

2026 NORTH BOYS BASKETBALL BANQUET REMARKS

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That night, North hit 50% of their shots from the field, made over 70% of their free throws, shot nearly 40% from 3-point range, held their own in rebounds against a taller opponent, and played defense that held the opponent under their season average in points and shooting percentage while forcing more turnovers than North committed.

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Think about that—in the decade that followed North’s State Title in 1967, the team won or shared in four City Championships, two Conference titles, three Sectionals, and a Regional, but none of those clubs could equal the 12-2 start that the 2026 Huskies brought to the table.

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If someone could be labeled the ever critical *"Sixth Man"* for the 2025-26 Huskies, it was senior **Lance Smith**. Tall, wiry, and exceptionally athletic, he could be counted on to play hard nose defense against any opponent of any size, battle his way to the boards for contested rebounds, and displayed remarkable shooting skills. In his career he made over 35% of his 69 career three-point shots—a percentage ANY player would be proud of. He enjoyed the biggest night of his season against Forest Park when he sank 7 of his 10 shots from the field to lead the team to victory with 18 points in the game.

Carson Cashmer's senior season got off to a slow start due to injury. After seeing considerable playing time as a member of the rotation as a sophomore and averaging seven points per game in the starting lineup as a junior, he missed the first several weeks of this season. At 6'5" tall, he was one of the tallest players on the court but could take a defender outside and put up a shot over the top of them. A career 35% shooter from three-point range, he understood his best skill was to overcome an opponent's zone defense. The best example of this came on the road at Bloomington North when he sank three of his four 3-pointers in the second quarter after the Cougar zone defense had enabled them to build a sizeable lead. When **Carson** was done, the Huskies took a lead into halftime and the Cougar's never resorted to the zone again. North ended up winning the game on the road by 15 points, but he was typical of this Husky club—yet another player who could supply the much-needed skill of putting the ball in the basket from just the right range when it was most needed.

Every good club needs someone who can go to the boards hard for a rebound, defend the opponent's biggest players, and display the athleticism to run the court and participate in a fast paced offense when needed. **Tyler Musich** filled that role for this team. Not gifted as a shooter,

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Anyone who saw the Huskies play could tell that a junior brought the rawest 'energy' to the court—**Greg Pieterek**. He worked in tandem with Musich to put together an up-tempo offense when it was needed along with an aggressive defense that stepped in front of passes and challenged defenders in the center of the court. **Pieterek's** efforts did not go unnoticed by either the press or opponent coaches as he was named second team All-Metro and All-Conference for his yearlong assault on opposing teams at both ends of the court. His senior year looks to be one that could open up the record books for many individual accomplishments.

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In fact, this edition of the Huskies was the finest free throw shooting North squad in over 30 years. Three players from this year's squad ended their careers amongst the All-Time Top 20 in free throw percentage and **Johnson** was among them.

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A 'ball player's ball player' is how I would describe **Bryson**. Fifth All-Time in points scored, First All-Time in games played, Seventh All-Time in rebounds, Sixth in Blocked Shots, Sixteenth in Assists, a 75% free throw shooter, Tenth All-Time in Made-Threes... those numbers only begin to tell the story. He was an all-round player who could take on the opponents' best player and shut them down while leading the Huskies in scoring at the other end.

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Where he was recognized as the Player of the Year by the paper and the SIAC, so too was our Coach recognized as Coach of the Year by local media and, more importantly, by his peers among the Conference Coaches. North has not known success of this type in decades and the architect of that success, **Coach Jason Roach** has delivered multiple accomplishments that were thought to be outside the reach of Husky fan expectations ten years ago. We have witnessed multiple Sectional Titles, a Conference Championship, a won a City Crown in his nine years: a testament to his skills as a leader of young men.

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missed shots by the Bruins and turned them into a perfect four-for-four from the line to ice the game for North. His career 37% shooting on 71 made three-point shots both rank just outside the Top 20 All-Time for North.

I suspect that when the 100 year anniversary of North basketball gets written (and, heaven help me, I hope I live to be 99 and doing the writing—that's right, I am one-year younger than North High School) the name **Bryson Chapman** will be there among the all-time greats to wear the green and white.

A 'ball player's ball player' is how I would describe **Bryson**. Fifth All-Time in points scored, First All-Time in games played, Seventh All-Time in rebounds, Sixth in Blocked Shots, Sixteenth in Assists, a 75% free throw shooter, Tenth All-Time in Made-Threes... those numbers only begin to tell the story. He was an all-round player who could take on the opponents' best player and shut them down while leading the Huskies in scoring at the other end.

The coaches of the SIAC had no problem naming him the Player of the Year in the conference, he was recognized throughout his career by the Evansville Courier as an All-Metro selection as well as the Player of the Year in the City this season. His accolades continue as he is included in various All-State and Regional All-Star selections.

There were more games than I have time to mention this season in which he simply 'took the game over' and led the Huskies to impressive victories. He proved to be the instrument by which Coach **Jason Roach's** plan was brought to fruition. This was a team with many players who knew their roles. **Chapman's** role was to be the leader; the cornerstone of the design to deliver the finest Husky basketball season in decades.

Where he was recognized as the Player of the Year by the paper and the SIAC, so too was our Coach recognized as Coach of the Year by local media and, more importantly, by his peers among the Conference Coaches. North has not known success of this type in decades and the architect of that success, **Coach Jason Roach** has delivered multiple accomplishments that were thought to be outside the reach of Husky fan expectations ten years ago. We have witnessed multiple Sectional Titles, a Conference Championship, a won a City Crown in his nine years: a testament to his skills as a leader of young men.

2026 NORTH BOYS BASKETBALL BANQUET REMARKS

We owe this edition of the 2025-26 Husky basketball team one final round of applause as acknowledgement of their success.

And now it is my pleasure to return the microphone to the Evansville Coach of the Year—my coach, your coach, our coach—**Mr. Jason Roach**.