

# Wilfrid Laurier University



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**81-95**

**NOTE EMBARGOED UNTIL 1 P.M.**

## **WLU's Rick Zmich named CIAU Coach of the Year**

Rick Zmich, coach of the Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks football team since January, 1994, has been named Coach of the Year by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union.

The announcement was made today at the CIAU Awards Luncheon at Toronto's Hilton Hotel, on the eve of the Vanier Cup.

The honor is especially sweet for Zmich, because in 1982, as a player for the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, he won the Hec Creighton Trophy as Most Outstanding Player.

Zmich was appointed assistant coach of the Golden Hawks in 1990 and head coach in January, 1994, replacing Rich Newbrough, who took over as director of athletics and recreation.

As assistant coach and offensive co-ordinator, Zmich helped coach the Hawks to victory in the 1991 Vanier Cup and WLU's first Canadian football championship.

Since becoming head coach, "Coach Zmich has produced an enviable record," Newbrough said. In two seasons' of regular season play, the Hawks compiled an enviable record of 15 wins, one loss and one tie. In both years, the Hawks made it to the Yates Cup, losing by two points in 1994 and one point in 1995, both times to their traditional rival, UWO Mustangs.

The Hawks' unbeaten record this year in regular season play - their first since 1979 and only their third ever - is particularly commendable, said Newbrough, given that Zmich lost 15 starters, including two all stars, one of whom was Hec Cricht **on** Trophy winner quarterback Bill Kubas.

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As Zmich said in September, "Three quarters of our team is in first or second year, so you could definitely call this a rebuilding season for us."

Zmich , who holds an honors BSc in recreology from the University of Ottawa, played for the Gee-Gees from 1978 to 1982, and was team captain for three of those years. His team won the Atlantic Bowl in 1980 and were finalists in the Vanier Cup that year.

He was 1980 OQIFC all-star, 1980 OQIFC MVP and nominated for the Hec Creighton Trophy, 1982 CIAU all-star, and 1982 Hec Crichton Trophy winner.

Both Zmich and Newbrough are in Toronto for the Vanier Cup this weekend. Zmich is staying at the Hilton (416) 869-3456 and Newbrough is at the Royal York Hotel (416) 368-2511.

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*Note: This item is embargoed until 1 p.m.*