

September 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: Representatives Sid Michaels Kavulich

RE: Co-sponsorship of Resolution Honoring Mike Strong, Head Coach of the University of Scranton's Women's Basketball Team and designating December 1 through 7, 2012 as Mike Strong Week in Pennsylvania.

I will soon introduce a resolution honoring Mike Strong, head coach of the University of Scranton's Women's Basketball Team, for becoming the NCAA Division III women's basketball all-time career victories leader. The resolution will note that Strong, who has coached the Lady Royals since 1979, set the record in Division III when he led his women's team to 758 victories at that time, the most ever in a career, with a 46-43 victory over Cabrini College on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011. The victory moved Strong past former St. John Fisher head coach Phil Kahler, who retired in 2008 with 757 career victories.

In addition to setting the career victory mark, Coach Strong has:

- Led the Lady Royals to at least 20 wins in each of the last 18 seasons, a feat he and the team have accomplished 25 times overall. Further, the Lady Royals have never experienced a losing season in Coach Strong's 32 years and have garnered four 30-or-more win seasons.
- Guided the school a NCAA Division III championship in 1985, to seven Final Four appearances and to a semi-final appearance in the now defunct AIAW national tournament in his first season in 1979-80.
- Coached Scranton to 24 NCAA tournament appearances, 16 of its 19 Middle Atlantic/Freedom Conference titles and back-to-back Landmark Conference championships.
- Directed his teams to a now NCAA Division III women's basketball all-time career record of 770 wins, which they will add to in the 2012-13 season.

Further, Coach Strong recently retired as an associate professor in the University's Exercise Science and Sport Department and had previously worked as a high school math teacher in suburban Philadelphia, as a men's soccer and basketball coach at Keystone College; as an assistant men's basketball coach, head men's tennis coach and head women's tennis coach at the University of Scranton.

The resolution further notes how Coach Strong demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication and service for molding, informing, guiding and developing young minds in the classroom, on the basketball and tennis courts and elsewhere in the community.

For all those reasons and more, the resolution will specifically designate December 1 through 7, 2012, as Mike Strong Week in Pennsylvania

Please contact Cameron Texter in the Democratic Office of Member Services at ctexter@pahouse.net if you wish to cosponsor this legislation. Thanks.