

## RANGERBALL AWARDS

### **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

The Most Valuable Player Award is presented to the player who was the most vital to the team's success according to a player vote. This player is not necessarily the leading scorer or the team's most talented player. It is the one player who through his actions on and off the court is seen as the most VALUABLE to the team.

This award symbolizes years of hard work and improvement as a basketball player. As youngsters, these recipients spent countless hours in the gym and on the driveway becoming better basketball players. These young men have been crucial to the success of the program and will be remembered as talented, hard-working and successful members of the Ranger team.

1994-1995	Adam Brown, sophomore
1995-1996	Jeff Stewart, junior
1996-1997	Tom Weibel, junior
1997-1998	Tom Weibel, senior
1998-1999	Matt Lettinga, junior
1999-2000	Matt Lettinga, senior
2000-2001	Kevin Murphy, junior
2001-2002	Kevin Murphy, senior
2002-2003	James Telman, senior
2003-2004	Mark Lettinga, junior
2004-2005	Mark Lettinga, senior
2005-2006	Kevin Banner, senior
2006-2007	Jon Rasmussen, junior
2007-2008	Jon Rasmussen, senior
2008-2009	Derek Dennis, senior
2009-2010	Kory Banner, senior
2010-2011	Steve Wittenbach, senior
2011-2012	Jonah Lakatos, senior
2012-2013	Adam Dykema, senior
2013-2014	Xavier Tillman, freshman
2014-2015	Xavier Tillman, sophomore
2015-2016	Connor Kelly, senior
2016-2017	Sal Sidebotham, senior
2017-2018	Ryan Dunn and Tyler George, seniors

## **PITTMAN-McLEAN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The Pittman-McLean Leadership Award was initiated following the 1994-1995 season. The team, the first under Coach George, began the year 1-12. During this time, the team played harder and with more energy than every team with which it competed. This positive attitude was mostly due to the two captains of that team, seniors Phil Pittman and Ben McLean. The other players were an excellent supporting cast and because of their belief in the program and constant effort, the team responded by winning 5 of 6 games and finishing with 7 wins.

Phil Pittman was the emotional leader of this team and constantly pushed the players to believe in the program and to continue the outstanding effort. At 6'0", Phil played strong forward, small forward, shooting guard, and even filled in at point guard. His versatility, will to win and leadership set the standard for future Rangers. In an amazing comeback win over Rockford, Phil scored the first 7 points of the second half to put the Rangers ahead to stay. He scored a career-high 17 points vs. Zeeland three games later.

Ben McLean was a quick and talented left-handed forward who could hurt an opponent with his three-point shot or his slashing drives to the hoop. He scored a career-high twenty points in the emotional win over Wyoming Park at home. Ben will always be remembered as one of the great basketball players at this school. Each year, a player is voted by his teammates as the Pittman-McLean Leadership Award recipient. The winners of this most prestigious award have continued the legacy set by these two Rangers and should be commended for the parts they have played in leading Ranger basketball to the next level.

1994-1995	Ben McLean and Phil Pittman, seniors
1995-1996	Cory VanderJagt, senior
1996-1997	Adam Brown, senior
1997-1998	Tom Weibel, senior
1998-1999	Brandon Bosscher, senior
1999-2000	David Moder, senior
2000-2001	Andrew Lettinga, senior
2001-2002	Jon Edmondson, senior
2002-2003	Kyle Visser, senior
2003-2004	Chris Keller, senior
2004-2005	Kevin McMahan, senior
2005-2006	Ben Rasmussen, senior
2006-2007	Tommy Maatman, senior
2007-2008	Ross Heneveld, senior
2008-2009	Sam Rasmussen, senior
2009-2010	Kory Banner, senior
2010-2011	Steve Wittenbach, senior
2011-2012	AJ Sharkey, senior
2012-2013	John Dwyer, senior
2013-2014	Johnny Nutter, junior
2014-2015	Johnny Nutter, senior
2015-2016	Connor Kelly, senior
2016-2017	Sal Sidebotham, senior
2017-2018	Matis Butlevics, senior

## **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER AWARD**

The Most Improved Player Award is voted upon by the players and is presented to the player who improved the most as a basketball player during the season. These players, however, did not only work on their games during the season, but also became better players through off-season training. Being named Most Improved is a tremendous honor that symbolizes constant effort and desire during the season to improve. These players have pushed the teams they played on to become better, as well.

1994-1995	Chris Gorman, senior
1995-1996	Jeremy Geerdes, junior
1996-1997	Garren Earvin, senior
1997-1998	Josh Rumpsa and Jeff Bruno, juniors
1998-1999	Josh Rumpsa and Mike Tate, seniors
1999-2000	Matt Sumner, senior
2000-2001	Kyle Visser, sophomore
2001-2002	Curt Ludtke, junior
2002-2003	Pat McMahon, senior
2004-2005	Kyle Welch, junior
2005-2006	Joe Cibulka, senior, and Joe Hoerner, junior
2006-2007	Ben Lockton, junior
2007-2008	Ben Lockton, senior
2008-2009	Ryan Klopccic, senior
2009-2010	Marques Mondy, sophomore
2010-2011	Ryan Flynn, junior
2011-2012	Drew Taylor, junior
2012-2013	Logan Gardner, senior
2013-2014	Chad Bauchan, junior
2014-2015	Ike Kanu, senior
2015-2016	Justin Spates, senior
2016-2017	Kyle Peirce, senior
2017-2018	Andrew Tebeau, senior

## **MATIS BUTLEVICS JTM AWARD**

The JTM Award was instituted following the 2001-2002 basketball season that ended in the state quarterfinals. The award was named after three seniors that year: Joe Stevens, Tim Eichenberg and Matt Downs. JTM is an acronym for their first names, but also for “Just Team Matters.”

These three seniors dedicated themselves to Ranger basketball without the reward of consistent playing time. They were much more interested in the success of the team and did everything they could to make the team better. They consistently practiced their hardest, gave the team great pre-game energy, and worked as hard as anybody for their chance to shine. They put the team first in everything they did, and their importance to that team and future teams is immeasurable.

This year, Matis Butlevics embodied this award so perfectly that the award is officially being renamed the “Matis Butlevics JTM Award.” This is the first time in the history of the program that an award is being renamed. Matis meant everything to the guys on this year’s team. It is a miracle that he was even able to play after having to stop playing sports due to major hip issues a couple years ago. This season, he gave everything he had every single day to help lead this team to one of the most successful seasons in history. He gave the pre-game talk, he led the bench to multiple bench warnings from referees for having too much energy, and he was the most consistent practice player I’ve ever coached. Matis will forever be remembered as a Rangerballer who put the team’s success ahead of his own personal rewards. The players, coaches and community will never forget his commitment.

Each year, the team will vote for the Matis Butlevics JTM award, which will go to the player or players that showed everyday that “Just Team Matters.”

2001-2002	Joe Stevens, Tim Eichenberg and Matt Downs, seniors
2002-2003	Brad Ritter, Chris Shoemaker, seniors
2003-2004	Dan Dillard, senior
2004-2005	Nate Ludtke, senior
2005-2006	Ben Rasmussen, senior
2006-2007	Jacob Sutton, senior
2007-2008	Chris Radde, senior
2008-2009	Ryan Lovell, senior
2009-2010	Ben Siekman, senior
2010-2011	Chris Graham, senior
2011-2012	Michael McCullough, senior
2012-2013	John Dwyer, senior
2013-2014	Austin Bouma, junior
2014-2015	Wylder Williams, senior
2015-2016	Colson Korpak and Brendan Dunn, seniors
2016-2017	Justin James and John Fuller, seniors
2017-2018	Matis Butlevics, senior

## **JOEY SALADINO GYM RAT AWARD**

The Joey Saladino Gym Rat Award was initiated after the 2008-2009 season. It is named after Joey because of his spectacular commitment to improving his game in the offseason and during the season. There has never been a player in the history of the Rangerball program who has worked so hard to improve. Joey spent many early mornings shooting hundreds of three-point shots and stayed after nearly every practice to get extra shooting in. His work paid off in an all-league senior season along with a scholarship to play basketball at Cornerstone University.

Each year, this award is given to the player who spends the most time working on his game during the preseason and the regular season.

2008-2009	Joey Saladino, senior
2009-2010	Darrin Nesby, senior
2010-2011	Jake Boles, senior
2011-2012	Adam Dykema, junior
2012-2013	Adam Dykema, senior
2013-2014	Lucas Fotis, sophomore
2014-2015	Alex Dykema, senior
2015-2016	Jordan George, senior
2016-2017	Kyle Peirce, senior
2017-2018	Jimmy Scholler, sophomore

## **Bauchan/Uecker Senior Hard Work Award**

The Bauchan/Uecker Senior Award was initiated following the 2014-15 season that culminated in a 20-0 regular season, a Cornerstone Tournament Championship, and League and District Championships. The team set records for consecutive wins in a season and completed the first undefeated regular season in school history. The award is named after two seniors on that team - Chad Bauchan and Sam Uecker - who demonstrated consistent and unwavering dedication to doing the right thing at all times. Both players approached every drill in every practice with the same approach. Chad became one of the best forwards in West Michigan because of his commitment in the off-season and then his hard work in season. Sam was the best on-the-ball defender in the history of Rangerball and was known for his competitiveness in every practice and game. These two players were never asked to give more -- they were already giving all they had. For years to come, this award will be given to one or two seniors who are not captains, but who show commitment to giving their best effort at all times.

2014-2015	Chad Bauchan and Sam Uecker, seniors
2015-2016	Won Choi, senior
2016-2017	Jack Uecker, senior
2017-2018	Brennen Bouma, senior