

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release/March 20, 2009

Damian Smith named new women's basketball coach at Glen Oaks



CENTREVILLE---Damian L. Smith, coach of the Loy Norrix High School women's basketball team since 2006, has been named Head Coach of the Glen Oaks Community College Lady Vikings Basketball Team. Smith compiled a 56-14 record and coached Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference Central Division Champion teams the past three years.

Smith was also Kalamazoo Gazette All Area Coach of the Year, second team, for 2007-2008 and first team, for 2008-2009. Smith was a finalist for the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) Region 5 Coach of the Year the past three years. Since coming to Loy Norrix, Smith has coached and developed five student athletes who have gone on to two or four-year colleges and universities (three were Division I). Smith was also listed by the Michigan Girls Basketball Report Top 100 as Coach and Teacher in July 2008.

The Kalamazoo coach (pictured on right with Athletic Director Steve Proefrock) said coming to Glen Oaks "was an opportunity I definitely had to take a look at. The decision to leave Loy Norrix was very tough. The hardest part about this is leaving my players." But Smith said the challenge is one he couldn't refuse, "I'm all about working hard and turning the (Glen Oaks) program around. It's definitely going to take some work, but I have no problems doing that." Smith replaces Brian Burg, coach of the Lady Vikings for four years. The Vikings turned in a 2-25 record this past season.

Smith's playing experience includes basketball at Polk Community College in 1998 and Trinity Christian College 2001-2002. He earned an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is completing a Business Administration degree from Davenport University.

Steve Proefrock, Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach, said Smith exhibits strong leadership abilities and teamwork skills. "He is young, energetic and very talented. He is one of the best young coaches in the state as evidenced by winning conference championships in three straight years as the girls' basketball head coach."

Proefrock also announced that former Glen Oaks Community College basketball standout Clinton Taylor (1998-1999) will be assistant coach next season.