

HONORING THE GREATS OF THE GAME

ANQUELL McCOLLUM Western Carolina University Player (1992-96)

Anquell McCollum has been the face of the modern era of Western Carolina men's basketball since the early 1990s and will be enshrined in the WCU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010. The recognized and highly honored leader of WCU's first-ever Southern Conference championship team in 1996, McCollum returned to Cullowhee in 2004 as an assistant coach – a role he continues in today.

McCollum was a two-time, first-team All-Southern Conference selection in both 1995 and 1996, while also garnering all-freshman plaudits during the 1992-93 season. He is one of just four Catamounts to have ever garnered SoCon Player of the Year accolades – earning both coaches and media honors – and one of only two to have captured Player of the Year and SoCon Tournament MVP honors in the same season, doing so in 1996 to join former teammate Frankie King, who accomplished the feat in 1994.

During the magical 1996 season – which saw the Catamounts rebound from a 3-10 start to win 14 of their final 16 games and nearly shock No. 1 seeded Purdue in the NCAA Tournament – McCollum led the SoCon in scoring and ranked sixth nationally



with a 25.0 point per game average. His 751 points that year still rank as the fifth-most in school history.

McCollum, who is the only Catamount to have earned all-tournament team honors three times during a career, finished his four years as Western Carolina's all-time career leader with 245 3-pointers made – a mark which was only surpassed in 2009-10 by Jake Robinson while McCollum watched from the Catamount bench as an assistant coach. However, McCollum's 99 3-pointers in 1995-96 is still the top effort ever in Cullowhee.

In 2000, the Fayetteville, N.C., native was selected to the WCU All-20th Century team and currently ranks on six WCU career charts, including sixth among the program's 1,000-point scorers with 1,777 points.

He played professional basketball abroad from 1996 through 2000 following his outstanding WCU career.

CHET GIERMAK

The College of William & Mary Player (1947-50)

Chet Giermak ranks among the best to ever wear a William & Mary uniform. He was a two-time All-America, earning the distinction in 1949 (Helms Athletic Foundation) and 1950 (NABC). Along with All-America laurels as a senior in 1950, he was an Academic All-America, an NABC All-District honoree and a first-team All-Southern Conference choice.

Giermak, who spent 14 months serving as a corpsman in the Navy in 1945 before enrolling at W&M, began his career at the College as a 6-6 walk-on from Lindblom Technical High School in Chicago, Ill. It did not take long for Giermak to make his mark in Williamsburg. He would go on to graduate from W&M and remains the program's all-time leading scorer at 2,052 points. His number 32 is one of five men's basketball jerseys retired by the College. He was a three-time All-Southern Conference selection and was named the MVP of the Southern Conference Tournament in 1949. During that season, he averaged 21.8 points per game and set a W&M school record with 740 total points, a



record that still stands today. In January of 1949, Giermak set a school record with 45 points in a win over Baltimore. At the time, the point total was the all-time Virginia state collegiate scoring record and was the national single game mark for the 1948-49 season. It still ranks as the third-best total in W&M history. During his senior campaign in 1950, he averaged 20.8 points per game and scored 646 points, which ranks third in Tribe history.

Over his career, the Tribe won 74 games, including back-to-back seasons of 24 wins in 1948-49 and 23 in 1949-50. He holds the W&M school record for field goals made with 847 and his career scoring average of 18.5 points per game ranks third in program annals. Following his graduation from the College, Giermak was selected with the ninth pick of the fourth round (45th overall) by the Rochester Royals in the 1950 NBA Draft.

Giermak is a member of the William & Mary Athletics Hall of Fame was an Alumni Medallion Recipient from the W&M Alumni Association. The Alumni Medallion is the highest award the William & Mary Alumni Association can bestow on a graduate and recognizes graduates for their outstanding professional accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to their community and commitment to their alma mater.

Giermak served as the President and CEO of Eriez Magnetics until his retirement in 2003. He spent 43 years in the magnetic, vibratory, and metal detection solutions industry at Eriez. During his tenure, Giermak led the company from 40 employees and \$1.8 million annual sales to 480 employees and \$70 million in sales. He currently resides in Erie, Pa.