

2009-10 Clark University Men's Basketball Postseason Media Supplement

University Information

Location Worcester, Mass.
 Founded.....1887
 Enrollment.....2,242
 Nickname Cougars
 Colors Red, White
 Conference..... NEWMAC
 Affiliation NCAA Division III
 President John Bassett
 Director of Athletics Linda Moulton

Coaching Staff

Head Coach Paul W. Phillips
 Alma Mater..... Assumption, 1976
 Record at Clark/Seasons 186-132/12
 Career Record/Seasons 352-231/21
 Office Phone (508) 793-7430
 E-Mail pphillips@clarku.edu

Assistant Coaches

John Ginnity Clark, 2001
 Tyrone Hicks Clark, 1986
 Mike Burlas..... Assumption, 1976
 Peter Mugar..... Clark, 1996
 Patrick Orozsko..... Clark, 2003

Program History

Inception/Seasons..... 1920/89 Seasons
 All-Time Program Record895-886 (.501)
 20+ Win Seasons12
 Most Wins in a Season27 (1986-87)
 NEWMAC Regular Season Titles 4 (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003)
 NEWMAC Tournament Titles ... 4 (1999, 2001, 2003, 2010)

NCAA History

All-Time Appearances15
 NCAA Record.....27-15 (.643)
 Last Appearances .. 2002-03 (L, 84-82, Western Connecticut)
 Record Under Phillips5-4 (.555)
 Final Four Appearances 2 (1983-84, 1986-87)
 Championship Game Appearances1 (1986-87)

Team Information

Captains Mark Alexander (22), Chris LoPiano (23)
 Class Breakdown (Fr./So./Jr./Sr.) (2/6/1/5)

Sports Information

Director Kevin D. Anderson
 Office Phone(508) 793-7164
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 E-Mail..... keanderson@clarku.edu

2009-10 Clark University Men's Basketball Schedule

November

Mon. 16 Fitchburg State W, 92-70
 Wed. 18 at Rhode Island College..... L, 74-72
 Fri. 20 vs. Framingham State W, 78-68
 Sat. 21 at WNEC..... W, 74-64
Tues. 24 Anna Maria..... W, 54-46

December

Tues. 1 Brandeis.....L, 51-47
 Thu. 3 at Worcester State L, 69-64
 Sat. 5 at Endicott W, 56-52
Thu. 10 Becker..... W, 82-72
Sat. 12 Nichols..... W, 90-65
 Tues. 29 at Salem State W, 86-81
 Wed. 30 vs. Becker L, 72-71

January

Wed. 6 Coast Guard*L, 61-46
 Sat. 9 at Wheaton* W, 74-70
 Tues. 12 at Tufts W, 80-71
Sat. 16 MIT*L, 54-51
Tues. 19 WPI*.....L, 67-57
 Sat. 23 at Babson* W, 64-55
 Wed. 27 at Springfield* L, 64-61

February

Wed. 3 Wheaton*L, 74-69
 Sat. 6 at Coast Guard*..... W, 67-50
 Thu. 11 at MIT* L, 59-52
Sat. 13 Springfield* W, 71-54
Wed. 17 Babson*L, 65-57
 Sat. 20 at WPI* L, 75-73

2010 NEWMAC Tournament Championship

Wed. 24 at Wheaton..... W, 58-55
 Sat. 27 at MIT W, 71-59
 Sun. 28 vs. WPI W, 74-68

March

2010 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball First Round George C. Bollman • Albright College • Reading, Pa.

Fri. 5 at Albright College8:00 p.m.
 Sat. 6 Cabrini College/Randolph-Macon7:00 p.m.

* - NEWMAC contest / **Bold** home contest.

Roster Review

2009-10 Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Cl.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG	Hometown/High School
1	Reed Powell	Sr.	G	5-10	165	3.5	2.5	Worcester, Mass./University Park
3	Mitch Renshaw	So.	F	6-5	225	8.1	4.6	Rutland, Mass./Wachusett Regional
4	Tucker Esborn	Fr.	G/F	6-5	220	4.3	2.4	Branford, Conn./Avon Old Farms
10	Marcus Armstrong	Fr.	G	6-2	180	1.6	1.3	Malden, Mass./Malden
11	David Opp	Jr.	G/F	6-2	165	0.9	0.1	Hudson, Mass./Hudson
14	Drew Billington	So.	G	5-8	150	1.0	0.3	Fairfield, Conn./Fairfield-Ludlow
15	Slader Lyell	Sr.	F	6-3	160	3.3	2.9	Portsmouth, R.I./Portsmouth
22	Mark Alexander	Sr.	F	6-3	170	17.6	4.3	Providence, R.I./Marianapolis Prep
23	Chris LoPiano	Sr.	G	6-0	160	4.2	1.1	Franklin Square, N.Y./Saint Dominic
24	Brian Vayda	So.	F	6-5	220	15.6	6.8	Sturbridge, Mass./Tantasqua
25	Jonathan Phillips	So.	C	6-3	230	2.8	1.8	Shrewsbury, Mass./Shrewsbury
33	Travis Curley	So.	G	6-2	210	0.7	0.5	Trumbull, Conn./Proctor Academy
34	Jack Minister	Sr.	F/G	6-5	215	8.2	3.3	Manchester, England/Proctor Academy
42	Tom Desautels	So.	C	6-3	235	0.6	1.3	Manchester, Conn./East Catholic

2009-10 Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Cl.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG	Hometown/High School
22	Mark Alexander	Sr.	F	6-3	170	17.6	4.3	Providence, R.I./Marianapolis Prep
10	Marcus Armstrong	Fr.	G	6-2	180	1.6	1.3	Malden, Mass./Malden
14	Drew Billington	So.	G	5-8	150	1.0	0.3	Fairfield, Conn./Fairfield-Ludlow
33	Travis Curley	So.	G	6-2	210	0.7	0.5	Trumbull, Conn./Proctor Academy
42	Tom Desautels	So.	C	6-3	235	0.6	1.3	Manchester, Conn./East Catholic
4	Tucker Esborn	Fr.	G/F	6-5	220	4.3	2.4	Branford, Conn./Avon Old Farms
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15	Slader Lyell	Sr.	F	6-3	160	3.3	2.9	Portsmouth, R.I./Portsmouth
34	Jack Minister	Sr.	F/G	6-5	215	8.2	3.3	Manchester, England/Proctor Academy
11	David Opp	Jr.	G/F	6-2	165	0.9	0.1	Hudson, Mass./Hudson
25	Jonathan Phillips	So.	C	6-3	230	2.8	1.8	Shrewsbury, Mass./Shrewsbury
1	Reed Powell	Sr.	G	5-10	165	3.5	2.5	Worcester, Mass./University Park
3	Mitch Renshaw	So.	F	6-5	225	8.1	4.6	Rutland, Mass./Wachusett Regional
24	Brian Vayda	So.	F	6-5	220	15.6	6.8	Sturbridge, Mass./Tantasqua

Roster Breakdown

BY CLASS

Seniors (5): Reed Powell, Slader Lyell, Mark Alexander, Chris LoPiano, Jack Minister.

Juniors (1): David Opp.

Sophomores (6): Mitch Renshaw, Drew Billington, Brian Vayda, Jonathan Phillips, Travis Curley, Tom Desautels.

Freshmen (2): Tucker Esborn, Marcus Armstrong.

BY HEIGHT

6-5 (5): Mitch Renshaw, Tucker Esborn, Slader Lyell, Brian Vayda, Jack Minister.

6-3 (3): Mark Alexander, Jonathan Phillips, Tom Desautels.

6-2 (3): Marcus Armstrong, David Opp, Travis Curley.

6-0 (1): Chris LoPiano.

5-10 (1): Reed Powell.

5-8 (1): Drew Billington.

BY STATE

Connecticut (4): Tucker Esborn (Branford), Drew Billington (Fairfield), Travis Curley (Trumbull), Tom Desautels (Manchester).

Massachusetts (6): Reed Powell (Worcester), Mitch Renshaw (Rutland), Marcus Armstrong (Malden), David Opp (Hudson), Brian Vayda (Sturbridge), Jonathan Phillips (Shrewsbury).

New York (1): Chris LoPiano (Franklin Square).

Rhode Island (2): Mark Alexander (Providence), Slader Lyell (Portsmouth).

United Kingdom (1): Jack Minister (Manchester).

All-Time NCAA Tournament Appearances

..... 1978

Brandies L, 79-77 First Round
Suffolk..... W, 89-87 Consolation

..... 1979

Coast Guard..... W, 68-52 (2OT)..... First Round
Framingham State W, 85-73 .. Regional Championship
Potsdam State..... L, 89-72 National Quarterfinal

..... 1980

Salem State..... W, 91-71 First Round
Longwood..... L, 70-60..... Second Round

..... 1981

Boston State W, 109-69 First Round
Rochester (N.Y.) W, 78-74 .. Regional Championship
Potsdam State..... L, 87-81 National Quarterfinal

..... 1982

Potsdam State..... L, 53-51 First Round
WPI W, 99-63 Consolation

..... 1983

UMass-Boston..... W, 82-71 First Round
Bridgewater W, 82-80 .. Regional Championship
Roanoke (Va.) L, 87-83..... National Quarterfinal

..... 1984

Norwich (Vt.) W, 88-84 First Round
Framingham State W, 85-78 .. Regional Championship
Nazareth..... W, 90-84 National Quarterfinal
Upsala W, 69-68 National Semifinal
UW-Whitewater L, 103-86.. National Championship

..... 1985

Westfield State W, 88-78 First Round
WPI L, 67-62.. Regional Championship

..... 1986

Salem State..... L, 73-71 First Round
Western Conn. W, 78-77 Consolation

..... 1987

Norwich W, 108-76 First Round
SMU..... W, 88-80 . Regional Championship
Potsdam State..... W, 65-63 National Quarterfinal
Stockton State W, 77-71 National Semifinal
North Park..... L, 106-100.National Championship

..... 1988

Southern Maine W, 82-79 First Round
Southeastern Mass. W, 86-85 . Regional Championship
Scranton..... L, 73-55..... National Quarterfinal

..... 1998-99

Western Connecticut..... L, 70-51 First Round

..... 2000-01

Amherst W, 89-76 First Round
Merchant Marine W, 75-69 . Regional Championship
Catholic L, 82-78 National Quarterfinal

..... 2001-02

Suffolk..... W, 84-77 First Round
Longwood..... W, 101-72 Second Round
Catholic W, 75-72 Sweet Sixteen
Elizabethtown L, 94-90..... Elite Eight

..... 2002-03

Western Connecticut..... L, 84-82..... First Round

All-Time NCAA Division III National Champions

1975..... LeMoyne-Owen
1976..... Scranton
1977..... Wittenberg
1978, 1979, 1980..... North Park
1981..... Potsdam State
1982..... Wabash
1983..... Scranton
1984..... Wisconsin-Whitewater
1985..... North Park
1986..... Potsdam State
1987..... North Park
1988..... Ohio Wesleyan
1989..... Wisconsin-Whitewater
1990..... Rochester
1991..... Wisconsin-Platteville
1992..... Calvin
1993..... Ohio Northern
1994..... Lebanon Valley
1995..... Wisconsin-Platteville
1996..... Rowan
1997..... Illinois Wesleyan
1998, 1999..... Wisconsin-Platteville
2000..... Calvin
2001..... Catholic
2002..... Otterbein
2003..... Williams
2004, 2005..... Wisconsin – Stevens Point
2006..... Virginia Wesleyan
2007..... Amherst
2008, 2009..... Washington University

Head Coach Paul W. Phillips

The architect of the resurrection of the Clark University men's basketball program, Paul W. Phillips is in his 12th season at the helm of one of the most successful programs in all of Division III.

During his first eight-season stint (1996-04) as the Cougars' mentor, he resuscitated a once proud program, restoring Clark to its place as a regional and national power.

Along the way, the Cougars appeared in the national quarterfinals (Elite Eight) in back-to-back seasons (2001 and 2002), and emerged as the first dynasty of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) era.

Under his tutelage, Clark has claimed four NEWMAC regular season championships (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003) and made five trips to the NCAA Tournament (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010).

The conference tournament has also been a place where Phillips has excelled as his Cougars have hoisted five tournament crowns - more than any other program in NEWMAC history.

His expertise was never more evident than in the 2010 tournament, where his fifth-seed Clark contingent knocked off three higher seeds - including top-seeded and nationally-ranked MIT - en route to another title.

However, it was the 1999-00 season, when the Cougars went 19-9 and captured the program's first conference championship in 11 years that he was named NEWMAC Coach of the Year.

In his 12 season at Clark, he has compiled an impressive 189-132 record and amassed an overall career mark of 355-231 in 22 seasons as a head coach.

Prior to his arrival in Worcester, Phillips spent ten highly successful seasons at nearby Anna Maria College, where he put together a record of 166-99. He won six Commonwealth Coast Conference regular season championships and his teams won 20 or more games four times, including a school record 25 during their run to the Sweet Sixteen in 1996.

In addition to coaching, Phillips spent 20 years as a teacher and guidance counselor at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, Mass. A well-known educational advocate, he was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Committee on Academics.

As well as his position on academic committees, Phillips has immersed his program in the community that surrounds the Clark campus.

He established a weekly reading program at Woodland Elementary, instituted a math tutoring program at the University Park Campus School, and created the B1 - B2 clinics, which preaches "Books First - Basketball Second."

For all of his community service and educational efforts, Phillips was the recipient of the John Lund Award in 1998 for his community service efforts.

A 1976 graduate of Assumption College, Phillips earned a bachelor's degree with a teaching certification in history. He later received a master's degree in counseling from Worcester State College in 1989.

Phillips resides in Shrewsbury with his wife Jane and has two sons who both attend Clark, Jeffrey and Jonathan. Jonathan is a sophomore reserve on the Clark men's basketball team.

The Paul W. Phillips File

Education

Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts

- 1976 - B.A. in Education

Worcester State College, Worcester, Massachusetts

- 1989 - M.S. in Counseling

Playing Experience

Assumption College, 1974-75

- *Helped team to 22-8 overall record.*
- *Team won NCAA Northeast Regional Title.*
- *Helped squad advance to Final Four.*

Coaching Experience

• Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts (1996-04, 2006-Present)

- 355-231 Career Record (189-132 at Clark).
- 189 Wins Are Second Most In School History.
- 1999-00 NEWMAC Coach of the Year.
- Four NEWMAC Regular Season Championships (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003).
- Four NEWMAC Tournament Championships (1999, 2001, 2003, 2010).
- Five NCAA Tournament Appearances (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010).
- Two Elite Eight Appearances (2001, 2002).

Coaching Experience

• Anna Maria College, Paxton, Massachusetts (1986-97)

- 166-99 Record in 10 seasons.
- Four seasons with 20+ wins.
- A Combined Six TCCC Championships.
- Sweet 16 Appearance In 1996.

The Coaching Staff

Associate Head Coach John Ginnity '01

John Ginnity enters his sixth season and second stint on the men's basketball coaching staff. He returns to his alma mater after serving as an assistant at Assumption in 2005-06.

Prior to Assumption, Ginnity served as Clark's assistant junior varsity men's basketball coach (2002-03) and assistant varsity coach (2002-2005). The Fitchburg, Mass., native brings playing experience to the sidelines, as he was a three-year starter (1999-2001) who helped lead the Cougars to the NCAA Elite Eight Tournament as a senior in 2001.

Ginnity earned New England Basketball Coaches Association (NEBCA) All-Star honors in 2001 and was the recipient of Clark's prestigious Fred Hebert Award, presented to a male senior athlete for outstanding contribution to the University's athletic program.

After graduating with a bachelor's in Sociology, Ginnity played and coached in the Ulster Basketball Association in Derry, Northern Ireland.

Assistant Coach Mike Burlas

Mike Burlas begins his 11th season and second term with the Cougar coaching staff.

Burlas was an assistant for Coach Phillips during his first tenure at Clark, and prior to that, assisted him at Anna Maria College during the 1990-1996 seasons.

During his time with the AmCats, he helped lead them to four Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Tournaments and the NCAA Sweet 16 in 1996.

Assistant Coach Tyrone Hicks '86

The longest tenured coach on the staff, Hicks enters his 21st season on the Cougar sidelines.

Hicks started coaching with the Cougars in 1988 and has assisted four Clark head coaches.

A former four-year (1982-86) standout with the Cougars, he was the team's top rebounder (6.1) as a senior in 1986. Earlier in the season he had a team-high 16 points in an upset victory over Division I Yale University that same year.

His primary responsibilities include working with Cougar post players, and assisting in the areas of scouting and recruiting.

Assistant Coach Peter Mugar '96

Mugar is in his first season of his second stint as an assistant coach. A former three-year guard (1992-95) for the Cougars, he was an assistant coach with the squad from 1995-96.

Later he served as an assistant coach and head junior varsity coach at Babson College (1996-97), before landing an assistant head coach position at Cambridge Rindge and Latin (1997-2002). It was with the Falcons that Mugar helped capture the 2001 Division I State Championship and a USA Today national ranking with a 24-1 mark.

Prior to Clark, Mugar was the head boy's basketball coach at Medford High School (2005-07), where he was promoted to Athletic Director after one year (2006-07). He also coached at King Philip Regional High School from 2004-05 and assisted at Wentworth Institute of Technology (2003-04).

Outside of coaching, Mugar is the President of Mugar Asset Management, LLC.

Assistant Coach Patrick Oroszko '03

Oroszko enters his first year as a member of the coaching staff.

He returns to his alma mater with five years of coaching experience, having served as an assistant coach at Worcester State (2003-2004), Anna Maria (2005-07) and most recently at Lasell (2007-09), where he helped guide the Lasers to a conference tournament championship and NCAA tournament appearance in 2008 and a regular season conference title and ECAC tournament bid in 2009.

A four-year player at Clark, Oroszko served as captain his junior and senior seasons. During his playing career, the Cougars qualified for the NCAA tournament three times, including trips to the Elite Eight in 2001 and 2002.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Oroszko works full-time on the Clark campus in the Graduate School of Management.

Inside The Huddle

Sweet Sixteen

Following one of the most improbable runs to the NCAA Tournament in recent memory, Clark makes its 16th all-time appearance in the NCAA Division III Basketball Championship.

Here's The Path

The Cougars knocked off No. 4-seed Wheaton, No. 1-seed MIT and No.-3 seed WPI to capture the program's fourth NEWMAC Tournament Championship and the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Anything Can Happen

Of the 61-team field that comprises the 2010 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship, Clark and Christopher Newport have the most losses (12) and only CNU (15) has fewer wins than the Cougars' 16 victories.

Magical Moment

Clark's win over WPI in the NEWMAC Championship was the 900th victory in program history. The program has an all-time record of 900-874 in 1,774 games.

Tradition Of Success

Clark has a rich tradition in men's basketball, which dates back to the 1921 season. There are 12 seasons of 20 or more wins, including a school-record 27 back in 1986-87 – the same season the Cougars advanced to the national championship game. Clark has a 27-15 all-time record in NCAA Tournament contests in 15 previous appearances, including 11 straight from 1978-1988.

Giant Killers

Clark's win over No. 13 MIT on the road in the conference semifinals marked the second straight season in which the Cougars have defeated a nationally-ranked team. On February 3, 2009, Clark topped then 22nd-ranked WPI 68-56.

Perfect Execution

In the final 22 minutes of their championship game victory over WPI, Clark didn't commit a turnover.

Arch Madness

In addition to their turnover-free stretch, Clark connected on 20-of-45 three-point attempts in the final two games of the NEWMAC Tournament. Conversely, Clark's opponents made just 8-of 35.

Challenge Convention

Founded in 1887 as the first all-graduate institution in the US, Clark is a private, liberal arts and research university committed to scholarship that addresses social imperatives in a global context.

Already A Success?

Before their magical run to the NCAA Tournament, Clark had already secured their first winning record since 03-04.

NEWMAC's Finest

Senior **Mark Alexander** (Providence, R.I.) and sophomore **Brian Vayda** (Sturbridge, Mass.) were both named to the NEWMAC All-Conference first-team. They were the only teammates named to the first team.

Just The Two Of Us

Mark Alexander has been named all-conference for four straight seasons. He is just one of two individuals to earn that distinction. The other is also a Clark grad - Dave McNamara, Class of 2004.

Sophomore Slump?

After a freshman season in which he averaged 12.4 points and 7.3 rebounds and was named NEWMAC and ECAC Rookie of the Year, **Brian Vayda** is averaging 15.6 points and 6.8 rebounds in his sophomore season.

The Only One

Brian Vayda is the only player in the NEWMAC in the top ten in scoring (6th), rebounding (6th), field goal percentage (8th) and FT percentage (8th).

The Jack Attack

Senior sharpshooter **Jack Minister** (Manchester, England) was named NEWMAC Player of the Week following a standout pair of games during the conference Tournament. He averaged 18.5 points and shot 65 percent from the field, including a sizzling 56 percent (9-for-16) from behind the arc.

Elite Company

Mark Alexander, a four-time All-NEWMAC selection, has steadily climbed the Clark all-time scoring list this season. He has 1,625 career points, placing him fifth on the school's all-time scoring list.

Only Us

Clark is the only school to have two players win the weekly player of the week award. In addition to Minister, **Mark Alexander** won the award twice.

Bench Boss

Now in his fourth season in his second stint as head coach, **Paul Phillips** has a coaching record of 189-132 as the Cougars' mentor. His 189 wins are the second-most in school-history behind only Wally Halas' 211 victories.

King Phillips

Clark has won four regular season titles and four tournament titles – all under **Paul Phillips**. Only WPI has more regular season titles (6) and no one has more tourney crowns.

Milestone Moment

When you add up **Paul Phillips'** coaching record (166-99) from his days at nearby Anna Maria, his overall record sits at 355-231. He picked up his 350th career win back on January 23rd with a 64-55 win over Babson.

Nine Lives

Clark is 5-4 under head coach **Paul Phillips** in nine all-time games played in the NCAA Tournament.

Inside The Huddle

I Love The 80's

In those nine games, Clark is averaging 80.5 points per game and has topped the 80-point barrier on five occasions, including 101 points in a 29-point win over Longwood.

20 Is Plenty

Following his 30-point performance in the regular season finale at WPI, **Brian Vayda** now has ten career games of 20 point or more. However, the Cougars are just 5-5 in those contests.

We Know Where To Find Him

More than 75 percent (142-of-188) of **Jack Minister's** (Manchester, England) field goal attempts this season have come from three-point land.

Permanent Fixture

The NEWMAC Championship game against WPI marked the 102nd game played for **Mark Alexander** in a Clark uniform. Of the 104 possible games played during his career, he has started 96 of them including the last 94 straight he has appeared in.

Just Once

Brian Vayda has appeared in all 54 games in his Clark career, starting 53 of them. The only contest that he wasn't in the starting lineup was February 13th, so that all five members of the class of 2010 could start in the final home game of their careers.

Close Calls

Five of Clark's 12 losses this season have come by a combined 11 points.

Reed All About It

Senior **Reed Powell** (Worcester, Mass.) scored a career-high 15 points in a December win over Endicott. Powell, who hails from Worcester, graduated from University Park High, a school planned and opened by Clark University and the Worcester Public Schools.

Setting The Mark

Mark Alexander has raised his scoring average in every season in his career. So far this season he has reached double figures in 26 of 28 games and has nine games of 20 points or more, including a pair of 30+ point performances.

Hump Day

The win over Wheaton in the NEWMAC Quarterfinals gave the Cougars their first win on a Wednesday all season.

Dime Dropper

Mark Alexander has 284 career assists and ranks seventh in the NEWMAC this season with 2.9 helpers per outing. He is one assist shy of setting a new career high in total assists in a season (81).

Hey, Me Too!

Chris LoPiano also set a career-high in assists this season (80) and has 221 in his career. LoPiano ranks ninth in the NEWMAC in helpers per game (2.8).

18 Wheeler

The NEWMAC leader in assist to turnover ratio, senior **Chris LoPiano** has 18 games this season where he has had one or no turnovers.

Book Worm

Junior **David Opp** (Hudson, Mass.) was named to the NEWMAC Academic All-Conference team for the second time in his career this season. Opp, who serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Executive Board, will take over as that body's president in 2010-11.

Line Time

Mark Alexander is second in the NEWMAC in free throws attempted (168), second in free throws made (133) and third free throw percentage (79.2 percent).

Bombs Away

Seniors **Mark Alexander** and **Jack Minister** both rank in the top ten in school history in three-pointers made in a career. Following his nine triples made in the semifinals and finals of the NEWMAC Championship, Minister has connected on 133 good for seventh, while Alexander sits at eighth with 132 made from behind the arc.

We Never Leave

Of the five men's basketball assistant coaches, four of them are Clark alums. **Tyrone Hicks** (1986), **Peter Mugar** (1996), **John Ginnity** (2001) and **Pat Oroszko** (2003) all played their collegiate basketball at Clark. The other assistant, **Mike Burlas**, was a classmate of head coach **Paul Phillips** at Assumption.

He's No Frog

Former scoring machine **Kermit Sharp** holds the school record for points in a game during the NCAA Tournament. In a 1987 win over Southeastern Massachusetts (now known as UMass-Dartmouth), Sharp poured in 39 points in an 88-80 Clark win in the regional championship. Interestingly enough, Sharp opened up play in that tournament with a 31-point outburst in a 108-76 win over Norwich.

He Was There

Long time assistant coach **Tyrone Hicks** was a member of the team when Clark made its run to the national championship game, falling to Wisconsin-Whitewater 103-86.

We've Got Credentials, Too

In addition to Hicks, assistants **John Ginnity** and **Patrick Oroszko** were members of highly successful Clark teams as well. Ginnity advanced to the Sweet Sixteen as a senior the same season in which Oroszko was a sophomore. As a senior, Oroszko helped the Cougars reach the Elite Eight.

2009-10 NEWMAC Men's Basketball Season In Review

Alexander, Vayda Named First-Team All-NEWMAC

Worcester, Mass. – After leading Clark to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2003, Cougars **Mark Alexander** (Providence, R.I.) and **Brian Vayda** (Sturbridge, Mass.) were both named to the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference first-team it was announced by the conference office following a vote of the league's eight head coaches. The first-team nod for Alexander gives him four all-conference selections in his career, making him just the second men's player in NEWMAC history to complete the career sweep. Former Clark standout David McNamara is the other four-time, all-conference honoree.

Alexander, who moved into fifth-place on the school's all-time scoring list (1,625) during the Cougars' improbable run to the NEWMAC Tournament title, has appeared in 27 games this season and leads the team in scoring (17.6), assists (80), steals (44), free throw percentage (79.2), free throws made (133) and free throws attempted (168). He has reached double figures in 25 of 27 games and has nine games of 20+ points, including a pair of 30+ point performances. On two occasions this season he was named NEWMAC player of the week – one of just three individuals to win the award multiple times.

Vayda, meanwhile, picked up right where he left off during his rookie of the year campaign a season ago. He is second on the team in scoring (15.6), first in rebounding (6.8), first in three-point percentage (38.9) and second in both steals (37) and assists (53). The MVP of the Golden Bear Classic, he has three double-doubles this season and topped 20 points on six different occasions, including posting a career-high 30 points in the regular season finale at WPI.

2009-10 NEWMAC First-Team All-Conference

Mark Alexander, Clark

Matt Cavaleri, Springfield
Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
Jeff Robinson, WPI

Brian Vayda, Clark

2009-10 NEWMAC Second-Team All-Conference

Anthony Coppola, Wheaton
Pat Crean, Springfield
Brendan Degnan, Wheaton
Mitchell Kates, MIT
Kyle Nadeau, WPI

2009-10 Player of the Year

Noel Hollingsworth, MIT

2009-10 Rookie of the Year:

Mitchell Kates, MIT

2009-10 Coach of the Year:

Charlie Brock, Springfield

2009-10 NEWMAC Men's Basketball Standings

	NEWMAC	Pct.	GB	Overall	Pct.
MIT	10-2	.833	-	22-3	.880
Springfield	8-4	.667	2	14-12	.538
WPI	7-5	.583	3	19-6	.760
Wheaton	6-6	.500	4	10-15	.400
Clark	4-8	.333	6	14-12	.538
Coast Guard	4-8	.333	6	7-16	.280
Babson	3-9	.250	7	10-16	.385

Tournament Quarterfinals (At Home Of Higher Seed), Wednesday, February 24

No. 5 Clark 58, No. 4 Wheaton 55
No. 2 Springfield 71, No. 7 Babson 65
No. 3 WPI 76, No. 6 Coast Guard 71

Tournament Semifinals, Saturday, February 27 (at MIT)

No. 5 Clark 71, No. 1 MIT 59
No. 3 WPI 73, No. 2 Springfield 50

2010 NEWMAC Finals, Sunday, February 28 (at MIT)

No. 5 Clark 74, No. 3 WPI 68

2009-10 Men's Basketball Player of the Week

November 30 Jeffery Robinson, WPI
December 7 Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
December 14 Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
January 4 Mark Alexander, Clark
January 11 Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
January 18 Ryan Coburn, Springfield
January 25 Jevon James, Coast Guard
February 1 Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
February 8 Jeffery Robinson, WPI
February 15 Mark Alexander, Clark
February 22 Anthony Coppola, Wheaton
March 1 Jack Minister, Clark

2009-10 NEWMAC All-Academic Team

David Opp, Clark

Billy Bender, MIT
Noel Hollingsworth, MIT
Jamie Karraker, MIT
Patrick Sissman, MIT
Conner Flynn, Springfield
Matt Carr, WPI
Ben Etten, WPI

Beyond The Boxscore

At Home.....	5-6	Credited with at least 14 assists	10-2
Neutral Site.....	3-1	Credited with less than 14 assists.....	6-10
On Road.....	8-5		
NEWMAC Games.....	4-8	Making at least 10 steals.....	5-1
Non-Conference Games.....	12-4	Making less than 10 steals	11-11
Leading At The Half.....	15-5	Clark Scores Between 0-59.....	3-6
Trailing At The Half.....	1-10	Clark Scores Between 60-69.....	2-3
Tied At The Half.....	0-1	Clark Scores Between 70-79.....	6-3
		Clark Scores Between 80-89.....	3-0
November.....	4-1	Clark Scores Between 90-99.....	2-0
December.....	4-3		
January.....	3-4	Opponent Scores Between 0-59	7-3
February.....	5-4	Opponent Scores Between 60-69	4-5
March.....	0-0	Opponent Scores Between 70-79	4-4
		Opponent Scores Between 80-89	1-0
Sunday.....	1-0	Opponent Scores Between 90-99	0-0
Monday.....	1-0	Alexander scores 20+ points	7-2
Tuesday.....	3-2	Vayda scores 20+ points.....	4-2
Wednesday.....	1-6		
Thursday.....	1-2	Game-By-Game Leaders (If tie occurs, both listed)	
Friday.....	1-0	Games Leading Clark In Scoring	
Saturday.....	8-2	Mark Alexander.....	15
		Brian Vayda.....	12
12:00 p.m. starts	1-0	Chris LoPiano	1
1:00 p.m. starts	5-0	Reed Powell.....	1
2:00 p.m. starts	1-0	Mitch Renshaw	1
3:00 p.m. starts	2-3	Jack Minister.....	1
5:30 p.m. starts	1-2		
7:00 p.m. starts	4-6	Games Leading Clark In Rebounding	
7:30 p.m. starts	2-0	Brian Vayda.....	17
8:00 p.m. starts	0-1	Mark Alexander.....	5
		Jack Minister.....	5
Commits Fewer Turnovers.....	9-6	Mitch Renshaw	4
Commits More Turnovers	6-6		
Commits Same Number of Turnovers	1-0	Games Leading Clark In Assists	
		Mark Alexander.....	12
Has More Free Throw Attempts	9-0	Chris LoPiano	11
Has Fewer Free Throw Attempts.....	7-11	Brian Vayda.....	7
Make Same Number of Free Throw Attempts.....	0-1	Mitch Renshaw	2
		Slader Lyell.....	2
Shoot 50 Percent or Better	7-1	Jack Minister.....	1
Shoots Less Than 50 Percent	9-11	Tucker Esborn.....	1
Opponent Shoots 50 Percent or Better	2-5	Double-Double Games	
Opponent Shoots Less Than 50 Percent	14-7	Brian Vayda.....	3
		Mitch Renshaw	1
Makes More Three-Pointers Than Its Opponent.....	11-4		
Makes Fewer Three-Pointers Than Its Opponent.....	2-4	Games With 30+ Points	
Is Tied In Three-Point Makes	3-4	Mark Alexander	2
		Brian Vayda.....	1

Cougars In The News

Making A Name For Himself

*By Rick Eggleston, Telegram Correspondent
November 8, 2009*

Worcester, Mass. - Nicknames have always been part of sports. The Gipper. The Gooch. The Goose. The Chief. If it's something players are used to, it's that they are referred to by a name other than their first or last.

For Clark University sophomore Brian Vayda, the connotation seemed automatic - Darth, as in Vader. Unfortunately for headline writers, nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to the Sturbridge native and former Tantasqua Regional basketball star.

"We're a team of nicknames, and just about everyone has one, but he doesn't," Cougar coach Paul Phillips said. "Darth Vader did not work for him because he's such a nice kid."

So when a reporter and photographer were scheduled to meet with Vayda at a recent practice, Phillips started calling his top recruit from last season "Cool." "With people coming to see him, we called him 'Cool Vayda,'" Phillips said. "I don't know if he even realizes it, but if there's a humble kid, it's him."

There's little flashy about Vayda, who started every game for the Cougars as a freshman. Thanks to plenty of hard work and determination, the 6-foot-5 power forward earned NEWMAC Rookie of the Year honors.

"I was surprised. I didn't think coming in I was going to have the impact that I did," said Vayda, whose 7.4 rebounds per game led the team. He was third in scoring averaging (12.4 ppg). "I thought I was going to be more of a role player who came in off the bench."

Vayda didn't have to wait long to make his debut off the bench after a teammate was injured during the first preseason scrimmage. It turned out to be Vayda's final time on the pine.

Six double-double performances and 17 double-digit scoring games were offensive highlights for Vayda, who was also named D3hoops.com Northeast Rookie of the Year.

"He never was a freshman - he's one of those special players who doesn't come along often," Phillips said of Vayda, who led Tantasqua to a Division 2 state championship in 2007 and a state final appearance in '08. "He's a high-level Division 3 player who brings so many different things. You ask him to post up, he'll post up. You ask him to play the wing, he's on the wing. Drive to the basket, he'll drive to the basket. He's very versatile and tough to play against. He's just so smart. He

learns what he needs to out there - he's a coach's dream."

Vayda's court sense will undoubtedly be tested this season, as teams - particularly in the NEWMAC - now know what he's capable of.

"He knows that he's not going to sneak up on anybody this year," Phillips said. "Everyone knows who he is, so he's got a giant target on his back."

"Guys are going to hit him hard around the pick and are going to want to talk to him and grab his shirt. But when you wonder if he's ready for it, you know he is."

Indeed, the business management major will be.

"Last year, I kind of slid in there unnoticed, but this year most of the focus is going to be on me," Vayda said. "I guess that's kind of good because it will provide opportunities for other guys on the team."

It's a team built to and bent on improving on last season's 10-16 record. Vayda leads an experienced corps of sophomores, while five seniors provide added talent, depth and leadership.

"We have some very good sophomores who played a lot of minutes last year," Phillips said. "They were put right into the fire, and they've got a lot of experience."

Aside from Vayda, three-time MVP senior forward Mark Alexander, sophomore forward Mitch Renshaw, who played at Wachusett, senior guard Chris LoPiano and senior Slader Lydell comprise the Cougars' starting five.

"We have the talent and experience, but this year we definitely have that leadership," Vayda said. "This year we're focusing a lot on our technique and defense - our defense is something I like being a part of now. We're determined to get the program back on track and into the postseason."

Cougars In The News

Clark Has A Keeper

*By Jen Toland, Telegram & Gazette Staff
January 6, 2010*

Worcester, Mass. - Occasionally, Mitch Renshaw will feel a little weak and have to excuse himself from practice. He'll duck over to the bench, where he keeps a packet of ground glucose pills handy. Within about five minutes of taking them, though, he's back on the Kneller Athletic Center basketball court and going hard again.

Renshaw, Clark's starting sophomore center, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 11. His body does not produce insulin, so he must use an insulin pump to administer it. He has to monitor his blood sugar level, which sometimes gets low during practice.

"But having diabetes has never held me back," said Renshaw, a Rutland resident who played high school ball at Wachusett Regional. "I've never had any limitations as far as athletics or running around or doing anything physical. As long as you keep it under control, it really doesn't present much of a difficulty."

The disease has never really been an issue for Renshaw, so he has never made it an issue.

During his visit to Clark during his senior year of high school, Cougars coach Paul Phillips brought Renshaw and his mom to the Clark cafeteria. When they sat down for lunch, Renshaw pulled out a small electronic device and started pressing buttons. Phillips thought he was texting. He was actually checking his glucose level, which he has to do at every meal.

"I didn't know he was diabetic," Phillips said, "and he had no reason to tell me. He lives a normal life. He's never had to sit out a game or miss a practice."

Through 12 games this season, the 6-foot-5, 225-pound center is averaging nine points - third-best on the team - and 5.3 rebounds.

He's a nice complement to sophomore Brian Vayda in Clark's frontcourt, and Phillips said he has been a major reason for the Cougars' 8-4 start.

Renshaw averaged 4.6 points and 2.6 rebounds in 14 games off the bench as a freshman. He felt like he has something to prove this season, so he worked his tail off over the summer and ended up winning the starting job.

"I worked hard to get stronger," Renshaw said. "I didn't get

many minutes as a freshman because I didn't play that well. This year, I came in with a different attitude and a different confidence because I worked so hard. I'm starting now, and that is a good feeling, and I do think I'm playing better."

Renshaw opened the season with an 18-point, 12-rebound effort against Fitchburg State. He had 12 points and eight rebounds in Clark's last game against Becker. Phillips said Renshaw is one of Clark's most athletic players, and he pushes him.

His message to Renshaw during yesterday's practice is that he's got to rebound more.

"But he's improved immensely," Phillips said, "and he has a lot to do with where we are right now."

The 8-4 start is Clark's best since Phillips returned four years ago.

The Cougars open NEWMAC play tonight against Coast Guard. They host WPI Jan. 19 in the first of two games against the six-time defending conference champion.

When Renshaw was first diagnosed with diabetes, he was scared - not so much of the disease, but of people finding out he had it.

"I didn't want people seeing me take an insulin shot before dinner or seeing I had an insulin pump on," Renshaw said. "My biggest concern when I was younger was that I didn't want to stick out in a negative way."

"But you realize if you just come out and say it, 'I'm a diabetic,' and you talk about it - I like to talk about it, and I like to help people understand it. Friends of mine have had siblings diagnosed with diabetes and they say, 'Can you help? They're discouraged.' My advice is don't be discouraged. Don't let something like diabetes ruin what you want to do."

Cougars In The News

Clark Engineers Upset of MIT

Staff Reports, Worcester Telegram & Gazette
February 27, 2010

The third time was most definitely the charm, as the Cougars played a near-perfect game and stunned host MIT (22-4) in a NEWMAC tournament semifinal. Clark had lost in the quarterfinals the past four seasons.

Fifth-seeded Clark knew it could play with the top-seeded Engineers, losing by three and seven points in two regular-season games and holding a six-point lead at the half in Cambridge on Feb. 11.

The Cougars will face third-seeded WPI in the finals at noon today at MIT. Clark was 0-2 against WPI this season, but it took a basket by Kyle Nadeau with 1.5 seconds left for the Engineers to get past the Cougars in the regular-season finale for both teams last Saturday.

Mitch Renshaw and Jack Minister each scored 19 points yesterday, shooting a combined 14 of 20 from the field, including 7 of 12 from 3-point range. Mark Alexander added 15 points and 5 assists and Brian Vayda chipped in 10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and a block.

Clark Rules 'The Cage,' Capturing Men's NEWMAC Hoops Title

By Josh Motroni, NESN.com Writer
February 28, 2010

The on-campus gym at Clark University is affectionately known as The Den. This weekend, however, the Clark Cougars felt right at home in a "Cage." Clark claimed the NEWMAC title on Sunday with a 74-68 win over No. 3 seed WPI at MIT and will be heading to the NCAA Division-III Tournament with the NEWMAC's automatic bid.

Once again, senior leadership proved invaluable for the Cougars, who were led by Mark Alexander's 21 points and Jack Minister's 18.

The well-supported Cougars built a 33-27 halftime lead. But the WPI faithful traveled well too, and they were just as vocal as the Engineers clawed and fought their way and stayed close in the first half. Jeffrey Robinson had nine points to lead the way for WPI at the break. WPI struggled at the charity stripe, however, missing five from the line in the first half.

The second half was a championship-level, back-and-forth half of basketball. Both teams would hold the lead and the up-and-down action would go on throughout most of the stanza. However, as the tension grew, Clark's seniors responded and reacted. In fact, Clark head coach Paul Phillips' crew made just eight turnovers in the entire game, and none in the second half.

As the game wound under two minutes, the crowd was every bit as loud as you would find in a big arena and the tension was thick. WPI was down by three and playing intense defense. The shot clock was winding down when Clark's Mitch Renshaw calmly knocked down a 3-pointer to give Clark a six-point edge that turned out to be the final difference. WPI was forced to foul and stop the clock, but it was to no avail. Clark's fans were geared up for an explosive celebration, so much so that security had to guard the bleachers for fear the fans storming the court.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, the ball was launched high in the air and the Cougar players rushed to the edge of the bleachers toward their fans. Players hugged fellow students as Clark's five seniors gladly accepted the conference trophy, each one raising it high into the air for all to see.

Clark will find out its NCAA dance partner Monday morning, while WPI joins MIT on the sideline waiting to see if its name will be called. A 20-7 record may be enough to garner an at-large bid for WPI, but an ECAC bid is also possible as inviting three teams from the NEWMAC may be too many for the committee to allow.

In the NEWMAC women's championship game, Babson earned its second straight title with a win over WPI. Kathleen King led the way with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Babson concludes a perfect season in NEWMAC play and improves to 25-3 overall.

Cougars In The News

Clark Turns Upsets Into Delight: Improbable Run Clinches NCAA Tourney Slot

*By Jennifer Toland, Worcester Telegram & Gazette Staff
March 2, 2010*

WORCESTER — Of all Paul Phillips' 355 career coaching victories, these last three may be among the most special.

His Clark team entered the NEWMAC tournament coming off back-to-back regular-season losses and as the No. 5 seed, but the Cougars reeled off upset wins over No. 4 Wheaton, No. 1 MIT and No. 3 WPI to capture the conference crown and an automatic bid to the NCAA Division 3 tourney.

"It was a different path," said an elated Phillips, who guided Clark to four previous NCAA appearances, including three straight from 2001-03. "We've had some very good teams and we expected those teams to be in the NCAAs. No one expected this year's team to be there. We were 10-16 a year ago. We were just hoping for improvement."

Clark will face Albright College in a first-round game at 8 p.m. Friday in Reading, Pa. Albright (21-5) won the Commonwealth Conference tourney championship. Phillips figured that his team would be sent out of the region. At 16-12, the Cougars have the lowest winning percentage of any automatic tournament qualifier.

During his first stint at Clark, from 1996-2004, Phillips led the Cougars to back-to-back Elite Eight appearances and D3 prominence. Since returning to the school four years ago, though, it had been a struggle for him and the program. The Cougars finished below .500 each of the last three seasons.

"The three previous years were real tough," said senior Mark Alexander, Clark's leading scorer. "This year, the seniors, we came in and said we're going to win this year. We got it together at the right time."

Alexander scored a game-high 21 points in the championship game. After all the celebrating, he said it was hard to get to sleep Sunday night.

"It didn't even register," said Alexander, who wore his NEWMAC champion T-shirt yesterday. "Where we're going, where we've been ... it's a crazy feeling. NCAAs, man. It's crazy."

The Cougars took real pride in their 74-68 win over city rival

WPI. The Engineers, the NEWMAC's best the last few years, beat Clark twice during the regular season. It was in the practices leading up to the second game against WPI — which the Engineers won at the buzzer — that Phillips sensed his team was ready to make some late-season noise.

During the conference tourney, Phillips' confidence in his team was brimming.

"At no point during the tournament did I feel we were going to lose," he said. "The kids deserve all the credit."

Senior leadership and defense were the keys. Clark held its tournament opponents to an average of 60 points on 44-percent shooting.

Senior Jack Minister, who averaged 15 points in the three games, said Phillips' confidence filtered through the team. "It was a tall order, but we played hard and we felt like we could beat anyone," Minister said.

The Cougars also received some inspiration from Dr. Joel Fish, a 1975 Clark graduate and nationally renowned sports psychologist. Fish has met with the team in the past and has been a big supporter. Before each tourney game, he sent Phillips e-mails, two- or three-line messages which Phillips shared with the players in the pregame huddles.

"Maybe Dr. Fish is our secret weapon," Phillips said.

The Cougars were obviously well aware of what three NEWMAC tourney wins would bring, but Phillips didn't mention the NCAAs until there were 32 seconds left in the final. WPI had cut the lead to five, and Phillips called his last timeout.

"I said, 'By the way guys, did I mention if we win this game we go to the NCAAs?'" Phillips said.

As of yesterday morning, Clark knew little about its first-round NCAA opponent. One thing is for sure, though, and that is the Cougars are going into that game with the same confidence that carried them through the conference tourney. They are also hopeful this is Clark's first step in getting the program back to where it was in the early 2000s.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction," Phillips said.