

As a freshman, Jim Crews lettered in Varsity Baseball. That was his only sport his freshman year. He went on to play football, basketball, and baseball the next three years, lettering in each sport each year. He graduated having received 10 letters in four years. He also held the school record in career assists and career points scored until recent years when these records were broken. In Jim's junior year, he was All American in basketball, and in his senior year, he was All American in both football and basketball. In 1985, Jim was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 1999, his 1971 (junior year) basketball team from U-High was inducted into the I.B.C.A. Basketball Hall of Fame. No other intercity team, including college teams, hold this honor.



A 1976 graduate of Indiana University, Crews was a four-year letterman in basketball for the Hoosiers. In his senior year, I.U. compiled a 32-0 record and won the NCAA National Title. Jim returned to I.U. after one year away from the game in 1977, and spent eight years as Assistant Coach. During that time, Indiana won an NCAA title (1981), and three Big Ten Championships. Jim left I.U. in 1985 to become the 11th coach in University of Evansville history. He has spent 14 years at the University of Evansville, but few seasons can match the most recent one. Here's what came Jim's way in 1998 - 1999:

- The Missouri Valley Conference regular season championship
- Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year
- Evansville's fourth NCAA Tournament appearance since 1989
- His 250th career victory

Jim takes a 255 - 160 record into the 1999 - 2000 season after spending his entire head-coaching career at Evansville. Last season was the 13th straight in which Evansville finished .500 or better in conference games. Six of his teams have won 21 games or more, and all six reached post-season play. (NCAA 1989, '92, '93, '99; NIT 1988, '94) In 1996 - 97, the Aces reached the Final Four of the preseason Chase NIT at Madison Square Garden, along with Indiana, Duke, and Tulsa. In the summer of 1997, Jim served as the Assistant Coach to Rick Majerus on the U.S. National under-22 Team.

The 1987, '89, '92, and '93 Aces won Midwestern Collegiate Conference regular season championships; and in '92 and '93 the Aces also won the MCC post-season tournaments. Jim was MCC Coach of the Year in 1987, 1989, and 1992. Thirty-nine seniors have gone

through the Evansville University basketball program under Crews, and 38 have left with their undergraduate degrees. Virtually all graduated in four years. Evansville led the Missouri Valley Conference in 1997 with four players on the MVC All-American Team, including three of the Aces' four seniors.

Jim is very active in the community, especially in helping children. The "Jim Crews Reading Aces" program, in conjunction with Citizens National Bank, has received national recognition from the NCAA for its work in helping students succeed in the classroom. Jim and his players visit area schools throughout the year, and encourage reading in particular and academic success in general. Jim also serves on the Board of Directors for the local Boys & Girls Club, which provides after-school and weekend programs for Evansville youngsters, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Jim and his wife Kim (U-High '71) are the parents of two children, Abby and Todd.