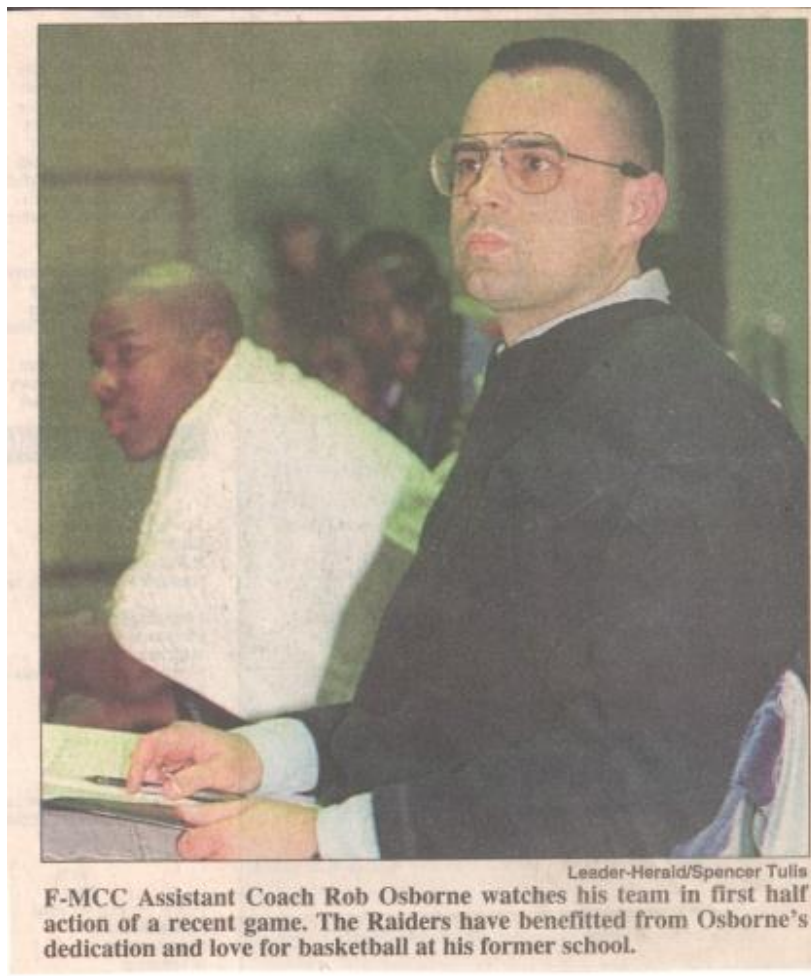


# FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams – Introduction

by Robert Osborne (2011)



First, a little history:

Jerry "Doc" Fabiano was the founding father of FMCC basketball. He laid down the foundation for success that all coaches that followed him were fortunate to be able to build upon. His motto of "Dedication, Desire, and Defense" was printed on the team's practice uniforms, and that is exactly what he demanded from his players. The Raiders were regularly ranked among the best defensive teams in the country. He coached the Raiders from 1964 to 1983, with a one-year sabbatical (1975-76). During that time he compiled a record of 269-145 (.650). Starting with the 1968-69 season Doc's teams were 239-102 (.701) with 12 Conference Championships and one Region III Championship and were often ranked high in the regional and national polls. In those days (prior to 1985-1986) there were no Division I, II, or III teams, as all Junior College schools were in the same classification, no matter what the size and whether or not they gave their players scholarships (which the Raiders did not). Doc's teams always played an ambitious schedule, taking on many nationally ranked teams with a great deal of success.

The first season of Raiders basketball was 1964-1965, and it was not a good start, as the team compiled a 1-14 record. It didn't take long, however, for Doc to right the ship and start the Raiders on a winning tradition. The Raiders joined the State University Junior College Athletic Conference (SUJCAC) in the 1965-1966 after one season in the North Eastern Collegiate Conference (NECC). They continued to compete in the SUJCAC until the 1976-1977 season, winning a total of three championships. They joined the Mountain Valley Collegiate Conference (MVCC) in 1970-1971 and went undefeated in the conference for the first three seasons. The Raiders have remained in the MVCC ever since, winning 15 championships, nine by Fabiano, one by coach Bill Carmody, four by coach Dan Jarvis, and one by coach Tony Orapello.

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams – Introduction



**Dr. Jerry Fabiano**



**Bill Carmody**



**Dan Jarvis**



**Tony Orapello**

The Raiders have also won four Region III Championships: 1976-1977 (Fabiano), 1995-1996 and 1999-2000 (Orapello), and 2006-2007 (Jarvis). They have also regularly finished near the top of the Region III rankings.

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) basketball is divided into 24 Regions by geography. The Raiders are members of Region III, which encompasses most of NY State, except the most southern section. The NJCAA did not split into divisions until the 1985-1986 season, when they separated into Divisions I and II. They added Division III in 1990-1991. These changes were made so that the small non-scholarship schools would not have to compete with the large scholarship schools. FMCC chose to go Division I at first, despite a lack of scholarship funding, and had a great deal of success; especially the 1990-1991 Darrell Mims led team. However, they decided to make the switch to Division III in 1993-1994 since the rest of the Conference competed at that level and FMCC had no scholarship athletes. Only 11 Regions, combined into 8 Districts, have Division III members with Region III having the most Division III teams. By winning the Region III Division III Championship, it places the team in the Elite-Eight nationally and the quarterfinals of the NJCAA Tournament. The Raiders continued to schedule many non-league Division I opponents for several years after switching to Division III, which helped prepare them to play at a higher level. In recent years, all Division I teams in Region III switched to Division II, except Champlain and JCA, which no longer compete in NJCAA men's basketball.

I was fortunate enough to play for Doc Fabiano from 1979-1981 and to coach with both Dan Jarvis and Tony Orapello for several years; and have witnessed firsthand nearly every Raiders team since 1966.

Some of the factors I used to evaluate the ranking of these teams include: Championships; Win-Loss Record; Level of Competition; Overall team talent; How well they played together; Team depth and versatility; Coaching; Star power; Team character and chemistry; How much they dominated their opponents; and How well I think they would do against each other. Regarding the final factor, I believe that if all these teams played one-another for a full season, the 1979-1980 team would come out on top, however, I had to give the nod to the 1976-1977 team in the Rankings, because they accomplished more.

One more point regarding the modern Divisional format in NJCAA basketball: with no disrespect to those teams that won Regional Championships since Divisions I, II, and III were created, it was much more difficult to accomplish in the old days. Likewise, it was much more prestigious for players that earned All-Region or All-American status under the old format. There used to be only 15 players in Region III to receive All-Region status (five each for first, second, and third team). Now each division has All-Region selections, with eight players per team. Similarly, All-American status was much more difficult to obtain under the old format.

Here is my list of the Raiders' Greatest Teams:

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 1. 1976-1977 (30-5)

**Region III Division-1 Champions - MVCC Champs (9-1) - SUJCAC Champs (8-2)**

**Ranked 18th in final NJCAA Division-1 Poll**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Jack Acevedo, Bruce Hennings, Robbie Conover, Glenn Stopera

**Key Freshman:** Clifford Wilson, Lou Pondolfino

This team possessed two of the greatest leapers ever to be on the same team, at any level of basketball, in Wilson and Hennings, each having the ability to vertical leap well over 40 inches. They also happened to be two of the best players in school history: scoring, rebounding, and blocking shots with high frequency. MVCC MVP Wilson averaged 17.3 points and 10.1 rebounds; Hennings averaged 15.2 points and 10.0 rebounds. They received plenty of help, as Acevedo (SUJCAC MVP) was a deadly scorer (19.3 points) from long range; MVCC All-Star Stopera was a great floor general (9.8 points, 8.2 assists); Conover (9.7 points, 5.2 assists) was an excellent all-around player; and 6th man Pondolfino was a major contributor. Acevedo, Wilson, and Hennings received All-Region honors. Acevedo, Hennings, Wilson, Stopera, and Pondolfino were selected to the Raiders' 1970's All-Decade team. This group set many new FMCC team and individual records. Acevedo became the school's all-time leading scorer, a record later broken by Wilson, then surpassed by Monroe Pippins 17 years later. Wilson set a new single season rebound record, edging out Hennings by two boards; and Stopera established a new assists record. The team reeled off two record setting 12-game winning streaks and set a school record for victories along the way, including a 5-0 stretch through Puerto Rico during January break. They accomplished all of this without a regular over 6'2" tall, with Wilson (6'2"), Hennings (6'1"), and Conover (6'1") being the tallest starters, and Acevedo (5'11") and Stopera (5'8") under 6' tall. Pondolfino checked in at 6'2". The Raiders entered the Nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas as FMCC's first-ever Region III Champion with a 30-3 record, Wilson winning Region III Tournament MVP, while Hennings and Acevedo were selected to the All-tournament team. (This was in the days before the NJCAA was separated into Divisions, making this team's accomplishments even more impressive.)



**"Jumping Jack" Clifford Wilson**  
All-Region & MVCC MVP



**Bruce "Helicopter" Hennings**  
Region III All-Star



**Jack Acevedo**  
Region III All-Star

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 2. 1979-1980 (21-3)

#### MVCC Champs (10-0)

**Ranked 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll - Ranked 16th in final NJCAA Division-1 Poll**

**Team Defense Ranked 7th in NJCAA Division-1**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Jerome Jefferson, Glenn Webb, Lou Pondolfino

**Key Freshman:** Paul Thorne, Mike Hobbs, Stan Smalls, Jim Howley, Steve Bell

This was easily the most talented team ever assembled at FMCC with 5 players, 6'4" Jerome Jefferson (MVP), 6'3" Paul Thorne, 6'6" Glenn Webb, 6'3" Lou Pondolfino, and 6'2" Mike Hobbs, earning all-conference honors; and a deep, talented bench that probably could have won the league without the starters. Sixth-man, 6'2" Stan Smalls was huge off the bench and set a Raiders' record for Field Goal shooting at 70.1%, second in the nation. They cruised through the MVCC schedule to a perfect 10-0 record, and absolutely annihilated their opponents by an average of 24.1 points per game. Three players (Jefferson, Webb, and Pondolfino) made the 1970's All-decade team and two more (Thorne and Smalls) made the 1980's all-decade team, with All-Region honorees Thorne (17.5 points, 8.4 rebounds) and Jefferson (15 points, 10.1 rebounds), as well as Webb, on the short list of all-time great players in school history. The speed, leaping ability, and athleticism were off the charts for this group and they possessed all the basketball skills, as well. They set their sights on a National Championship, in spite of a daunting schedule, which included several highly ranked teams from previous years National Tournament (this was also before the NJCAA was separated into Divisions). They won their first 12 games, which included a 24-point blowout of the 3rd ranked team in the nation (Champlain) and two tournament championships against nationally-ranked powerhouses. They suffered their first loss, by two points on a desperation half-court shot at the buzzer. They followed up the loss with a victory at Westchester, who finished #1 in the Final NJCAA poll the previous year and again was a top-10 team. The Raiders proceeded on a new winning streak, stretching it to nine games before losing the final game of the regular season by two points against the #2 ranked team in the nation (Broome); this loss occurred in over-time after Webb, Thorne, and Jefferson fouled out.

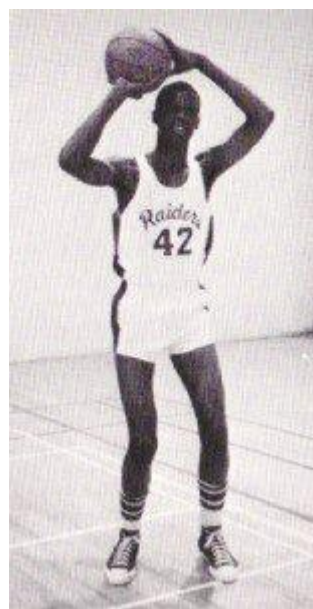
In the Regional Championships, injuries and illness to four key players, including Thorne, Hobbs, Smalls, and the team captain, point-guard Lou Pondolfino (who broke his ankle, but returned to action), led to a 13-point deficit. These Raiders, however, showed the heart of a Champion. They came all the way back to within two points in the final minute, but had to start fouling to get the ball back (pre-shot-clock days). They eventually lost, or more precisely, ran out of time, and the dream of a National Championship came to a painful end. Still, they put together an historic season with a 21-3 record, the highest winning percentage in FMCC history, and established many records.



**Paul Thorne**  
Region III All-Star



**Jerome Jefferson**  
All-Region & MVCC MVP



**Glenn Webb**  
MVCC All-Star

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 3. 1995-1996 (25-10)

**Region III Division-3 Champions**

**MVCC Champs (12-1) – 6th in NJCAA Division-3**

**Finished 7th in NJCAA Division-3 Tournament**

**Coaches:** Tony Orapello and Robert Osborne

**Key Sophomores:** Monroe Pippins, Barceem Dukes, Qaddafi Alonzo, Terrell Williams

**Key Freshman:** Arturo McLeod, Sheridan James, Joe Barthelemy, Nate Mittler

After a mediocre first semester playing against mostly Division-1 opponents, this team caught fire in the second semester, as their vaunted run-and-jump full-court defense began to hit on all cylinders. Led by their All-American and all-time Raider great, 6'1" guard Monroe Pippins, this team seemed to operate as one, stealing the ball nearly at will, setting a new team record in the process. Pippins (23.2 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5.1 assists, 6.4 steals) set an NJCAA record for steals and set or tied 25 FMCC records, becoming the school's all-time scoring leader along the way. 6'5" forward Arturo McLeod (17.3 points, 11.9 rebounds) blossomed in the second semester, winning All-Region, Region III Tournament MVP, and NJCAA All-Tournament team honors, despite playing with a stress-fracture in his foot that required surgery as soon as the season was over. He too became one of the school's all-time greats, finishing his career as the top rebounder and 5<sup>th</sup> in points scored. Tough-as-nails, sharp-shooting 5'10" point-guard Qaddafi Alonzo (10.3 points, 5.9 assists, 2.9 steals) orchestrated a high-tempo offense and pressing defense; playing most of the season with a dislocated shoulder, that also required surgery at season's end. Athletic forwards. 6'4" Barceem Dukes (9.3 points, 7.9 rebounds, 2.4 steals) and 6'5" Terrell Williams (8.1 points, 6.5 rebounds) played great defense, rebounded and chipped in with the scoring; and 6'7" sixth man Sheridan James (7.1 rebounds) played big in the paint. They soared through the Regionals blowing out every opponent, holding Jefferson, the nation's top scoring team, to more than 30 points below their season's average in the championship game. In the Nationals, foul trouble (especially to Pippins) put them in a hole, but they climbed out of it and took the lead on a driving lay-up by Pippins with seconds to go. The opponents quickly in-bounded the ball to a player streaking uncontested for a lay-up. Pippins raced the length of the court and blocked the shot, but it was ruled goal-tending and the Raiders championship aspirations came to an end. In a consolation game, Pippins pumped in a Tournament record 48 points in the final game of his FMCC career, as the Raiders won in another blow out. Pippins, Dukes, McLeod, and James were all selected to the Raiders All-Decade team for the 1990's.



**Record Breaker - Monroe Pippins  
All-American & MVCC MVP**



**Region III All-Star - Arturo McLeod  
Region III Tournament MVP**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 4. 1988-1989 (23-4)

**MVCC Champs (15-1)**

**Ranked 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll**

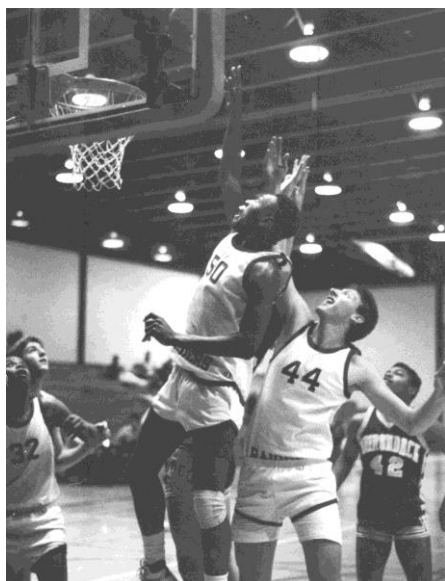
**Team Defense Ranked 8th in NJCAA Division-1**

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis and Robert Osborne

**Key Sophomores:** Teddy Zimmerman, Derrick Harley, Mark Beach, June Fontanez, Lee Gibbs

**Key Freshman:** Leroy Fludd Jr, Greg Gumbs, Kevin Miller, George Drygula

Led by two of the great players in FMCC history, 6'0" guard Ted Zimmerman and 6'4" forward Leroy Fludd, this team not only won, but devastated most opponents, setting many FMCC records, including: Victory Margin per game (23.3), Victory Margin in a single game (80), Rebounds in a game (68), Rebounds in a season (1381), Rebounds per game (51.1), Rebound Margin per game (17.9), Steals in a game (35), Steals per game (17.4), 3-Point FG in a game (15), and 3-Point FG% for a season (46.7). Their 3-Point shooting led the nation, as did Zimmerman who connected on a school-record 66.1% from downtown. Sixth-man Kevin Miller finished fifth in the NJCAA, connecting on 53.9% of his 3-point attempts and made a school record 11 in a row (7 of them in one game). Miller, a 6'1" guard, gave the Raiders 9.8 points and 2.3 steals per game off the bench. 6'0" point-guard Greg Gumbs (10.8 points, 5.6 assists, 2.7 steals) was another excellent shooter and earned All-conference honors for his outstanding play. Powerful 6'4" forward Mark Beach (7.8 points, 8 rebounds) pounded the boards and versatile 6'6" forward Derrick Harley (10.8 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.6 steals) did a little bit of everything really well. However, it was the intensity and leadership of All-Region players Zimmerman (17 points, 5.4 rebounds, 5 assists, 2.9 steals) and Fludd (16.8 points, 12.3 rebounds, 3.4 steals, 1.6 blocks) that really fueled this team. Zimmerman was great from the outside, Fludd from the inside. Fludd dominated the glass and the paint and both he and Zimmerman played great defense, as did the whole team, running-and-jumping and full-court pressing their opponents into shambles. Zimmerman, Fludd, Gumbs, and Miller all earned All-Decade honors for the Raiders.



**The Relentless Leroy Fludd  
Region III All-Star**



**Ted Zimmerman - Region III All-Star  
NJCAA 3-Point FG % Leader**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 5. 1989-1990 (22-5)

#### MVCC Champs (15-1)

#### Ranked 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis, Robert Osborne, Tony Orapello, Mike Bentley

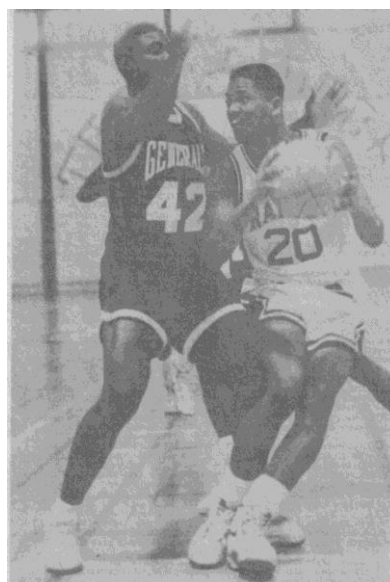
**Key Sophomores:** Greg Gumbs, Kevin Miller, Steve Bell

**Key Freshman:** Chris Cavosie, Brian Kochanowicz, Willie Stewart, Eddie Cottle, Herb Jamison, Jim Clark

This was a team dominated by their All-Region guard combo of 6'0" Greg Gumbs (aka Gregorio John) and 6'11" Kevin Miller. Gumbs scored 16.9 per game and added 8.4 assists and 2.9 steals on his way to becoming FM's all-time leader in assists and the schools greatest point-guard. Miller scored 17.7 per game, added 4.2 assists and 2.9 steals, and set the team record for 3-point field goals. Both were great defenders, spearheading the Raiders press that produced an abundance of steals and turnovers. 6'5" forward Chris Cavosie added 11.8 points, 11.3 rebounds, 2.0 steals, and 2.3 blocks per game and earned All-Conference honors, while 6'4" guard Brain Kochanowicz (12.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 2.1 steals) and 6'3" forward Willie Stewart (10.2 points, 8.3 rebounds) also scored in double figures and rebounded well. 6'5" pogo-stick forward Eddie Cottle (16.2 points, 10.2 rebounds) was spectacular at times, before leaving school after eight games. He was replaced in January by 6'6" slick-passing center Herb Jamison who gave the team 7.2 points and 10.7 rebounds off the bench. Backup 6'2" guard Jim Clark provided another deadly long-range shooter to go with Miller, Gumbs, and Kochanowicz as they broke the team record for 3-point field goals made. All of this made this group the highest scoring team in Raiders' history averaging 93.5 points per game. Gumbs and Miller were selected to the Raiders' All-Decade team for the 1980's while Cavosie, Kochanowicz and Clark made it for the 1990's.



**Ultimate Point Guard - Greg Gumbs**  
Region III All-Star



**Sharpshooter Kevin Miller**  
Region III All-Star

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 6. 1990-1991 (24-6)

**MVCC Champs (15-1)**

**Finished 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll**

**Finished 2nd in Region III Division-1 Tournament**

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis and Tony Orapello

**Key Sophomores:** Darrell Mims, Brian Kochanowicz, Chris Cavosie, Willie Stewart, Herb Jamison

**Key Freshman:** Chris Skyers, Jason Hammond, Al Gause, Kevin Spence, Shaun Russell

The Raiders may have only gotten one year out of 6'9" 270 pound transfer center Darrell Mims, before he went on to help lead Seton Hall to a Big East title, but it was a monster year. Mims led the Raiders in scoring with 19 per game and set school records for rebounding with 15 per game and a total of 450, earning All-American, All-Region and MVCC MVP status. His supporting cast was strong with fellow 1990's All-Decade teammates: 6'5" forwards Chris Cavosie, Chris Skyers, and Jason Hammond, along with 6'4" guard Brian Kochanowicz. Cavosie averaged 12 points and 7 rebounds, Skyers 9 points and 8 rebounds, Hammond 8 points and 6 rebounds, and all-conference guard Kochanowicz added 14 points, 5 assists, and 2 steals. There was also plenty of depth and they got major contributions from 6'3" Willie Stewart, 6'2" Al Gause, and 6'6" Herb Jamison. The Raiders powered through the schedule and made it to the Regional Championship game, which they lost to Champlain, but Mims scored 30 points and hauled down a Region III Tournament record 30 rebounds in the losing effort.



**Darrell Mims**  
**All-American & MVCC MVP**



**Chris Cavosie**  
**MVCC All-Star**



**Brian Kochanowicz**  
**MVCC All-Star**



## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 7. 1987-1988 (25-4)

#### MVCC Champs (12-2)

#### Ranked 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis and Robert Osborne

**Key Sophomores:** Pete Pierre, Lawrence Scott, Kevin Jones, Mannix Kinsey

**Key Freshman:** Ted Zimmerman, Arnaldo Fontanez, Mark Beach, Darren Bergh, Derrick Harley

This was as well balanced a team as the Raiders ever had with All-conference players 6'2" Lawrence "Scooter" Scott, 6'0" Ted Zimmerman, and 6'7" Pete Pierre all averaging around 15 points per game. All three were selected to the Raiders' 1990's All Decade team. Pierre also grabbed 10 rebounds per game and became the schools all-time leader in blocked shots, earning All-Region status. 6'1" Kevin Jones (8 points, 7.4 assists) was an excellent point-guard who guided the team's offense to a new school record of 87.7 points per game; and pressured the ball all over the court defensively, triggering a devastating press. A deep supporting cast pitched in as well in various roles – Guards, 5'10" Arnaldo Fontanez and 6'0" Darren Bergh were shooters; 6'4" forwards Mannix Kinsey and Mark Beach were good rebounders; and 6'4" Derrick Harley did a little bit of everything. This team also tied the school record with a 12 game winning streak along the way.



**MVCC All-Star Lawrence Scott**



**Region III All-Star Pete Pierre**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 8. 1972-1973 (20-4)

**SUJCAC Champions (11-1) - MVCC Champions (6-0)**

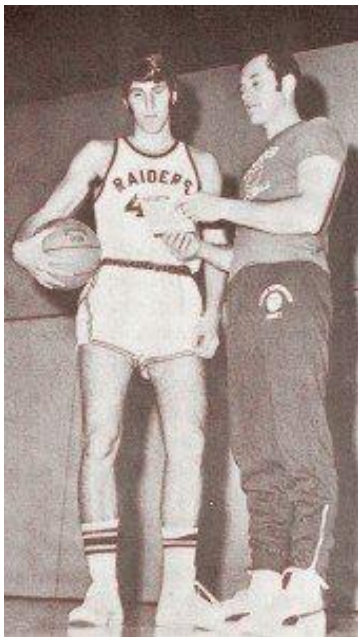
**Ranked 2nd in final Region III Division-1 Poll**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Doug Arndt, John Park, Pete Pondolfino,

**Key Freshman:** Bill McNair, George Freeman, Jim Shields, Jeff Brown

This was the Raiders first “great” team and the first to achieve 20 victories. They were led by 6'2" All-Region forward Doug Arndt (19.5 points and 7.9 rebounds) and 6'7" center John Park (13.8 points and 11.2 rebounds), who were also MVCC Co-MVPs. All-Conference guards: High-flying, 5'10" defensive wiz Bill McNair (12.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists) and 6'1" point-guard Pete Pondolfino (10.1 points, 7.7 assists) were outstanding. Pondolfino set team records for assists in a game, season, and career. 5'11" guard George Freeman also contributed 10.1 points per game. Arndt, Park, and Pondolfino were all selected to the Raiders 1970's All Decade Team.



**Doug Arndt with Coach Fabiano**  
**All-Region & MVCC Co-MVP**



**Pete Pondolfino**  
**MVCC All-Star**



**John Park**  
**MVCC Co-MVP**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 9. 2006-2007 (24-6)

**Region III Division-3 Champions**

**Ranked 3rd in Final NJCAA Division-3 Poll**

**Finished 6th in NJCAA Division-3 Tournament**

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis, Mike Bentley, and Mark Egin

**Key Sophomores:** Jason Charles, Jermaine Campbell, Reggie Leaver, Justin Smith

**Key Freshman:** Carl Munnerlyn Jr, Michael Mercedes, Roy Jenkins, Vernon Johnson, Ryan Jarvis

The 2006-2007 Raiders were a tremendously deep, well balanced team. Several players were capable of leading the team in scoring and rebounding in any given game; and Coach Jarvis went with the hot hand. This is not to say that the team didn't have any star-type players, just that no one stood out from game to game. Munnerlyn, Mercedes, Charles, Smith, Leaver, and Campbell were among the consistent leaders who could have received All-Region honors, but the team balance hurt them when the votes were counted.

This was fine with this unselfish group, because it was that type of team effort that enabled them to finish the regular season as the number one ranked team in the Region. In typical fashion, the Raiders had five players score in double figures in the Region III Championship game (Charles, Campbell, Munnerlyn, Mercedes, and Johnson) in route to the Title. Munnerlyn was named tournament MVP and Charles was named to the all-tournament team. The one weakness in this team's depth was that after Munnerlyn and Mercedes, there was no one with point guard skills; and this pair of freshman guards had matured to become team leaders. Unfortunately for the Raiders, both of them found themselves on the bench early in the first half in the quarter-finals of the NJCAA Tournament, due to foul trouble. This enabled their opponents to go on a roll and pull away. The Raiders fought back in the second-half, but fell short, losing their chance at the National Championship. The Raiders finished the tournament in 6<sup>th</sup> place; and Munnerlyn was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team. This team may have rated a bit higher on the list, but they only played two teams above the Division-3 level, both of which were victories over Division-2 schools.



**Carl Munnerlyn Jr**  
**Region III Tournament MVP**



**Justin Smith**  
**Raiders' Captain and Leading Scorer**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams

### 10. 1999-2000 (21-13)

**Region III Division-3 Champions**

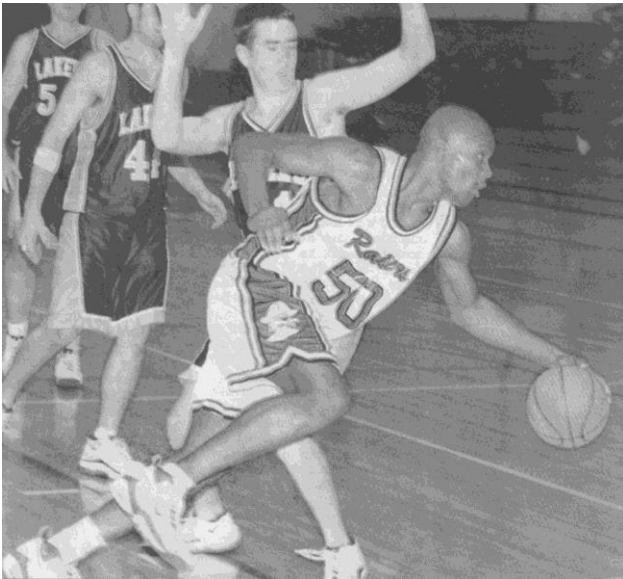
**Finished 7th in NJCAA Division-3 Tournament**

**Coaches:** Tony Orapello, Matt Beck

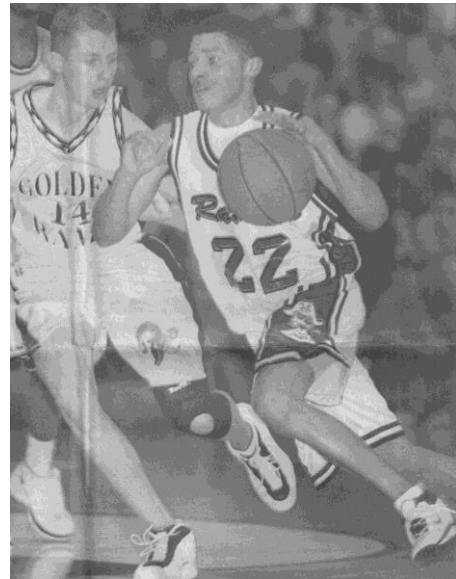
**Key Sophomores:** Ray Daley, Taylor Calhoun

**Key Freshman:** Michael Beaton, Steve Mazier, Dan Amell, Josh Tesi, Roderick Davis

The Raiders were long known as a man-to-man defensive team that utilized speedy guards and athletic forwards to pressure opposing teams full-court. This team, however, was not built that way. After a slow start, Coach Orapello decided to employ a new strategy, taking advantage of the type of talent this team had. He went to a 1-2-2-zone defense that featured his two centers playing at the same time, 7'0" Josh Tesi and 6'10" Dan Amell. Tesi (4.3 points, 4 rebounds, 2 blocks) would play at the top of the zone, harassing shooters with his long wingspan. Amell (6.1 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4 blocks) and 6'4" forward Michael Beaton defended the paint. Amell set a new single-season blocked shots record for the Raiders, while Beaton (17.8 points, 13 rebounds, 1.1 blocks, 1.2 steals), with his great quickness and jumping ability, led the nation in rebounding on his way to the first of his back-to-back All-American honors. 5'10" point-guard Steve Mazier gave the Raiders 9.8 points, 5.5 assists, and 2 steals per game; 6'0" guard Ray Daley averaged 9.2 points, 2.5 assists, and 2 steals; 6'2" forward/guard Taylor Calhoun contributed 12 points, 7 rebounds and 3.5 assists; and 6'4" forward Roderick Davis added 7.6 points and 6.5 rebounds. The new defense sent the Raiders on a winning tear all the way to the Regional Championship. Mazier led the way in the Region III Tournament, earning MVP honors, while Beaton also was named to the All-Tournament team. The Raiders were missing the services of Tesi for the Nationals, and it hurt them, as they had to settle for seventh place; Beaton was selected to the NJCAA All-Tournament team for his usual high level of play.



**2-time All-American – Mike Beaton  
2-time NJCAA Rebound Leader**



**Region III Tournament MVP – Steve Mazier  
MVCC All-Star**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1968-1969 (16-5)**

**SUJCAC Champs (10-2)**

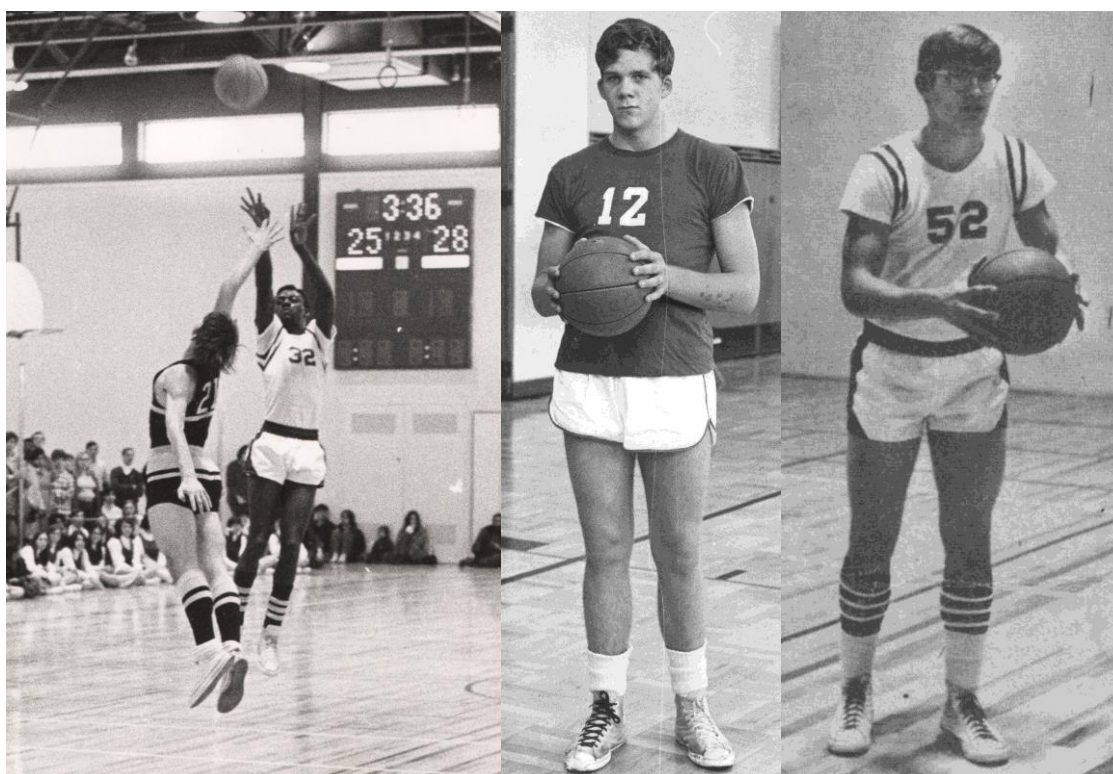
**Team Defense Ranked 7th in NJCAA Division-1**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Shelton Bellamy, Bill Gramps, Brian Smith

**Key Freshman:** Steve Marshall, Dennis Hart, Don Bouchard, Eric Johnson

This was the Raiders' first Championship Team, winning the State University Junior College Athletic Conference Title. They were led by stand-out 6'1" All-Region Point-Guard, Shelton Bellamy, who averaged 17.2 PPG, 5.0 RPG, and 4.0 APG. 6'5" Forward, Steve Marshall (14.5 PPG and 11.2 RPG) was a beast inside, setting an FMCC single-game rebound record with 23 vs Delhi; and earned All-SUJCAC honors. 6'4" forward, Bill Gramps (12.0 PPG and 9.3 RPG), and 6'2" forwards, Don Bouchard and Eric Johnson played big roles. Guards Dennis Hart (5'11") and Brian Smith (5'9") also made major contributions. Hart played a secondary role to Bellamy in the backcourt, but would blossom into one of the best guards in team history during his sophomore season, averaging 22.7 points, 9.1 rebounds, and 3.4 assists, and recording the Raiders' first-ever Triple-Double. Bellamy, Hart, and Marshall were all selected to the FMCC All-Decade Team for the 1960s.



**Region III All-Star - Shelton Bellamy (32), Steve Marshall (12), and Dennis Hart (52)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

1974-1975 (17-5)

SUJCAC 2nd Place (9-3) - MVCC 2nd Place (5-1)

Ranked 3rd in final Region III Division-1 Poll

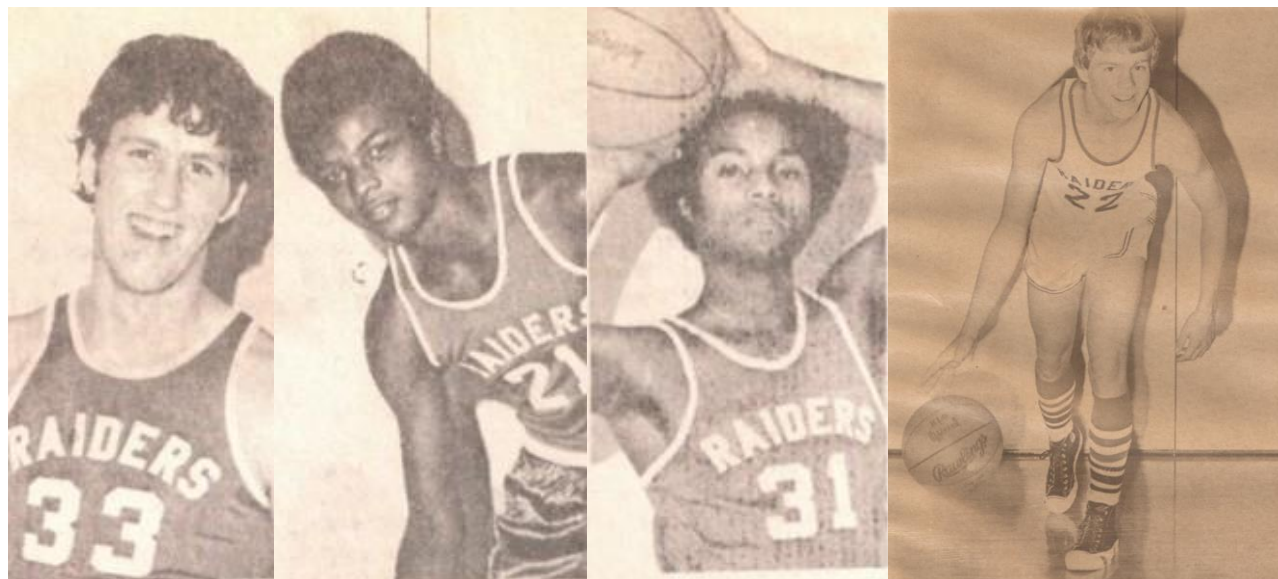
Team Defense Ranked 1st in NJCAA Division-1

Coach: Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Phil Danylak, Barron Frank, Buster Tillman, Bill Coxon

**Key Freshman:** Terry Lindsey, Rich Alexander, Dan Jarvis

This could easily be a top-ten team. They had size, speed, shooting ability, great passing and ball-handling skills, a good bench, and played outstanding defense (finishing the season as the number one ranked defense in the nation). It all started with the guards: 5'10" Bill Coxon, who set the FMCC single season record for assists the previous year and finished number one in career assists as well, was complimented by 6'1" MVCC All-Star Terry Lindsey who scored 10.7 per game and actually topped Coxon's assists, 6.1 to 5.9. All-Conference forwards Buster Tillman (13.1 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists) and Barron Frank (13.5 points, 9.2 rebounds, 3.4 assists) were versatile players, who at 6'1" and 6'2" respectively were actually guards playing out of position. The Raiders could get away with playing an under-sized speedy line-up because of 6'7" All-Star center Phil Danylak, who put up 16.9 points, 11.0 rebounds, blocked numerous shots, and generally owned the paint. Forwards, 6'3" Rich Alexander and 6'4" Dan Jarvis gave the team talent and good size off the bench, enabling Tillman or Frank to play guard if the Raiders chose to deploy a bigger line-up. Danylak, Frank, and Coxon were all selected to the Raiders 1970's All-Decade team.



**MVCC/SUJCAC All-Stars: Phil Danylak, Barron Frank, Buster Tillman, and Bill Coxon**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1975-1976 (16-9)**

**MVCC Co-Champs (8-2)**

**Coach:** Bill Carmody

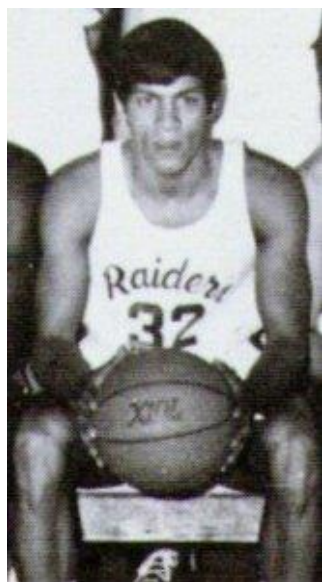
**Key Sophomores:** Dan Jarvis, Rich Alexander, Ron Minus

**Key Freshman:** Jack Acevedo, Al Martin, Robbie Conover, Bruce Hennings, Bronson Frank

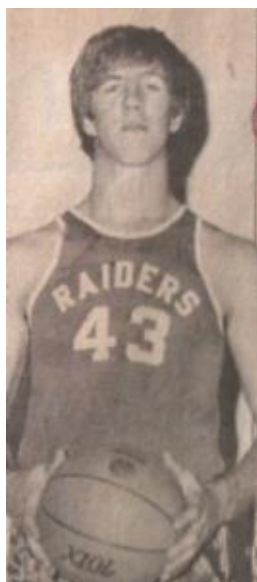
Coach Fabiano took a one-year sabbatical in '75-76, but the Raiders' success continued under interim coach Bill Carmody (a former stand-out guard and assistant coach at Union College). Doc didn't leave the cupboards bare, however. Returning from the '74-75 MVCC Champs were Dan Jarvis (6'4" forward), Rich Alexander (6'3" forward), and Ron Minus (5'9" guard). Doc brought in new recruits too. Among them were Bruce Hennings (6'1" forward/guard), Jack Acevedo (6'0" guard), and Robbie Conover (6'1" guard/forward). Acevedo and Conover made major contributions in '75-76; unfortunately, Hennings was injured early in the season and missed several games with a fractured kneecap and was not in top form when he did return. This trio would become tri-captains for the '76-77 Region III Champions (all three are members of the 1970s All-Decade Team).

Acevedo (17.3 PPG), Jarvis (12.9 PPG) and 5'9" guard Al Martin (13.1 PPG) all made the Mountain Valley Collegiate Conference All-Star team. Acevedo was also picked to the SUJCAC All-Star team and was MVCC MVP. Other major contributors were: Conover (13.5 PPG), who played only the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester; 6'2" forward/guard Bronson Frank (10.5 PPG), who missed the final 8 games; Alexander (9.4 PPG); and Hennings (8.4 PPG), who missed 12 games in the middle of the season.

This team is on the list not just for their accomplishments, but for the adversity that they had to overcome. Coach Carmody did a remarkable job, especially for a first-time head coach. Due to injuries, academic ineligibility and other issues the Raiders suited-up only 6 or 7 players for most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and played the last game with only 5 guys. They finished two games with 4 players and another with just 3. Yet, they ended the year winning 11 of their last 14 games and their final 5 in a row.



**MVCC MVP Jack Acevedo**



**MVCC All-Star Dan Jarvis**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1978-1979 (19-5)**

**MVCC Champs (9-1) - Ranked 3rd in final Region III Division-1 Poll**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Clifford Wilson, Chuck Guzielek, Pete Stopera

**Key Freshman:** Jerome Jefferson, Darren Burrell, Dan Nicholson, Russell Holloway

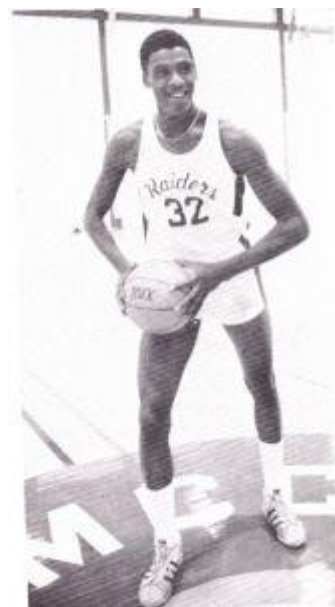
This team really should be in the top ten, but sort of collapsed at the end of the year with two losses to an inferior Mohawk Valley team (one of them coming in the first round of the Regionals). It was the sophomore season for the 6'2" forward Clifford Wilson and he was routinely spectacular, highlighted by a 31 point, 18 rebound, 10 assist, 15 blocked shot performance vs Hudson Valley that included 12 dunks, one more sensational than the other. Wilson (20 points, 10 rebounds, 3.6 assists) won MVCC MVP and All-Region honors for a second time; and he was joined on the All-conference team by 6'4" forward Jerome Jefferson (12 points, 7 rebounds) and 5'10" guard Chuck Guzielek (15 points, 5 assists). 5'11" guard Pete Stopera was an excellent shooter and gave the Raiders another double figure scorer (10 points, 3 assists). After those four, the supporting cast was good and deep, but not exceptional. The mere presence of Wilson, Guzielek, and Jefferson (members of the 1970s All-Decade Team) should have brought this team further, but the team chemistry was not very good. Still, they won the conference championship and tied the team record with a 12-game winning streak. Wilson finished his Raiders career as the school's all-time leader in scoring and rebounding (records he would hold for nearly 20 years) and certainly would have put the blocked shots record out of sight, if it had been an official stat at that time.



**Clifford Wilson**  
**2-time MVCC MVP/All-Region**



**Chuck Guzielek**  
**MVCC All-Star**



**Jerome Jefferson**  
**MVCC All-Star**



## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1980-1981 (13-9)**

**MVCC Co-Champs (7-3)**

**Team Defense Ranked 10th in NJCAA Division-1**

**Coach:** Dr. Jerry Fabiano

**Key Sophomores:** Paul Thorne, Stan Smalls, Jim Howley

**Key Freshman:** Eric Harris, Pete Gilliam, Glenn Ball, Clinton Copes

This is another team that is on the list for overcoming adversity. Coming off of the record-setting 21-3 season the previous year, this was supposed to be one of the greatest Raiders teams of all time, with seven excellent returning players including All-Stars, Paul Thorne and Michael Hobbs, and sixth-man Stan Smalls (who set the FMCC single-season FG% record the previous year). Fabiano also had an outstanding recruiting class including one of the best players in Upstate NY and an All NY City point guard. However, things didn't quite work out the way they were drawn up. Of the seven returning players, only Thorne and Smalls managed to play the entire season. Academics, injuries, and illness cost the other players all or significant parts of the season and their two best incoming freshmen were lost before the season started, one to a knee injury and the other to a family emergency. Despite suiting up only seven players for most of the second semester, this group managed to accomplish a Conference Championship, riding on the backs of All-Region stars Thorne (23.9 points, 10.7 rebounds) and Smalls (15.9 points, 5.8 rebounds, 4.5 assists). Both, Thorne and Smalls were selected to the Raiders' 1980s All-Decade Team. Jim "Leaper" Howley gave the Raiders a third star for the first semester, earning Region III Player of the Month honors for November. Thorne received MVCC MVP honors for the season, setting a school record for Points per Game; and also finished as FMCC's career leader in Points per Game (20.52), while scoring in double figures every game of his career. Smalls also set Raider records, for single season (70.1%) and career (62.5%) Field-Goal Percentage. The records established by Thorne and Smalls have continued to stand for over 40 years.



**Region III All-Stars - Paul Thorne (MVCC MVP) & Stan Smalls  
with Jim Howley - Region III Player of the Month (November)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1983-1984 (17-7)**

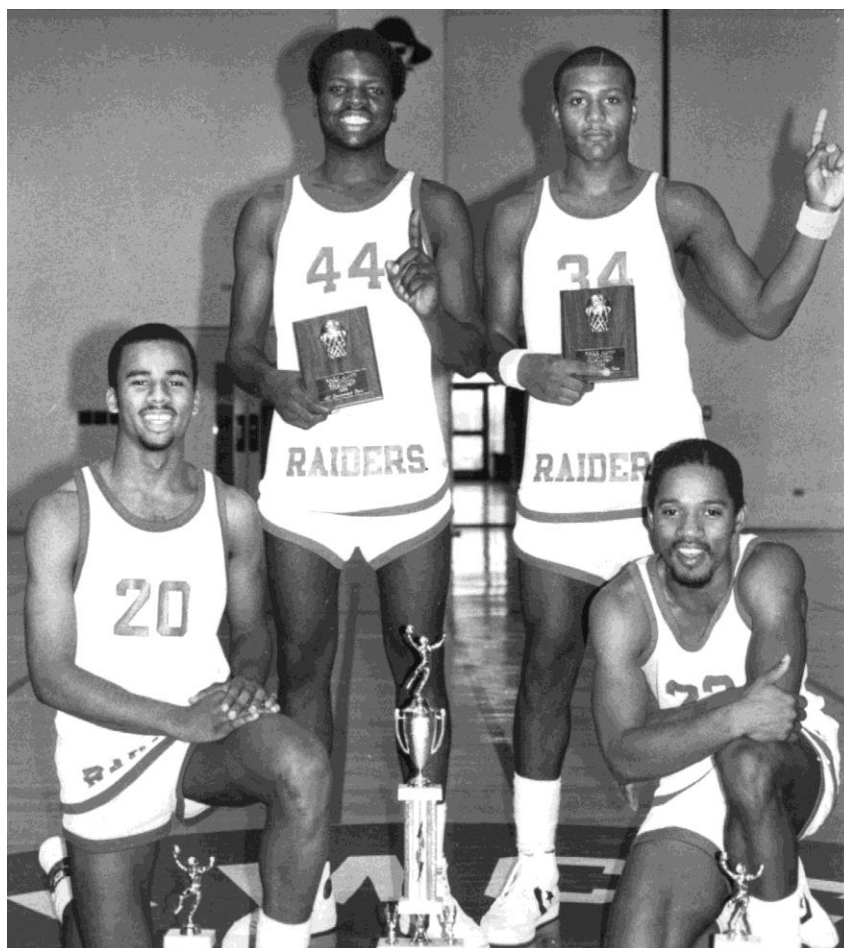
**MVCC 2nd Place (8-2)**

**Coach:** Dan Jarvis, Tim Sise

**Key Sophomores:** Rodney Bruton, Ed Salley, Dave Roberson, Jeff Cherry, Tyrone Hedgepath

**Key Freshman:** Anthony King, Ernest Moore, Teddy McCormick

This team looked invincible, blowing through their opponents for the first semester. MVCC All-star Rodney Bruton (18 points, 7.5 assists) did everything you could ask from a guard and lightning quick back-court mate Tyrone Hedgepath triggered a high paced offense and pressing defense. 6'6" All-Region center Ed Salley put up big numbers scoring (17.5) and set a Raiders' record for rebounding (14.1). Forward Dave Roberson averaged a double-double (13.7 points, 10.2 rebounds) and backups Ernest Moore and Ted McCormick played like starters. However, the real star of this team was 6'4" freshman Anthony King (19.2 points, 11.7 rebounds) who may have been the most unstoppable player in Raiders history. Unfortunately for the Raiders, both King and Hedgepath were lost to academics after the first semester. King, Bruton, Salley, and Roberson were all selected to the All-Decade Team for the 1980s. The team added 1981-82 MVCC All-Star Jeff Cherry (11.8 points, 6.5 rebounds) to the mix for the second semester, but the loss of King was too much to overcome. King played two seasons with the Raiders, but never made it to the second semester. His name is still prominent in the FMCC record book with a 24.4 PPG career average, which included a record 49 in one game. The '83-84 Raiders ended the year with an excellent record and finished second in the conference, but were left with the feeling of "what could have been".



**MVCC All-Star Rodney Bruton (20) and Tyrone Hedgepath (22)  
with Region III All-Star Ed Salley (44) and Anthony King (34)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1986-1987 (22-7)**

**MVCC 2nd Place (11-3) – Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Region III Division-1 Tournament**

**Coaches:** Dan Jarvis, John Battisti, Jim Crocetta

**Key Sophomores:** Pat Jones, Jeff Cheney, Jesse Alexander, Ben Murray, Ben Pierson

**Key Freshman:** Pete Pierre, Lawrence Scott, Jeff Halusic

The '86-87 Raiders were a tight-knit group that melded their various talents together to form a formidable opponent, no matter what the other team brought against them. Typical of a Jarvis coached team, they played great defense and shared the scoring load, as eight players averaged seven points or better, led by 6'5" center Pat Jones (15.5), 6'4" forward Jeff Cheney (15.1), 6'7" forward/center Pete Pierre (10.1), and 6'2" guard/forward Lawrence "Scooter" Scott (10.1). Jones pounded the boards to a 12.1 per game clip and Cheney played an outstanding all-around game, as both received MVCC All-Star honors. 5'8" point-guard Jesse Alexander directed the attack and posted 8.6 assists per game and became the Raiders' career assists leader (363); while 5'11" guard Ben Murray contributed 9.1 points and 6.5 assists. Cheney, Alexander, Scott, and 6'2" Jeff Halusic all took advantage of the newly incorporated three-point line to help spread the defense so the Raiders could pound it inside to Jones, Pierre, and 6'5" Ben Pierson. The Raiders' well balanced attack brought them all the way to the Region III Championship game where they were defeated by #1 Herkimer and NJCAA Player of the Year, Jim Smith. Jones, Cheney, Scott and Pierre were all selected to the FMCC All-Decade team for the 1980's.



**MVCC All-Stars Pat Jones (far left) and Jeff Cheney (24)  
with Jesse Alexander (14) and Ben Pierson (54)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1991-1992 (19-11)**

**MVCC 2nd (13-3)**

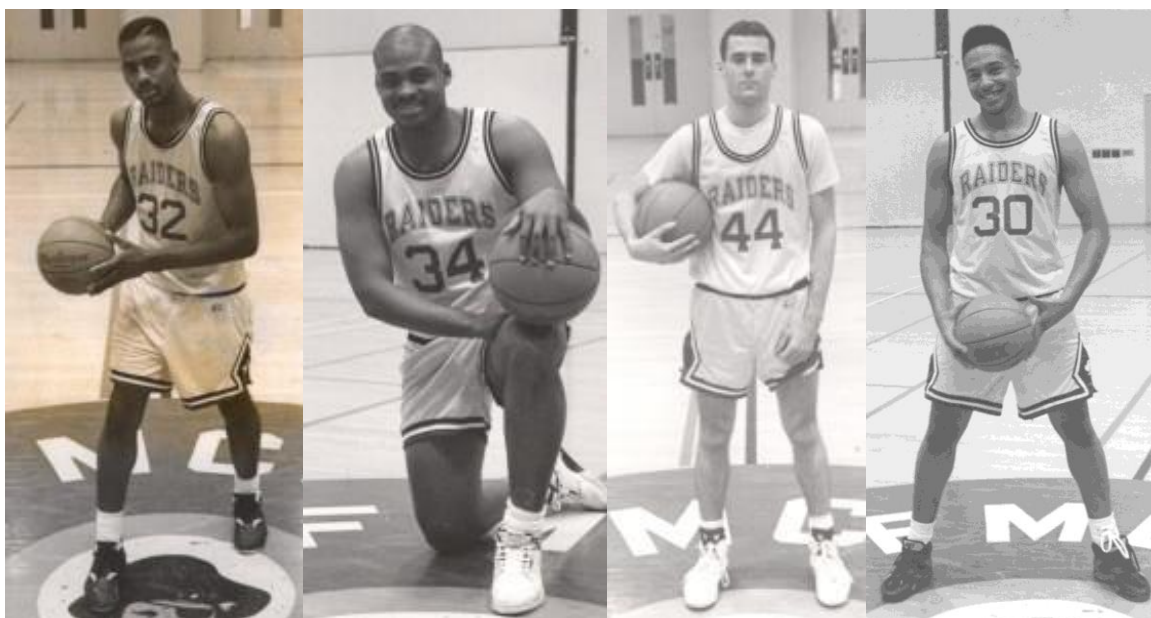
**Coaches:** Tony Orapello, Mark Ralbovsky

**Key Sophomores:** Chris Skyers, Jim Clark, Jason Hammond

**Key Freshman:** Charles Branwell, Tim Griffin, Shawn Pratt

Coach Orapello's first season was a successful one, finishing just one game out of 1<sup>st</sup> place in the conference; and establishing a new Raiders' record for scoring average (95.2 Points-Per-Game) which still stands.

The team was led by a trio of sophomores: a pair of All-Region 6'5" forwards, Chris Skyers (19.5 PPG and 12.2 RPG) and Jason Hammond (14.6 PPG and 12.9 RPG), and All-Conference 6'2" shooting guard Jim Clark. Skyers was an electric athlete who played above the rim; he was a big-time scorer and finished his career as the Raiders' all-time rebound leader. Hammond was a punishing inside presence whose season was highlighted by a 31-point and a record 31-rebound game vs JCA. Clark was a sharp-shooter, who established a new team record for 3-point field goals, averaging 16.6 PPG. A pair of freshmen, Charles Branwell and Tim Griffin were also very instrumental in the team's success. Branwell (15.3 PPG, 8.5 RPG, 4.2 APG, and 2.3 SPG), a 6'4" Forward/Guard, would become one of the Raiders' greatest all-around players, following up an excellent freshman year with an All-Region sophomore year (21.7 PPG, 10.8 RPG, 5.3 APG, 2.6 SPG). Griffin was a 6' speedy Point-Guard, who came within one Assist of the team's single-game record with 18 vs Cobleskill; and averaged 13.4 Points, 7.8 Assists, and 2.3 Steals. Skyers, Hammond, Branwell, and Clark were selected to the Raiders' All-Decade team for the 1990s.



**Chris Skyers (32), Jason Hammond (34), Jim Clark (44), and Charles Branwell (30)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**1994-1995 (19-11)**

**MVCC 2nd (13-3)**

**Coaches:** Tony Orapello, Robert Osborne

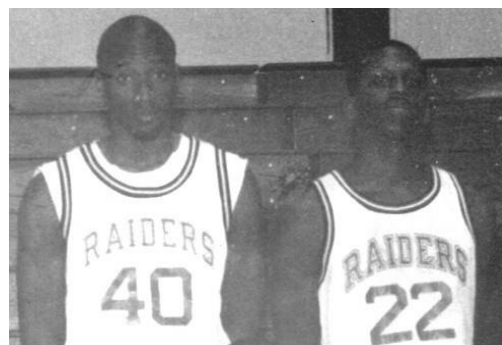
**Key Sophomores:** Cito Brown, Trevor Smalls, Andrew Francis, Adrian Kenyon

**Key Freshman:** Monroe Pippins, Barceem Dukes, Verol Gill

The '94-95 Raiders started off slowly with a 5-7 record, and they had just lost their leading scorer, 6'3" forward Verol Gill with his 21.3 points and 9.7 rebounds, for the season. It appeared to be a lost year. The coaches decided it was time to play their best three players together, despite the fact that they were all guards. The trio of Trevor Smalls (6'0"), Cito Brown (6'0"), and Monroe Pippins (6'1") proceeded to turn the season around for the Raiders and they each earned All-Region honors. They combined to average over 50 points, 15 assists and 10 steals per game the rest of the way. At the same time, both 6'6" forward Andrew Francis (10 points 12.5 rebounds) and 6'4" forward Barceem Dukes (8 points 10 rebounds) picked up their games and dominated the backboards; Francis setting a new record in the process with 33 rebounds in one game. Pippins also recorded an historic quadruple double in another game with 34 points, 17 rebounds, 10 assists, and 11 steals. This group, with help from the sixth-man, 6'6" forward/center Adrian Kenyon, won 14 of their next 18 games before losing in the Regionals in a close game to Corning (the eventual Region 3 Champion and national runner-up). All three of the All Star guards fouled out in the closing minutes. It was a disappointing loss, but a memorable season and building block for the Regional Championship accomplished by Pippins and Dukes the following season. Pippins, Dukes, Smalls, Brown, and Francis are members of the Raiders' All-Decade team for the 1990s.



**All-Region Guards  
Smalls, Pippins, and Brown**



**Andrew Francis and Barceem Dukes  
Rebounding Machines**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**2002-2003 (24-8)**

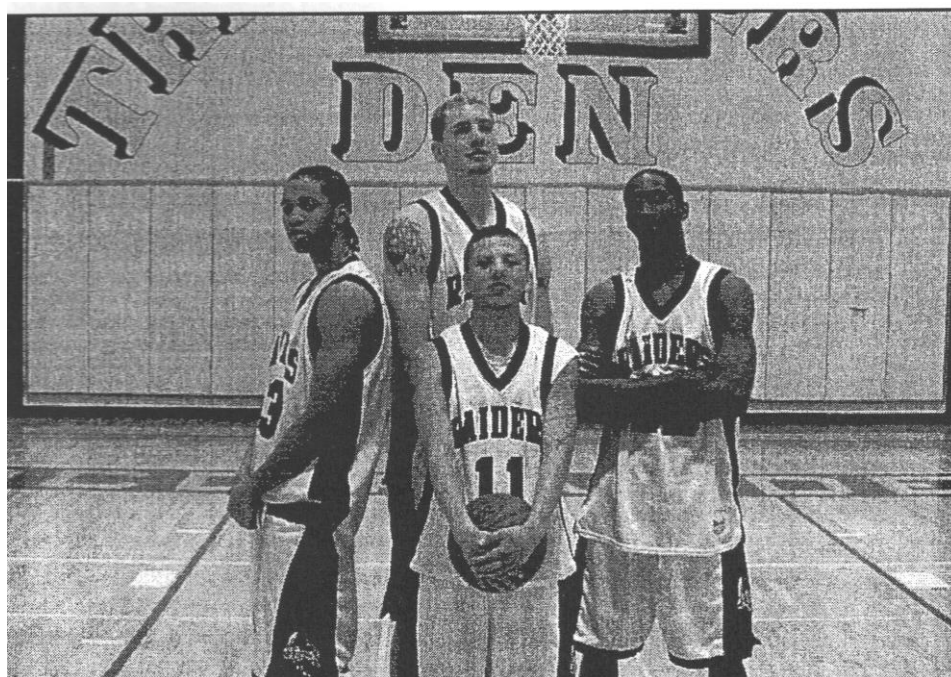
**MVCC 2nd (14-4)**

**Coaches:** Tony Orapello, Mark Eglin, Luther Reid

**Key Sophomores:** Emond Finn, Curtis John, Josh Tesi, Lexi Rivero

**Key Freshman:** Mike Kelly, Taiwo Hamilton, Dwight McNabb, Shawn Brown, Jeremy Smalls

The 2002-03 Raiders were led by All-Region performers Emond Finn (6'3" Forward/Guard) and Curtis John (6'4" Forward). Finn averaged 16.8 PPG and 3.3 APG, while John averaged 13.7 PPG, 7.7 RPG, and 4.2 APG. MVCC All-Star, 7'0" Center, Josh Tesi (9.0 PPG and 11.7 RPG) was a dominant presence in the paint, blocked many shots and was the anchor of an outstanding defense. Point-Guard Lexi Rivero ran the offense, while Taiwo Hamilton specialized in the 3-point ball. Mike Kelly, Dwight McNabb, and Shawn Brown also played important roles, as did Jeremy Smalls (though he only played 11 games). Finn, John, and Tesi were all selected to the FMCC All-Decade Team for the 2000s. The team's 24 wins, which included a nine-game winning streak, was the second most for an Orapello coached Raiders team.



**Emond Finn (Left), Lexi Rivero (Center), Curtis John (Right), Josh Tesi (Back)**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**2011-2012 (20-10)**

**MVCC (11-7)**

**Coaches:** Ed Collar, Arturo McLeod, Ray Daley, Ed Davis

**Key Sophomores:** Wynn Adams, Jose Irizzary, Saquan Palin Rashad Hall,

**Key Freshman:** Tremayne Frazier, Omar Woods, Brian Hogan-Gary, Aaron Morton

This was basically a team full of guards that raced up and down the floor. What they lacked in height, they made up for with speed, as one of the fastest groups in Raiders' history. They were led by pair of 5'10" sophomore, All-Region guards, Wynn Adams (13.1 PPG / 5.4 RPG / 3.2 APG) and Jose Irizzary (14.0 PPG / 44.7% 3PG). 5'8" freshman Tremayne Frazier (13.4 PPG) and 5'9" freshman Omar Woods (10.1 PPG) also scored in double-figures. 6'3" forwards, Rashad Hall (8.0 PPG / 7.0 RPG) and Brian Hogan-Gary (9.8 PPG / 6.5 RPG) were the team's top rebounders.



**Region III All-Stars – Wynn Adams and Jose Irizzary**

## FMCC Raiders Basketball – Greatest Teams - Honorable Mention (in chronological order)

**2018-2019 (20-7)**

**MVCC 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (12-4)**

**Coaches:** Ed Collar, Arturo McLeod, Ray Daley

**Key Sophomores:** Amadou Diakite, Chris Toussaint, Darren Demmitt, Jaleel Jean Jacques, Juwan Malone

**Key Freshman:** Jahmr Jordan

The 2018-2019 Raiders were Coach Collar's best team. Having finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2018 Region III tournament this was an experienced group that played extremely well together. Basically, they returned most of the major players, except for All-Region point-guard, Dante Morgan; and Amadou Diakite was ready to fill his shoes. This team was led by a group of sophomores which included: 6'1" guards Diakite and Chris Toussaint, 6'6" Center Jaleel Jean Jacques, and forwards 6'4" Juwan Malone and 6'3" Darren Demmitt. All five were capable of putting up 20+ points in a game, and all five had double-figure scoring averages. The leader and captain was Diakite, a sharp-shooter, who set a Raiders' single-season record for 3-point field goals, averaged 17.3 PPG, and was selected 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Region and All-Conference. Jean Jacques (11.7 PPG / 9.4 RPG / 2.3 BPG) played big, leading the team in rebounds and blocked shots, highlighted by a 27-point / 20-rebound / 8-blocks game vs Onondaga. He was selected 3<sup>rd</sup> team All-Region and All-Conference. Juwan Malone (13.9 PPG / 8.2 RPG) was a 2<sup>nd</sup> team MVCC All-Star; and Darren Demmitt (10.6 PPG and 7.4 RPG) and Chris Toussaint (11.2 PPG / 3.5 APG) also made huge contributions. Freshman Jahmr Jordan (9.7 PPG / 3.8 APG) also played a major role and led the team in assists. Of their 7 losses, 5 were against top seeds Mohawk Valley and Herkimer (the eventual National Champions).



**All-Stars – Amadou Diakite, Jaleel Jean Jacques, and Juwan Malone**