

The top 50 New Jersey college basketball coaches ever, ranked

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Some of these are household names, legends, giants of the sport.

Others have been incredibly successful at their craft in the less-publicized corners of the game.

Some won big over a short period. Others collected victories as they persevered over a long haul.

It's impossible to definitively measure and rank New Jersey's college basketball coaches, but this is a shot at it. The parameters: Only results at four-year colleges in the Garden State are factored and the minimum required tenure is five full seasons (to weed out carpetbaggers and those who bolted our great state prematurely for greener pastures). Obviously longevity is harder to achieve at the higher echelons, so that is considered, but this list also intends to showcase the fine coaching at the Division II, Division III and NAIA levels through the years.

Top 25: [Who are the best men's college basketball players ever in New Jersey?](#)



This is a working list and may be added to or amended as more information becomes available.

50. Joan Kowalik

From 1984-1995 Kowalik led to Princeton women to a 163-121 record, including the 1985 Ivy League title.

49. Roger Kindel

From 1977-2005 he led FDU-Florham to a record of 334-353, with two Division III NCAA Tournament appearances and an ECAC Tournament title.

48. Al Carino

The Godfather of South Jersey basketball (no relation to the author) went 187-138 at Rutgers-Camden from 1946-1964, winning five conference titles.

47. Bill Raftery

From 1963-68, long before he became a famous broadcaster, Raf went 63-47 as FDU-Florham's coach. Then he was 154-141 over 11 seasons at Seton Hall with two NIT appearances. Total record: 217-188.



46. Gabby Lisella

As the Rowan women's head coach for 19 seasons Lisella compiled a 260-226 record, won two New Jersey Athletic Conference titles and advanced to the second round of the 2016 Division III NCAA Tournament.



45. Joe Loughran

In his 19th season at Rutgers-Newark, Loughran owns a record of 295-229 and has led the program to two Division III NCAA Tournament berths.



44. Marc Brown

Taking the torch at New Jersey City from his father Charles in 2007, Marc owns a record of 212-144 (.594) and has guided the Gothic Knights to four Division III NCAA Tournament appearances.



43. Tony Bozzella

In his eighth season at the helm of Seton Hall's women, Bozzella is 142-95 with two NCAA Tournament and three WNIT appearances. His 2014-15 squad won a program-record 28 games and a share of the Big East's regular-season title.

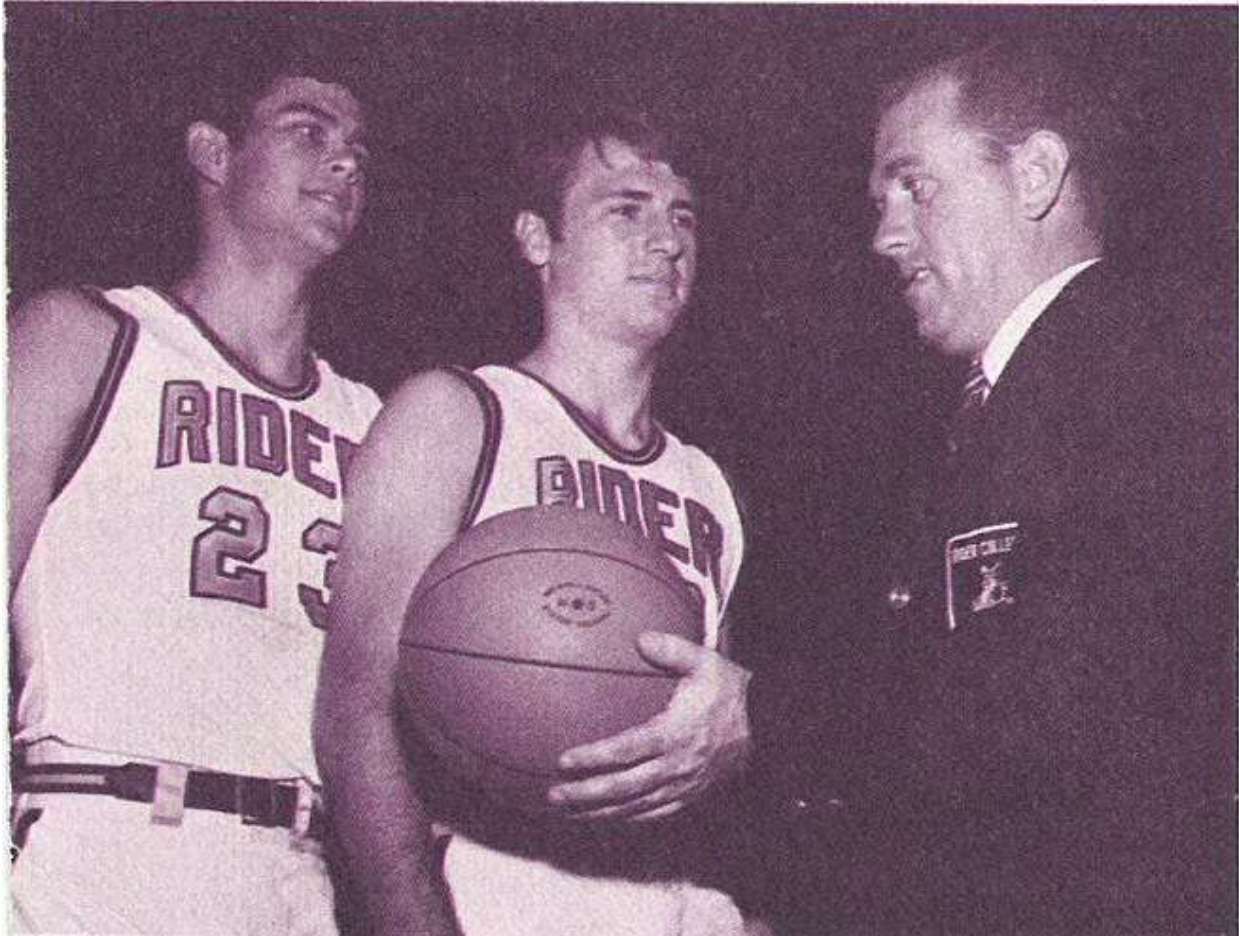


42. Dick Holub

From 1949-1966 Holub coached Fairleigh Dickinson to a record of 233-157 in the NAIA ranks, including marks of 22-4 in 1952 and 20-1 in 1953.

41. John Carpenter

From 1966-1989 Carpenter furnished a 292-328 record at Rider, bringing the program into Division I. His Broncs won five conference regular-season titles and made the 1984 NCAA Tournament.



40. Dave Calloway

In 14 seasons at Monmouth, Calloway led the Hawks to three NCAA Tournaments and garnered five banners — three Northeast Conference Tournament titles and two regular-season crowns. His record was 178-227.



39. Pat Walsh

In five seasons running the Princeton women from 1974-79, Walsh went 72-38 (.655) and captured four Ivy League titles, peaking at 18-4 in 1977-78.

38. John Adams

From 1974-1985, Adams marshaled William Paterson to a 184-70 record, four New Jersey Athletic Conference crowns and seven Division III NCAA Tournaments. His Pioneers advanced to the Elite Eight twice and the Sweet 16 three other times.



37. Gerald Holmes

In his 19th year as Bloomfield's skipper, Holmes owns a record of 340-208. His teams have won 18 conference titles (11 regular season, 7 tourneys) and made eight Division II NCAA Tournament appearances.

36. Kevin Bannon

From 1982-89, Bannon notched a 145-48 record at Trenton State. At Rider from 1989-97 he went 131-103, winning three Northeast Conference titles and leading the Broncs to two NCAA Tournaments. After four years at Rutgers he finished with a record of 335-211.



Coach Bill Foster of Rutgers with 1970-71 Co-Captains, Bob Wessel, left, of West Islip, N. Y., and John McFadden of Havertown, Pa.

35. Bill Foster

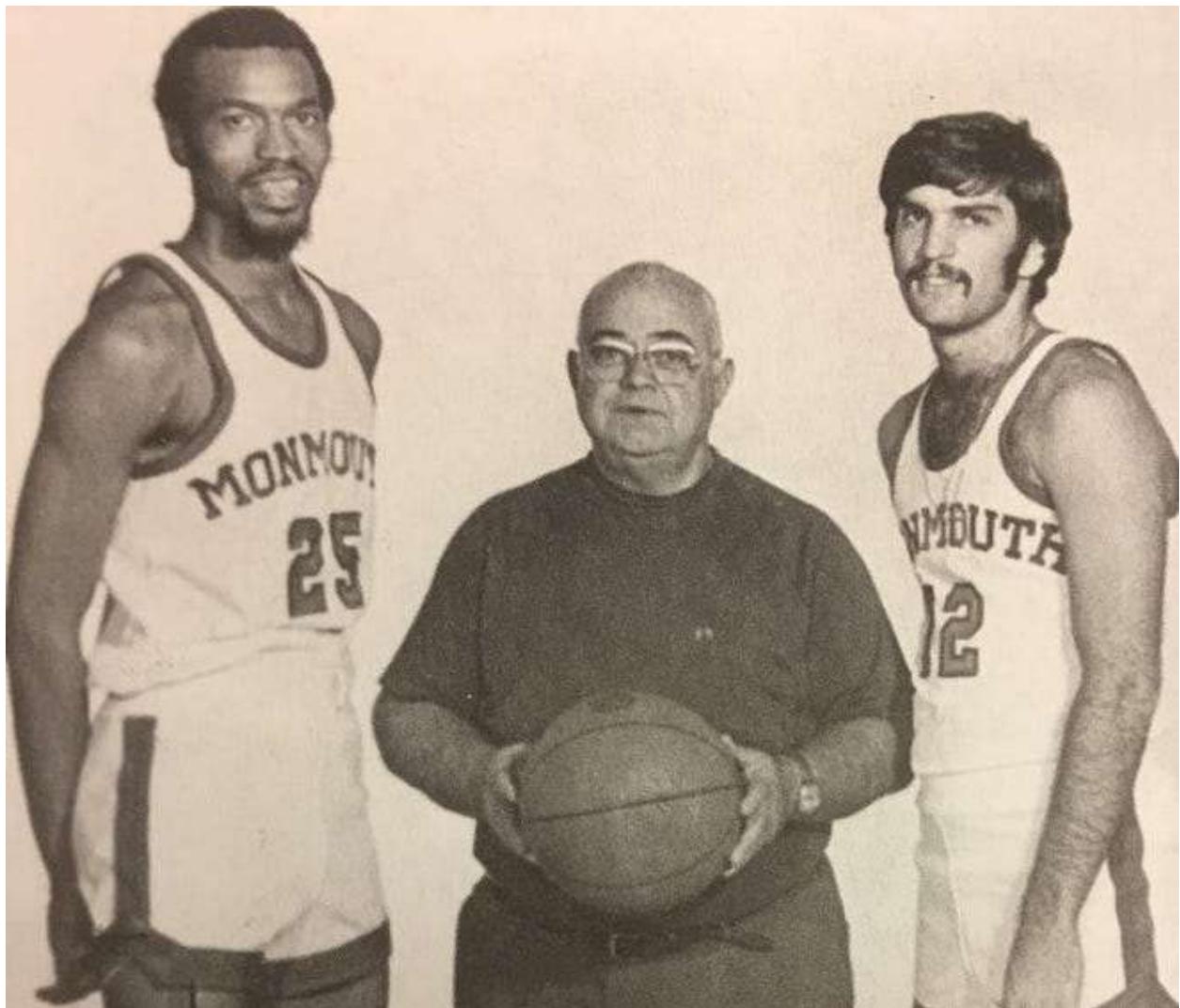
In his eight seasons at Rutgers from 1963-1971, Bill Foster put the program on the map with a 120-75 record and two NIT appearances. His 1966-67 squad finished third in the NIT when that was still a big deal.

34. Joe Cassidy

From 1996-2016 his Rowan teams went 336-186 (.642), with four NCAA Tournament appearances and one New Jersey Athletic Conference title. He was with the program for 28 years, including time as an assistant.

33. Bill Boylan

Monmouth's skipper from 1956-1977 posted a 364-157 mark in the NAIA, winning six district titles and capturing the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championship in 1969.



32. Phyllis Mangina

In 25 seasons at the helm of Seton Hall's women, Mangina posted a record of 352-368. Her Pirates made the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 in 1994 and advanced to the second round in 1995. They also made three WNIT appearances.



31. Pat Hannisch

A women's hoops pioneer, Hannisch posted a 214-79 record at Kean from 1974-1986, including four conference titles and two Division III NCAA Regional crowns. Her Cougars were ranked No. 1 in Division III in 1984 and won 25 straight games in 1986.

30. Sue (Dilley) Regan

Seton Hall's founding women's basketball coach posted a record of 198-118 over 12 seasons, guiding the Pirates to seven bids in the AIAW Tournament. Her 1979 squad went 26-8 and reached the quarterfinals.



29. Candace Crabtree

Over seven seasons from 1994-2000, Crabtree led Rowan's women to a record of 171-25 and five Division III NCAA Tournament appearances, including a berth in the Final Four in 1998 and Elite Eights in 1996 and 2000.



28. Joe Fussner

In three stints at the helm of Stockton's women from 1982-2018, Fussner posted a record of 410-282 with two New Jersey Athletic Conference titles, three ECAC crowns and seven NCAA Division III Tournament berths.



27. Ollie Gelston

From 1958-1991, Gelston's teams at Jersey City State and Montclair State compiled a record of 429-350, with nine conference titles, six Division III NCAA Tournament appearances and three NAIA Tournament berths.

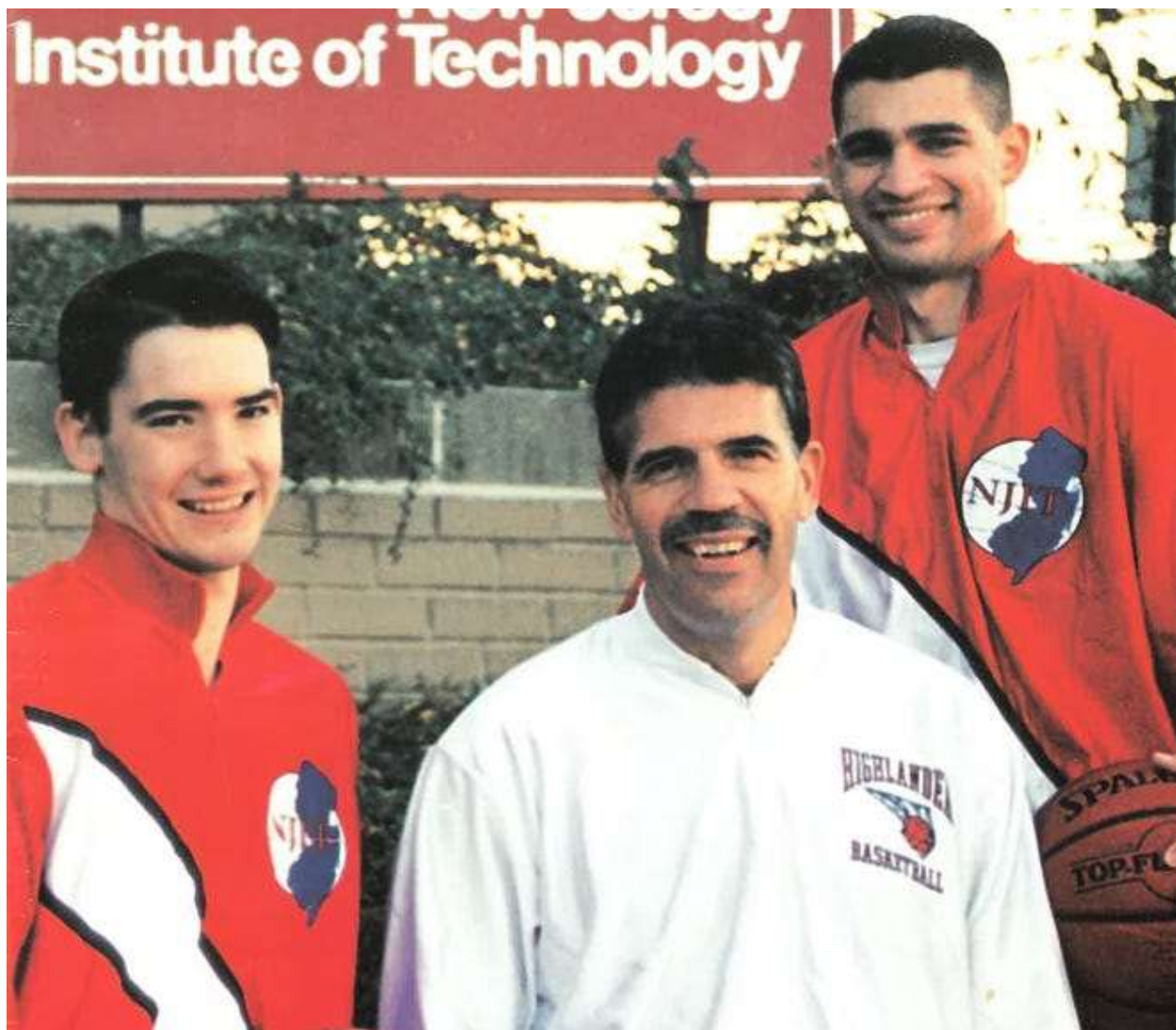


26. Marc Mitchell

He coached FDU-Florham's women to six Division III NCAA Tournaments, including the 2014 national title with a 33-0 record. The Red Devils went 187-67 on his watch. Mitchell is in his third season at the helm of Saint Peter's.

25. Jim Catalano

At New Jersey Tech/NJIT from 1979-2001, Catalano posted a mark of 431-176 at the Division II and III levels. His teams captured three conference titles and made five Division III NCAA Tournaments.



24. Karin Harvey

At the helm of Montclair State's women since 2007, Harvey has posted a record of 284-88 (.763) with six New Jersey Athletic Conference titles and seven Division III NCAA Tournament berths, including a Final Four trip in 2015.



23. Chuck McBreen

In 21 seasons at Ramapo McBreen owns a record of 386-189 with 12 New Jersey Athletic Conference titles (7 regular seasons, 5 tourneys) and eight trips to the Division III NCAA Tournament, including the Final Four in 2018.



22. John Giannini

His seven seasons at Glassboro State/Rowan featured a record of 168-38 (.816), including three Division III Final Fours and the 1996 national title. His Profs made five NCAA Tournaments and won four New Jersey Athletic Conference crowns.



21. Butch van Breda Kolff

His five seasons at Princeton included a record of 103-31, four Ivy League titles, four NCAA Tournaments and an appearance in the 1965 Final Four with national Player of the Year Bill Bradley.

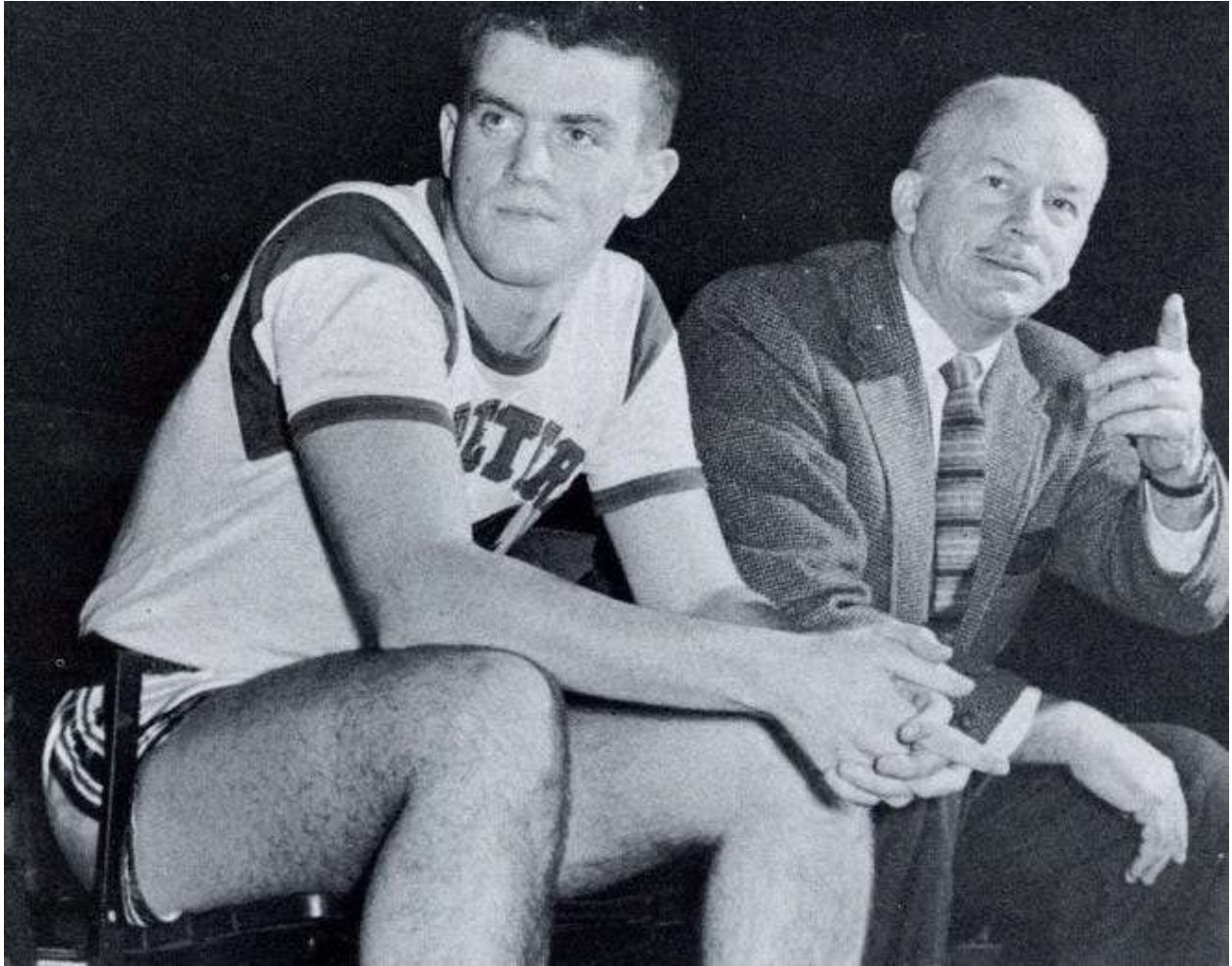
20. Ted Fiore

Over 26 seasons at Saint Peter's and Montclair State, Fiore registered a 384-259 mark. He went 151-110 at Saint Peter's, with NCAA Tournament appearances in 1991 and 1995. He also took Montclair State to the postseason seven times.



19. Don Kennedy

He led Saint Peter's to a 323-195 record from 1950-1972, including five NIT appearances. His 24-win "Run, Baby, Run" Peacocks of 1967-68 pummeled nationally ranked Duke 100-71 in the NIT.



18. Kevin Willard

In his 12th season at Seton Hall, Willard's Pirates have gone 201-145 with four NCAA Tournament appearances. They won the Big East Tournament in 2016 and a share of the Big East regular-season title in 2020, reaching No. 8 in the AP poll.



17. Franklin “Cappy” Cappon

Over two stints at Princeton from 1938-1961, his Tigers went 262-185, captured five Ivy League titles and went to four NCAA Tournaments. He recruited the great Bill Bradley, then died of a heart attack while showering after a 1961 practice.

16. Tom Green

From 1983-2009 his Fairleigh Dickinson squads went 407-351, making the NCAA Tournament four times and earning seven Northeast Conference banners. He remains the winningest coach in NEC history.



15. Dawn Henderson

From 1993-2017 she directed Trenton State/The College of New Jersey women to a record of 436-214. Her Lions made nine Division III NCAA Tournaments, including the 2009 Final Four, and won four New Jersey Athletic Conference titles.



14. Erin Monahan

In her 28th season at the helm of William Paterson's women, Monahan owns a record of 498-240, including 11 Division III NCAA Tournament berths, four Sweet 16s and three New Jersey Athletic Conference titles.



13. Jose Rebimbas

From 1995-2015 he led William Paterson to a record of 384-168, six New Jersey Athletic Conference titles and nine Division III NCAA Tournaments, including a Final Four in 1999 and the national title game in 2001. He also guided Montclair State to 15 wins and an NCAA Tournament berth in 1994.



12. Charles Brown

From 1982-2007 Brown's teams at New Jersey City (previously known as Jersey City State) went 483-218 (.689) and made 12 Division III NCAA Tournament appearances, advancing to the Final Four in 1986 and 2012. He never had a losing season.



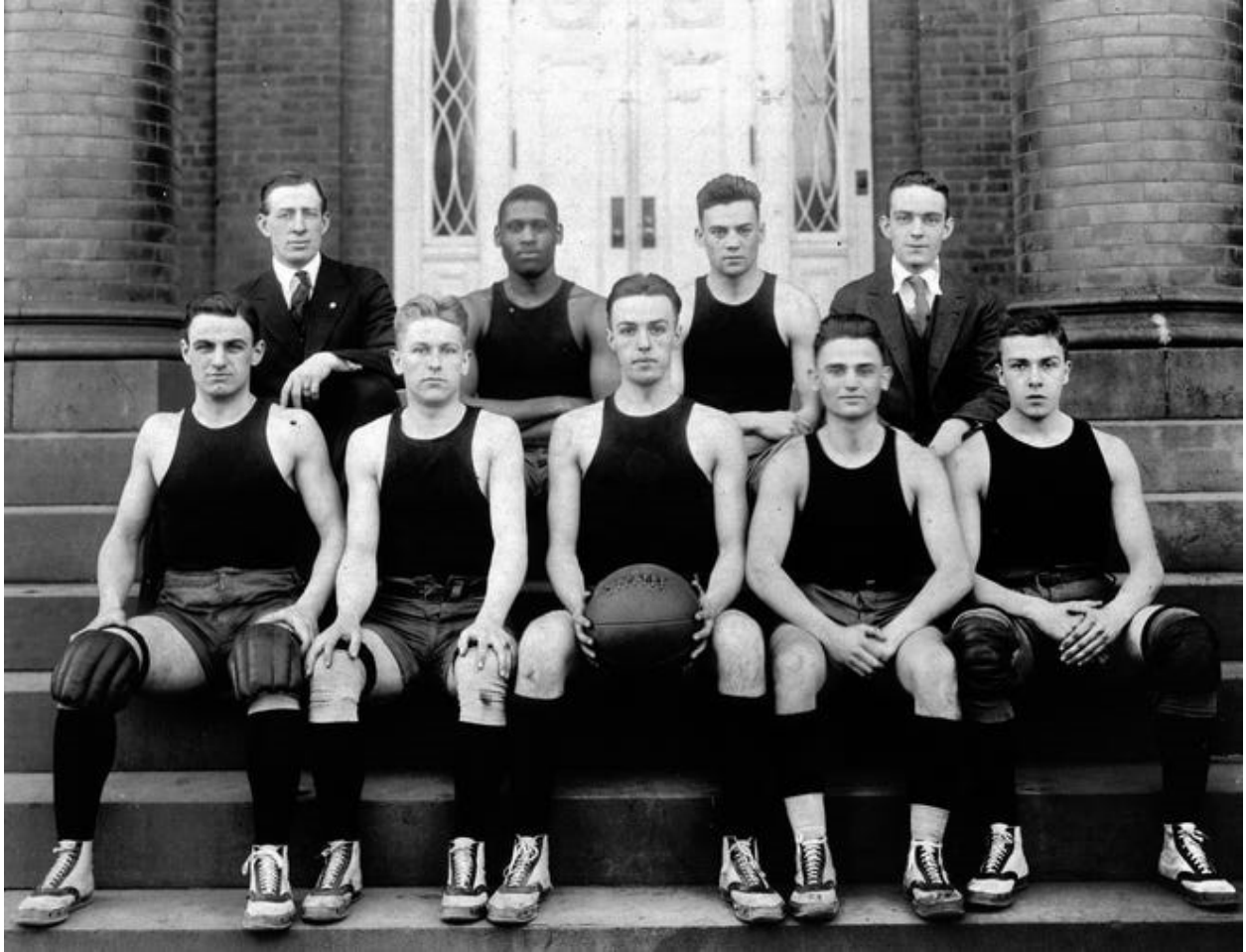
11. Mark Corino

In his 38th season, Corino is 594-473 at Caldwell and Bloomfield. This is his 33rd year at Caldwell, where he's won 499 games, including 13 conference titles. His teams have made six trips to national postseason tournaments.



10. Frank Hill

He went 414-237-1 from 1911-1943 between Rutgers (223-162) and Seton Hall (195-75-1). There were 14 seasons when Hill coached both teams; when they faced off, he sat in the stands. He was an innovator of the bounce pass and the pivot.



9. Courtney Banghart

In 12 seasons at Princeton her Tigers went 254-103 (.711) with seven Ivy League titles and eight NCAA Tournament appearances. They were 137-31 in league play (.815). She was 2015 National Coach of the Year after Princeton went 31-1.



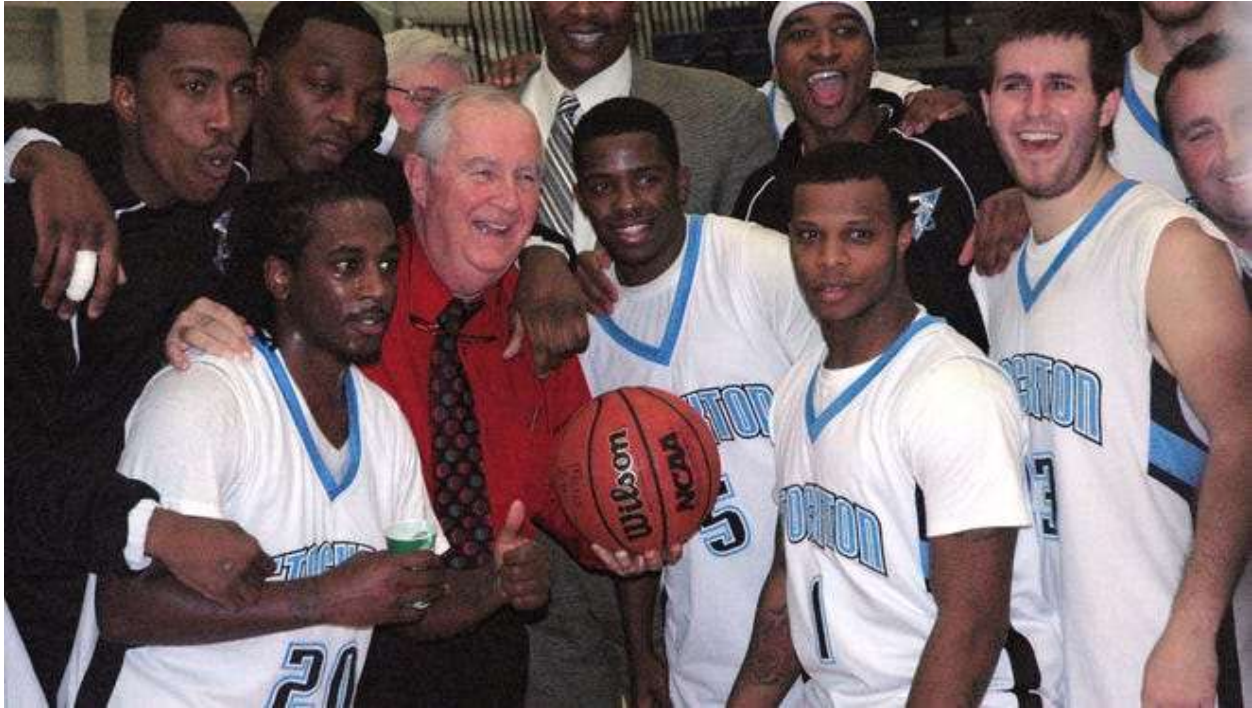
8. Mike Granelli

In 32 years at the helm of Saint Peter's women's program, Granelli posted a mark of 607-249 (.709), with 10 MAAC regular-season titles, nine MAAC tourney crowns and seven NCAA Tournament appearances. He retired in 2004.



7. Gerry Matthews

No New Jersey men's college basketball coach won more games than Matthews, who went 603-243 (.713) in 30 seasons with Stockton until his retirement in 2016. He led the Ospreys to 16 Division III NCAA Tournament berths, two Final Fours and 18 20-win seasons. His team never finished under .500.



6. Tom Young

Over 12 seasons at Rutgers Young's squads went 239-116, making four NCAA Tournaments and three NITs. His 1975-76 team made the Final Four with a record of 31-0 and reached No. 3 in the AP poll. Young never posted a losing season on the banks.

5. P.J. Carlesimo

In 12 seasons at Seton Hall Carlesimo's teams went 212-166 and made six NCAA Tournaments, advancing to the 1989 title game, the 1991 Elite Eight and 1992 Sweet 16. They hung four Big East banners: two regular season and two tourney titles.



4. John "Honey" Russell

Over 18 seasons at Seton Hall between 1936-1960, the Naismith Hall of Famer went 294-129 (.696) with seven NIT appearances when that was the marquee event. His 1952-53 squad finished 31-2, won the NIT title and spent a long stretch ranked No. 1 in the nation.



3. Theresa Greutz

The nation's first full-time women's basketball coach directed Rutgers to a 434-150 record (.743) over 19 seasons, including the 1982 national championship. Her teams made the Elite Eight two other times and never finished worse than four games above .500.



2. C. Vivian Stringer

The Naismith Hall of Famer has a record of 527-289 (.646) at Rutgers, leading the Scarlet Knights to 16 NCAA Tournaments, including the national title game in 2007, the Final Four in 2000, plus three Elite Eights and three Sweet 16s.



1. Pete Carril

In 29 seasons at Princeton Carril's teams went 514-261 (.663), won 13 Ivy League championships, earned 11 NCAA Tournament berths and captured the 1975 NIT title. He had just one losing season overall and none in Ivy League play. He is the only Division I coach to win 500 games without athletic scholarships. Beyond his record, Carril changed the game and influenced a sea of coaches with offensive principles that became adopted at all levels. He is in the Naismith Basketball of Fame.



Jerry Carino has covered the New Jersey sports scene since 1996 and the college basketball beat since 2003. He is an Associated Press Top 25 voter. Contact him at jcarino@gannettnj.com.