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## **ANDERSON NAMED NORTHERN INDIANA CONFERENCE MVP IN BOYS BASKETBALL, COOPER NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR**

Damezi Anderson, who led South Bend Riley to a school-best 17-0 start, was named the Northern Indiana Conference Boys Basketball Most Valuable Player, highlighting the NIC all-conference team.

Milt Cooper, who guided South Bend Adams to an 11-1 record and a share of the NIC championship with Riley, was named the NIC Boys Basketball Coach of the Year. Adams is 21-4 overall and won the Class 4-A South Bend Sectional Championship. Last season Adams was eighth in the NIC with a 6-6 record, and 8-14 overall.

The NIC all-conference selections were made by the league's Boys Basketball head coaches.

### **ALL-NIC FIRST TEAM**

**DAMEZI ANDERSON, South Bend Riley, Junior, 6-7 shooting guard/shooting forward.**

League MVP Damezi Anderson averaged 21.3 points, 7.6 rebounds, 2.1 steals, 1.6 blocks and 1.4 assists a game for the Riley Wildcats this season. He has attracted attention from most Big Ten schools, and many other Division I schools across the nation.

"Damezi is a very good player who has a chance to be a special player," Riley coach Mark Johnson said. "He has good skills, a good basketball IQ, and a burning desire to improve. He is extremely coachable and is humble enough to realize he still has much room for improvement."

**NOAH APPEGATE, Penn, Sophomore, 6-6, wing.**

Noah Applegate led the Kingsmen with 16.7 points and 6.8 rebounds a game. He also averaged 2.9 assists and 1.3 assists a game.

"Noah Applegate is a player with great potential," Penn coach Al Rhodes said. "He is a good scorer and rebounder. He has a great future ahead if he continues to improve."

**CORNELL CONNER, Elkhart Central, Senior, 6-4, power forward.**

Cornell Conner helped the Blue Blazers post a 19-2 record in the regular season, the best in school history. Elkhart Central finished the NIC season with a 10-2 record, and was the NIC North Division champion with a 5-0 record.

Conner nearly averaged a double-double this season for points and rebounds, with 16.4 points a game and 9.2 rebounds a game. He also averaged 1.2 steals and 1.2 blocks a game.

"Cornell did a great job not only scoring for us this year, but he is also an excellent rebounder," Elkhart Central coach Terry Smith said. "He is also a force defensively in the paint and a team leader."

**WALTER ELLIS, South Bend Adams, Junior, 6-5, guard/forward.**

Walter Ellis averages 19 points a game and shoots 84 percent from the free-throw line. He helped Adams earn a share of the NIC championship (with Riley), and helped the Eagles win the South Bend Sectional Championship.

"It's a high honor for these kids to be voted on the all-conference team for one of the best conferences in Indiana," Adams head coach Milt Cooper said.

**MICHAEL GREEN, South Bend Adams, Senior, 5-9, guard.**

Michael Green averages 18 points a game, and shoots 76 percent from the free-throw line. He surpassed the 1,000-point mark in his career. He helped Adams earn a share of the NIC championship (with Riley), and helped the Eagles win the South Bend Sectional Championship.

"It's a high honor for these kids to be voted on the all-conference team for one of the best conferences in Indiana," Adams head coach Milt Cooper said.

**MIKE HEMINGWAY, Marian, Junior, 5-10, guard.**

Mike Hemingway averaged 18.3 points, 5.1 assists, 2.8 rebounds and 2.3 steals a game.

"Mike has solidified himself as the best point guard in the conference," Marian coach Robb Berger said. "I also believe that he is the most improved player in the conference, he has expanded his game as a shooting threat, improving his scoring from 6.0 points per game to 18.3 points per game.

"Mike also saw improvements in his assist (5.1), rebound (2.8), and steal (2.3) averages this season," Berger said. "This was achievable through his hard work and dedication in the off season. He is the ultimate team player and leader, always striving to make himself and his teammates better each and every day. I look forward to watching him grow even more as both an individual and player this coming year."

**TYSEAN SHEPPARD, Clay, Senior, 5-10, guard.**

Tysean Sheppard averaged 23.2 points and 4.0 rebounds a game for the Colonials.

“Tysean was the heart and soul of our team this year,” Clay coach Delray Brooks said. “His play gave our team the best chance to win most nights. Not only is he a talented basketball player, he is also a good student and a better person. He is an all-around basketball player who understands how to play and can create his own shot when the offense breaks down.”

**MATT STRONG, Glenn, Senior, 6-2, guard.**

Matt Strong averaged 19.5 points a game in conference play. He shot 80 percent from the free-throw line (28-of-35) and connected for 42 percent from the three-point line.

“Matt set the school record for three-point shots made in a season with 83,” Glenn coach Travis Hannah said. “Matt also finished the season third in the state in three pointers made on the season.”

**ALL-NIC SECOND TEAM**

Maurice Scott, Jr	12	Riley
Zach Lattimer	11	Marian
Sam Pawlak	12	Jimtown
Muhammad Shabazz	12	Saint Joseph
John Binion	11	Mishawaka
Cory McKinney	11	Washington
Kody Webb	12	New Prairie
Adonis Brown	12	Elkhart Central

**ALL-NIC HONORABLE MENTION**

Shamar Dillard	11	Riley
R.J. Decker	11	Marian
Kyreese Parker	12	Adams
Matt Box	12	Bremen
Luke Shively	12	Mishawaka
Brian Doslak	12	Penn

Bryce Bloode	11	New Prairie
Deveon Jackson	11	Elkhart Central

### **NIC Standings for 2016-17 Boys' Basketball**

1 – SB Adams	11-1	NIC Co-Champions	Coach–Milt Cooper
1 - SB Riley	11-1	NIC Co-Champions	Coach-Mark Johnson
3 – Elkhart Central	10-2		
4 – Marian	9-3		
5 – Penn	7-5		
6 – SB Washington	5-7		
6 - New Prairie	5-7		
6 – Mishawaka	5-7		
6 - Saint Joseph	5-7		
10–John Glenn	4-8		
10-SB Clay	4-8		
12-Bremen	2-10		
13-Jimtown	0-12		

### **NORTH Division**

1-Elkhart Central	5-0	NIC North Champs
2-SB Adams	4-1	NIC Overall Co-Champions
3-Penn	3-2	
4-Mishawaka	1-4	
4-SB Clay	1-4	

4-Saint Joseph 1-4

**SOUTH Division**

1-SB Riley 6-0 NIC Overall Co-Champions / NIC South Champs

2-Marian 5-1

3-SB Washington 4-2

4-New Prairie 3-3

5-John Glenn 2-4

6-Bremen 1-5

7-Jimtown 0-6