

Lilly is finalist for national award

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Xavier girls basketball coach Tom Lilly has been selected as a finalist for "National Coach of the Year" by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA).

Lilly was selected for his coaching longevity, win-loss record, championship years, honors and service at the high school level. Lilly will be honored at the National Awards Banquet at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, Minn., June 20.

Lilly has been the girls basketball coach at Xavier all 17 years the school has been open and recently reached 300 wins at Xavier. His teams won state championships in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2013.

Including his 13 years as head coach of girls basketball at Regis High School, Lilly's all-time win-loss record is 489-214.

"This is a wonderful and well-deserved honor for Coach Lilly," said Mike Winker, Xavier activities director. "He is a well-respected teacher and coach and has taught his girls more than basketball.

"He teaches his players how to not only compete at the highest level on the basketball court, but prepares them for their journey beyond high school as well."

The NHSACA Annual Awards Banquet is held to honor athletic directors and coaches in 19 sports from throughout the United States. All 152 "Coach of the Year" and "Athletic Director of the Year" finalists will be recognized individually at the awards banquet.