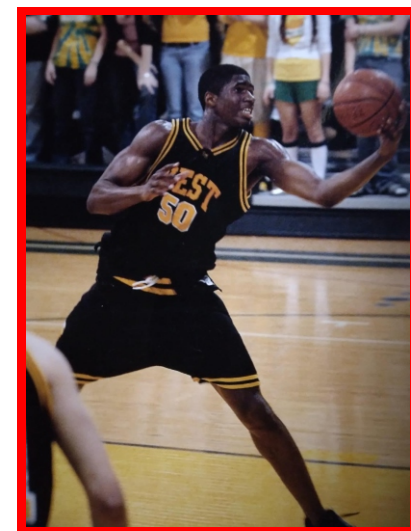
League Champions - 20 overall / 9 in Kansas State Tournaments - 16 overall / 12 in Kansas Final Fours - 5 overall / 3 in Kansas 3rd Place Finishes - 2 overall / 2 in Kansas 2nd Place Finishes - 2 overall / 2 in Kansas STATE CHAMPION - 1991 - Swink, Colorado 701 Career Wins



Gardner-Webb recruit Aaron Linn, Shawnee Mission West leading scorer, First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-State (2005)



League Coach of the Year - 20 overall / 9 in Kansas State Coach of the Year - 2 times: Colorado & Kansas Tom Colwell Award - 2018 - GKBCA Hall of Fame - 2022 - KBCA



University of Nebraska recruit Chris Balham, Shawnee Mission West leading rebounder, First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-State (2005)

State Tournament Appearances- 17

Kansas

Final Fours- 7 times/3 in Kansas

3rd Place Finishes- 6 times/3 in Kansas

2nd Place Finishes-4 times/2 in Kansas

STATE CHAMPIONS- 1991- Swink, Co