

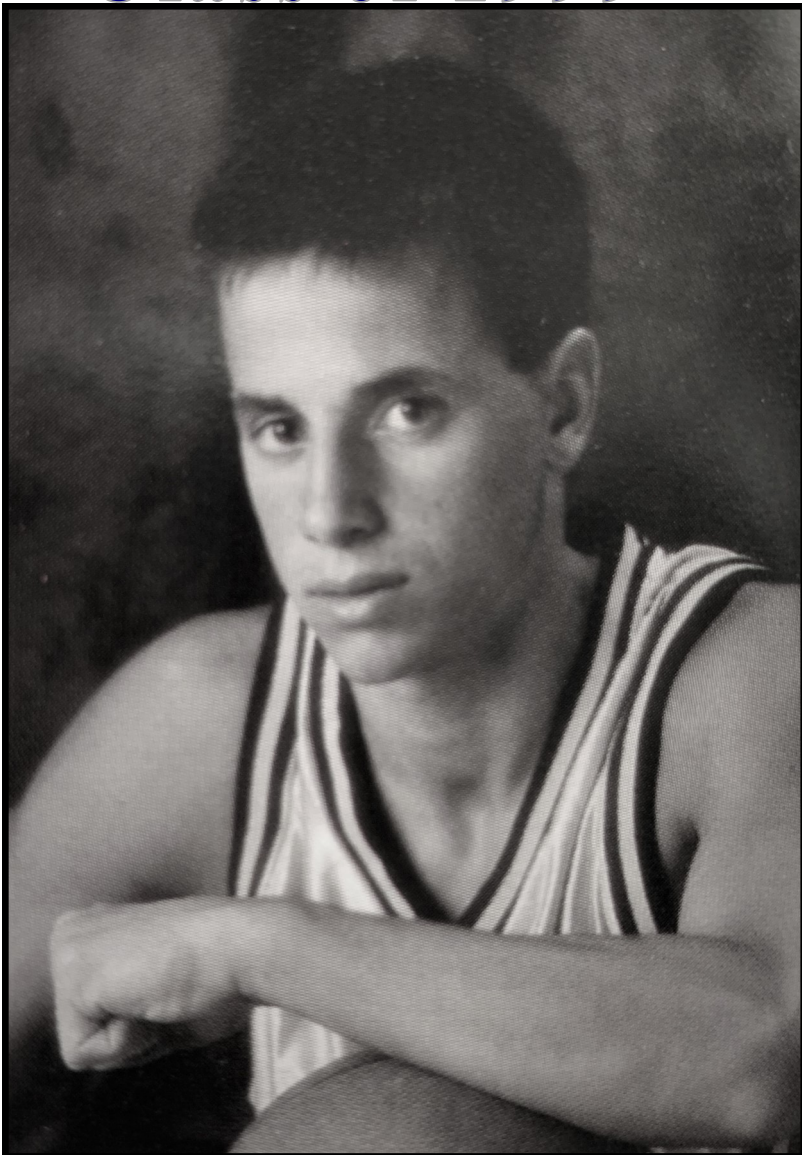
Ben McCollum

Class of 1999

2020 Hall of Fame Inductee

Four Year Letter Winner

1996 - 1999



McCollum lettered in basketball all four years at St. Mary's, was an important part of the baseball and track programs, and ran cross country through a shared program with Alta.

As a senior, he led the team to a 17-4 record, with three of the four losses to eventual state champion, Newell-Fonda. He was named second-team all-state when he scored 517 points, averaging 24.6 per game, along with 113 assists. He is the 6th all-time scorer (1,181), and 2nd all-time assist leader (345).

In track, he was the school record holder in the 400 meters and competed in the state track meet. In baseball, he was second team all-district with a .443 batting average.

Ben's accomplishments after St. Mary's are certainly significant. He started playing college basketball with North Iowa Area Community College for two years, and he then played with Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

Ben eventually became the head coach at NWMS in 2009. His 2017 and 2019 squads won the Division II National Championship. Seven of his last eight teams have won the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) regular season conference titles, and four have prevailed as conference tournament champions. His career coaching record is 241-75.

He has been named the 2019 John McLendon National Coach of the Year, which recognizes the best coach in all divisions of college basketball. In that year, he was also recognized as Coach of the Year by the NABC, Basketball Times, HoopDirt.com and the Kansas City Sports Awards. In 2017, he was also recognized as Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and the D-II Bulletin. He is also five-time coach of the year in the MIAA conference.