



MEN'S BASKETBALL

TITAN TRIVIA

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The Titans are the only Michigan Division I team ever to lead the nation in scoring. That occurred in 1964, when the 14-11 Titans under coach Bob Calihan averaged 96.1 points per game — well above the national average of 74.4 ppg. Senior forward Dick Dzik led U-D in scoring that season with a 21.7 average and three other players (Dorie Murrey, 16.9; Al Cech, 15.8; and Terry Page, 10.9) also finished in double figures. Only one other HL team, Loyola in 1962, has ever led the nation in scoring.

The Titans have had two national individual leaders in Spencer Haywood and Antoine Davis. One season after pacing the U.S. Olympians to the 1968 gold medal in Mexico City, the Titans All-American Haywood led the country in rebounding. Haywood averaged 22.1 boards per game and was the first sophomore in 15 years to lead the country in that department. Only one player, 7-2 Jacksonville center Artis Gilmore, has since led the nation with a higher figure. Gilmore averaged 22.2 rebounds in 1970, and 23.2 one year later. Haywood also averaged 32.1 points in 1969 — fourth nationally behind Pete Maravich, Rick Mount and Calvin Murphy. Davis Antoine Davis led the nation in three categories during the 2022-23 campaign including scoring at 28.2 points per game, total points at 930, and with 4.82, 3-pointers per game. All three marks were Horizon League records, while the 930 points and 4.82 triples per game were both school records.

Dave DeBusschere holds the single-game school rebounding mark, set against Central Michigan Jan. 30, 1960. DeBusschere was credited with 39 rebounds that night, while the Titans also set a school record as a team with 77. Only four other college players have ever had more rebounds in one game than DeBusschere's 39. The national standard was set Feb. 14, 1953, when William & Mary's Bill Chambers had 51 rebounds against Virginia. The school record effort against Central Michigan was one of four games in his career where DeBusschere topped 30.

From 1970-80 the Titans were the winningest Division I program in the state of Michigan. The Titans finished the decade 187-80 (.700) overall with three-straight trips to the postseason.

Two former Titans remain in the Horizon League record book for deadeye shooting. Guard Keith Gray hit all 15 of his free throw attempts at Evansville Feb. 18, 1985 — the best one-game effort in league annals. Another past all-conference choice, forward Greg Wendt, shares the 1,000 field goal percentage record with Charles Dorsey of Oral Roberts. Wendt was a perfect 11-for-11 from the field in a Detroit victory at Xavier Jan. 11, 1986.

On Jan. 19, 2013 Detroit Mercy routed UIC, 98-47, as every Titan on the active roster scored. The 51-point spread was the largest margin of victory ever recorded in the Horizon League, passing the previous record of 46 when Marquette beat Loyola, 82-36, on Jan. 19, 1991.

During the 2018-19 season, Antoine Davis connected on a NCAA freshman record 132, 3-pointers, breaking the mark held by Stephen Curry. On Feb. 28, 2019, three minutes into the second half against IUPUI at home, Davis broke Curry's record sinking his 123rd triple of the year. He would end his rookie season third in the nation and leading the Horizon League in offense at 26.1 points per game, just the fifth Titan to lead the league in scoring and the first freshman in HL history to accomplish that feat.

Davis finished his career holding four NCAA records in total 3-pointers (588), 3-pointers by a freshman (132), consecutive games in double figures (144) and total games in double figures (144). His 3,664 career points are second in NCAA history, just three shy of Pete Maravich's record 3,667, while his 1,219 field goals are sixth all-time in the NCAA record book. Davis' 4.08, three-point field goals per game are third all-time in NCAA history, and he is also the only player to ever post 3,500 points and 500 assists, with his 594 helpers third in the school record book. Davis' 4.82, 3-pointers per game was also third all-time in NCAA history. Davis drained 159 total triples, a new school and HL record and third in NCAA history. His 303 total field goals were a new conference record and second in the NCAA on the year and his 90.7 free-throw percentage led the league and was eighth in the nation and 165 total free throws 21st.

Until 1919, the University of Detroit athletic teams were known as the Tigers. The fact that Detroit's American League baseball club goes by the same name, things were rather complicated.

However, in the fall of 1919, the *Detroit Free Press* assigned a man to cover football at the University who was to give the Red and White athletic teams a nickname that has stuck with them ever since. Because the members of the 1919 squad were exceptionally large in size, Stan Brink, the sportswriter who was covering football for the *Free Press*, thought that a good nickname for the team would be the Titans.

In Greek mythology, the Titans were a class of oversized people who happened to have almost perfect physiques. Whether the comparison was exactly correct, no one seems to know. Nevertheless, the name Titans has stuck with the University of Detroit Mercy athletic teams ever since. The current Titan mascot made its debut at the start of the 1999 basketball season.