

# A-E-O MEYER-HARTE AWARD - 2009 RECIPIENT

*An A-E-O Tribute to IBCA Past President and Hall of Famer*

## GORDON KERKMAN

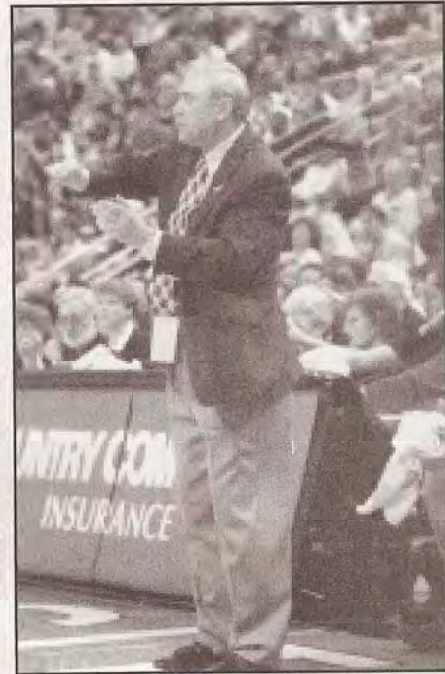
A 1955 graduate of VanHorne (Iowa) High School, Gordon Kerkman was an All State honorable mention basketball player; and a 1960 graduate of Coe College, where he was co-captain of the basketball and baseball teams. Coach Kerkman just finished his 49<sup>th</sup> year of coaching (2 years at DeWitt High School in Iowa and 47 years at Aurora West High School).

His remarkable career has included 12 years as the valued assistant to John McDougal and the last 33 years as the Head Basketball Coach at Aurora West High School. During his highly successful 33 year tenure, Kerkman's teams have won 683 and lost 258 games. These wins include 16 conference championships, 20 regional titles, qualified for state 10 times, elite 8 on 8 occasions, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> on three occasions, 2<sup>nd</sup> once, and in 2000 won the class AA state championship.

Kerkman has served the IBCA as a member of the Board of Directors for 26 years and also as president of the IBCA. He has also been chosen as District Coach of the Year numerous times and in 2000 was chosen as Class AA state Coach of the Year.

Kerkman is also a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame and the Coe College Hall of Fame. Included in his coaching experiences are: IBCA All Star Game, Illinois-Wisconsin All Star Game, Roundball Classic All Star Game, and also served as a coach or a consultant to a number of youth basketball camps and programs. One of his former players made it to the NBA but he takes greater pleasure in knowing that many went into coaching, including Billy Taylor, now the head basketball coach at Ball State University.

Gordy and his wife, Marilyn, have three children (Randy, Julie & Amy) and five grandchildren.



*"It is our privilege to provide this special IBCA and A-E-O tribute and award to Coach Gordy Kerkman as a giving and caring person of integrity and character who has demonstrated courage in overcoming adversity while excelling and succeeding in life."*

- KEN DENZEL, an IBCA Hall of Famer and the Founder (1968) / Chair of the not-for-profit A-E-O International Center for Athletic and Educational Opportunities.

*"I have known Coach Gordy Kerkman since 1976, when he served as Coach John McDougal's assistant at West Aurora and looked on unbelieving from the bench as Morgan Park's Laird Smith converted a last-second shot to beat the Blackhawks for the Class AA championship in one of the most dramatic finishes in the history of the state tournament."*

*"McDougal retired after that season and Gordy succeeded him. Since then, Gordy has recorded one of the most successful careers in state coaching annals. Never obsessed with wins and losses, he has produced winning teams year after year with whatever grade of talent that laces up its sneakers in a West Aurora uniform."*

*In 33 years, he has had only three losing seasons. He won a state title in 2000 with a team that wasn't supposed to win, finished second in 1997 and third in 1980, 1984 and 2004."*

*Is he ready to retire? Not a chance. He loves coaching too*

*much. He loves working with kids. High school basketball needs more coaches with Gordy's devotion and dedication."*

- TAYLOR BELL of the Chicago Sun-Times and for decades one of the best and hardest-working prep sportswriters in the country.

*"Gordon Kerkman is a great person, friend, gentlemen and an outstanding basketball coach. He has been a tremendous ambassador to basketball in the state of Illinois. Win or lose, it was always a pleasure to compete against him and his teams. He always credited his players for their successes and never to himself. He is one of the most respected coaches in the state of Illinois and someone who will always be special to me."*

- JIM HARRINGTON, former Head Basketball Coach at Weber and Elgin high schools; IBCA Hall of Fame Coach; and 2008 recipient of the A-E-O Meyer-Harte Award.

*"Coach Gordy Kerkman is a great coach and a fine individual. He is as down-to-earth as they come with no facade or pretense as to who and what he is. What you see is what you get with him and it is much both on and off the court. He has been a highly successful coach with much deserved success and recognition due to his hard work and high standards. With him as my assistant coach, we worked together for 12 years and had a very mutual and beneficial association with each other that resulted in much suc-*

*cess. Thereafter, he has done exceptionally well and has been deserving of it all, which has pleased me very much."*

- COACH JOHN McDOUGAL, a legendary basketball coach at Aurora West H S and at the universities of Northern Illinois and Western Michigan.

*"IBCA Hall of Fame Coach Gordy Kerkman is an outstanding person and coach who for the past 27 years has been a tremendous asset and member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA). He served as one of our many outstanding presidents and he always has had a great impact into many of the projects and activities that have made the IBCA such a great organization today. He has had a very positive influence on Illinois basketball, both on and off the court. He always has been one we could count on and he has helped us in so many different and significant ways, including innumerable trips to the IBCA office and sites to assist with many of the projects and activities of the IBCA."*

- CHUCK ROLINSKI, Executive Director of the IBCA and a past recipient of the A-E-O Meyer-Harte Award.

