



The University of Michigan

ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

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M-Women Bestow \$20,000 Gift on Women's Basketball Program

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Michigan Athletics Department announced today (Nov. 8) the Executive Board of the M-Women has approved a gift intention of \$20,000 to the Michigan women's basketball program for the 2004-05 season. M-Women's gift to women's basketball this season is the largest, single-year award to a Michigan women's program, but is just the latest in a long line of contributions this organization has made to Michigan athletics over the last 30 years.

"I would like to sincerely thank the M-Women for their generous contribution to our program," commented head coach Cheryl Burnett. "As we prepare to begin our second season at Michigan, the enthusiasm our coaches and players feel for women's basketball at Michigan is extremely high. One of the very special qualities of the Michigan tradition that I respect the most is the group of people who were the trailblazers and the ones who established and developed this program. I can't think of a better way to honor the M-Women and their gift than to continue building a program every Michigan person can take great pride in."

The gift for the 2004-05 season will be directed for, but not limited to, print and broadcast media advertising, support of the season ticket campaign, and radio coverage for all regular-season games.

"This year we had a unique opportunity to partner with the U-M women's basketball program," noted M-Women president Helen Hill. "Our generous members have consistently urged us to be bold with our awards as we strive to make a real difference for women's athletics. Coach Burnett's dedication to academic and athletic excellence along with her professionalism and organizational skill has convinced us Michigan will soon have a women's basketball program that is the envy of the nation."

M-Women was founded in 1979, six years after the first Michigan women's programs became varsity in 1973, as a fund-raising organization for Michigan women's sports. The organization has grown to 650 male and female members living throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, with its membership including former coaches and alums from every Michigan women's sport dating back to the pre-varsity days.

Other gifts provided to Michigan athletics from the M-Women have included:

- Annual \$10,000 contribution each of the past 10 years
- \$50,000 for electronic scoreboards for field hockey and soccer

- International training trips for field hockey and soccer
- Exercise equipment for gymnastics and cross country
- Golf-outing sponsorships for the softball and basketball teams
- Posters for 8-10 varsity teams each year

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