



SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Individual/Team Name: John Krikorian

Sport: Basketball

Connection to Virginia: Head Coach, Christopher Newport University Men's Basketball

2023 Achievement(s):

- Led CNU to 2023 NCAA D-III Men's Basketball National Championship
- 1st National Title in program history
- 30-3 record, including 15 game winning streak to end season
- Named D-III National Coach of the Year
- Finished the season ranked #1 overall

Will Driscoll

From: Virginia Sports Hall of Fame <info@vasportshof.com>
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Will Driscoll
Subject: Sportsperson of the Year Award Entry

Name of Individual

JOHN KRIKORIAN

Name of Team

Christopher Newport University

Sport(s)

Men's Basketball

Connection to Virginia

Division III State Institution

Significant Athletic Achievement in 2023

MCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship

Nominee Contact Information (email or phone)

john.krikorian@cnu.edu

If there are any additional accolades, accomplishments, or comments you would like the Hall of Fame to consider as it reviews your nomination, please list them here (500 words or less). Please include links to articles or news stories, and online biographical information in the space provided

In the 55th season of Christopher Newport University men's basketball, Head Coach John Krikorian led the Captains to their first-ever national title. CNU won its final 15 games of the season, including six straight in the NCAA Tournament, to finish 30-3 on the year...and defeated Mount Union of Ohio in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on March 15th for the crown. He was named the National Coach of the Year in Division III following the championship.

Please include any documents that details the student's academic and athletic achievements, and community contributions; this includes letters of support/recommendation and student essay.

[2023-1115-MBB-vs-RandolphMacon-Selects-SS-69.jpg](#)

[Krikorian-with-trophy-celebrating.jpg](#)

Nominator Name

Francis Tommasino

Nominator Email

ftommasi@cnu.edu

Nominator Phone Number

757-288-1463

All nomination materials must be received together

Acknowledged

Sent from [Virginia Sports Hall of Fame](#)

Will Driscoll

From: Virginia Sports Hall of Fame <info@vasportshof.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:58 PM
To: Will Driscoll
Subject: Sportsperson of the Year Award Entry

Name of Individual

John Krikorian

Name of Team

Christopher Newport University

Sport(s)

Men's Basketball

Connection to Virginia

Local University

Significant Athletic Achievement in 2023

Won the NCAA D3 National Championship

Nominee Contact Information (email or phone)

757-603-0398

If there are any additional accolades, accomplishments, or comments you would like the Hall of Fame to consider as it reviews your nomination, please list them here (500 words or less). Please include links to articles or news stories, and online biographical information in the space provided

He was also apart of the Jay Bilas Coaching Clinic. Invite only event

Please include any documents that details the student's academic and athletic achievements, and community contributions; this includes letters of support/recommendation and student essay.

 [IMG_3885.png](#)

Nominator Name

Tim Sparks

Nominator Email

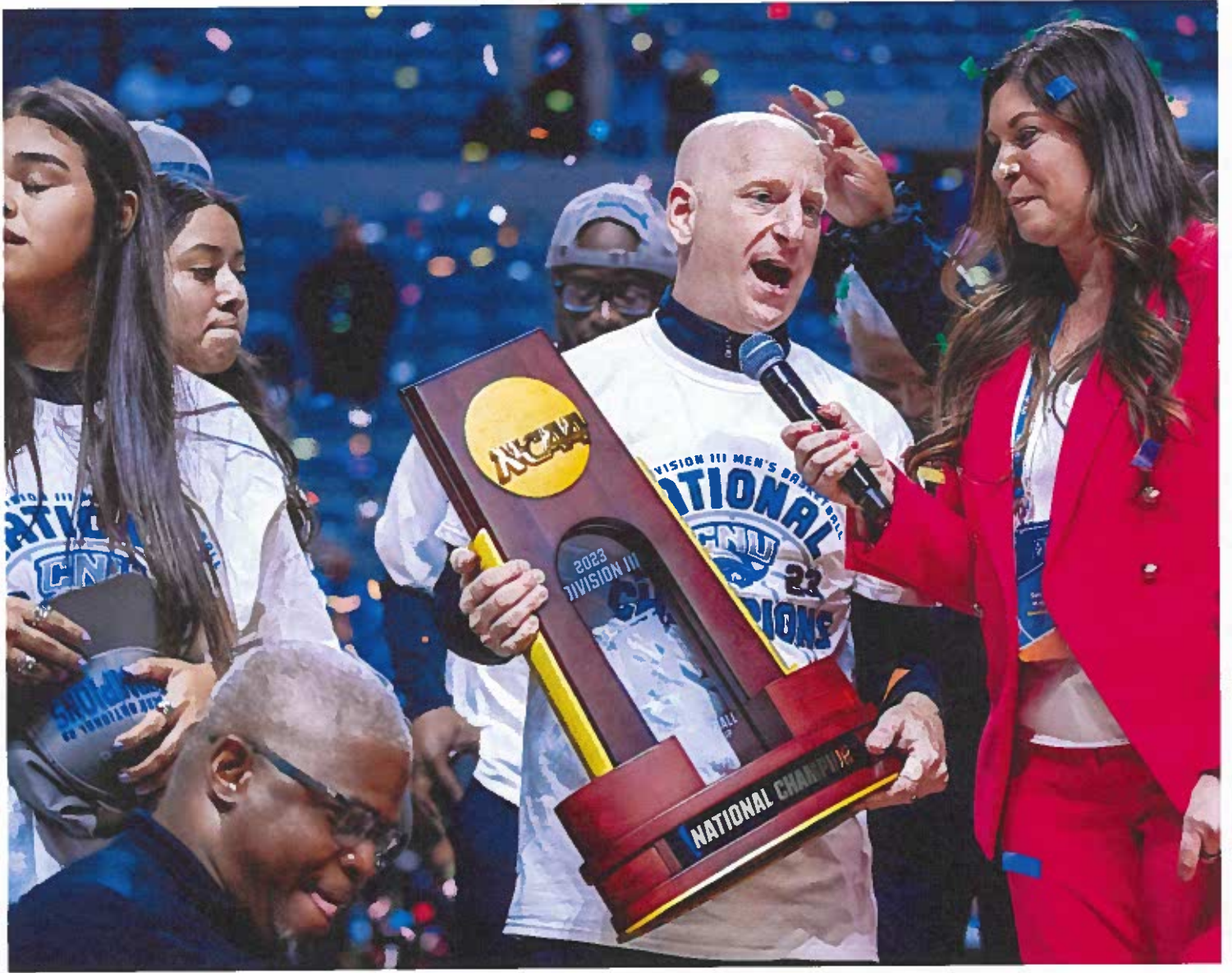
Coachtasparks@gmail.com

Nominator Phone Number

757-472-7527

All nomination materials must be received together

Acknowledged



Christopher Newport University Athletics



CAPTAINS CAPTURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP... Barber Scores in Final Second for 74-72 Victory and First Title

Men's Basketball

Posted: 3/18/2023 7:52:00 PM

[Photo Gallery](#)

FORT WAYNE, IN. - Christopher Newport University's first trip to the National Championship game will be remembered as a classic, as junior [Trey Barber](#) scored on a driving layup as time expired to give the Captains a 74-72 victory over Mount Union. CNU finished the year with a 30-3 record, and the remarkable victory in the title game was the 15th straight for the Captains.

Barber led four Christopher Newport players in double figures, scoring 25 points on ten-of-15 shooting. Barber also topped the team with ten rebounds, and was selected the Most Valuable Player of the Final Four. Junior [Jahn Hines](#) was also selected to the All-Tournament squad, scoring 18 points and pulling down six rebounds with four assists. Fifth-year senior [Matthew Brodie](#) and sophomore [Caleb Furr](#) also reached double digits, scoring 12 points in the title game.

"This is about our program and all the people who are a part of it, and have been a part of it in the past," Head Coach [John Krikorian](#) said during the post-game celebration. "We have a rich history and so many have contributed to it. I was thinking so much about our long-time coach C.J. Woollum, who hired me, and I heard from our program's first coach, Bev Vaughan, today. It was like they were both with us on our bench tonight. We had so many of our former players with us here tonight. I can't tell you how much this means."

The Captains found themselves behind for much of the game and had to mount yet another comeback to claim the championship. CNU trailed at halftime in nine games this season, and came from behind to win them all, including Saturday's Championship game. The Purple Raiders went on a 9-0 run in the opening minutes to take a 9-2 lead and then stretched their advantage to as many as 14 with 5:10 to play in the first half, 26-12. CNU used a 14-3 run to close out the half, and trailed by just three at the break, 29-26. The second half saw Mount Union push the lead to as many as ten, 45-35, with 13:55 to play.

Christopher Newport would then begin a stretch that saw them out-score the Raiders, 39-27, the rest of the way, culminating with Barber's buzzer-beater for the victory. CNU took its first lead of the second half when Barber knocked down a free throw with 8:38 remaining to put the Captains up, 50-49. CNU would extend the lead to as many as seven, 65-58, on a Barber layup with 3:58 to go. The Purple Raiders would not go away, and would briefly jump back in front, 70-69, with 17 seconds remaining on a layup from All-American Christian Parker. The Captains answered quickly when sophomore [Ty Henderson](#) scored on a fastbreak jumper in the lane, and was fouled in the process. His free throw to complete the three-point play gave Christopher Newport a 72-70 edge.

The final possession for each team resulted in a fantastic conclusion to the hard-fought battle. Mount Union tied the game with four seconds left on the clock when Parker scored on a jumper in the paint to even things at 72-72. But in the waning seconds after Mount Union had pulled even, Barber rumbled down the court and provided the spectacular finish by scoring on a driving layup to end the game.

"I really don't remember what happened," Barber admitted. "They had scored and I got the ball and saw the rim and went to it. It's an amazing feeling." Barber and Hines, who both had been named All-American earlier in the day by D3hoops.com, combined to score 43 points and pull down 16 rebounds.

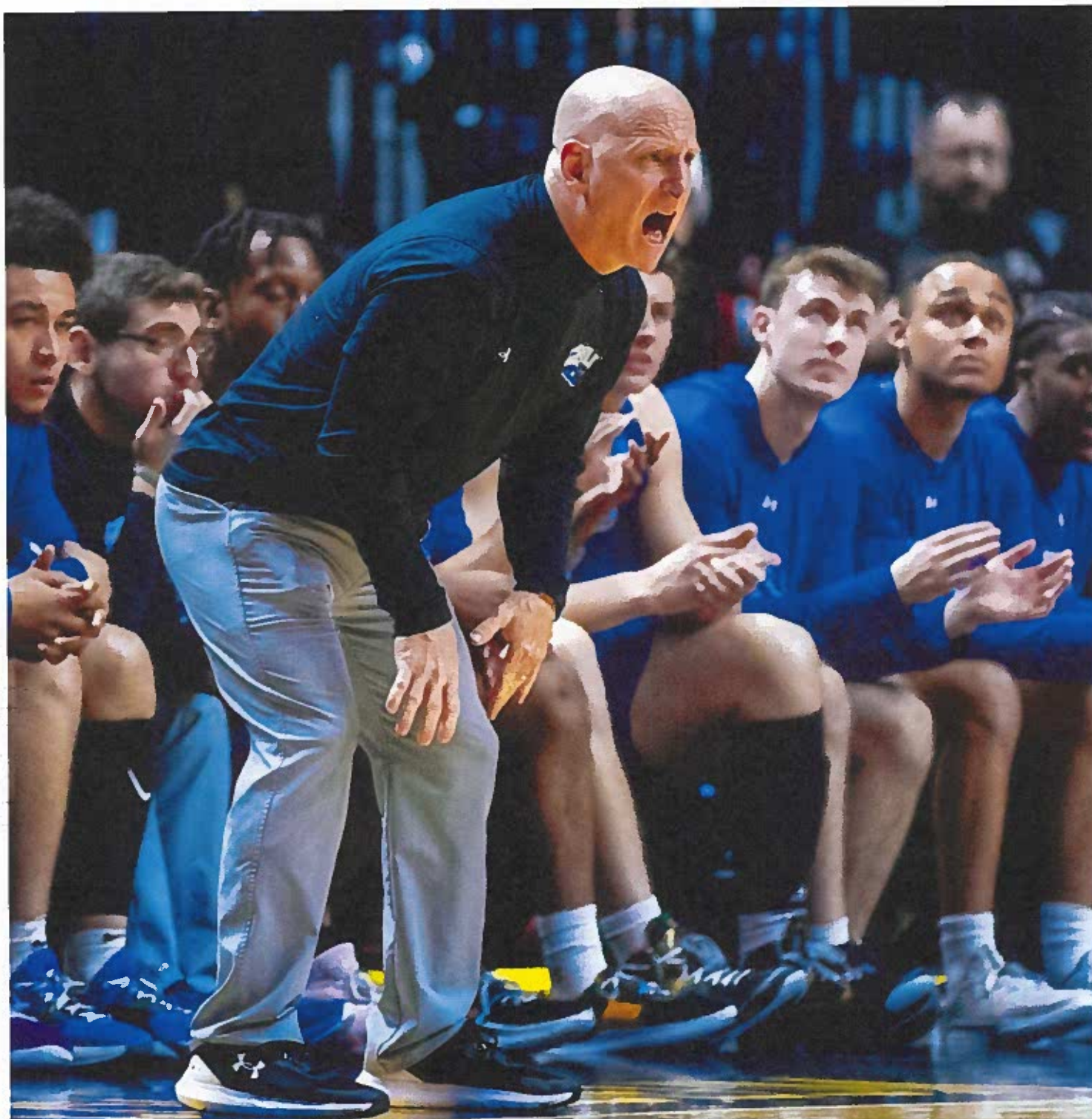
The buzzer-beating shot by Barber to end the game was reviewed by the officiating crew to verify it had come before the horn sounded.

"Trey and Jahn were just amazing again," Krikorian continued. "But we had a lot of guys come through in big moments. [Caleb Furr](#) hit some really big threes for us, and Matt Brody was big in the second half. Our defense was key as it usually is, and we did just enough to win the game. I really feel for Mount Union, they're a great team and competed at such a high level all season."

Mount Union finished the year with the same record as the Captains, 30-3, and Saturday's battle was the first meeting ever of the programs. Parker, also named All-American Saturday by D3hoops.com, led the Purple Raiders with 31 points and 14 rebounds. The Captains out-rebounded the Raiders, 47-41, and committed just nine turnovers. In two games at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, the Captains turned the ball over just 13 times.

"This is such a unique group of guys," Krikorian said. "They love to play the game and get after it. Most of the time, I tried to stay out of their way, and give them what they needed to succeed as best I could. They took what had happened in the past, like losing last year at Marietta in the Elite 8, and losing at Randolph-Macon this year and they learned from it and remembered it and used it to their advantage. Their hard work paid off and I'm so happy for them."

Christopher Newport University Athletics



John Krikorian Receives Second National Coach of the Year Honor

Men's Basketball

Posted: 3/29/2023 11:31:00 AM

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. - Christopher Newport University Men's Basketball Coach [John Krikorian](#) has been named the HoopDirt.com NCAA Division III Coach of the Year for the 2022-23 college basketball season. Krikorian qualified for the honor by earning the HoopDirt.com / Just Play Solutions Coach of the Week award for [Week 3](#) of the season.

Krikorian led the Captains to their first National Championship on March 18th, beating Mount Union on a buzzer-beater to capture the title in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Along the way, his team went 30-3, 13-1 at home, and ended the year on a 15-game winning streak. Krikorian has guided the CNU program for the past 12 seasons and has compiled a record of 290-65 (.817). His squads have advanced to nine NCAA Tournaments, including the last seven, and this year's trip to the Final Four was the third appearance for the Captains in the last six tournaments.

Krikorian previously was named National Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC).

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Christopher Newport University Athletics



National Champion Men's Basketball Team Celebrated at the White House
Men's Basketball

Posted: 6/12/2023 4:26:00 PM

WASHINGTON, DC - The Christopher Newport University men's basketball team was recognized at the White House Monday, as Vice President Kamala Harris and new NCAA President Charlie Baker welcomed National Champions from all across the country. A total of 47 teams from 19 different sports from all three divisions of NCAA competition gathered on the South Lawn for the first-ever recognition of college champions.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the complete ceremony.

Christopher Newport men's basketball recorded a 30-3 record in the 2022-23 season, and won its first-ever national title by beating Mount Union (OH) in the final game in Fort Wayne, IN, in March. All 17 members of the National Championship team were joined by coaches and administrators from CNU for the late morning celebration.

Baker and Harris each emphasized the attributes it took for the teams to reach the pinnacle of success, and called the event a culmination in the long road to a championship.

"Only the best of the best become a national champion," Harris said. "I know it wasn't easy. You made tremendous sacrifices. Training through injuries, birthdays, vacations and even a pandemic. You know, all of you, what it means to commit and to persevere."

"E pluribus unum means out of many, one," Baker said, referencing a traditional motto that appears on the Great Seal of the United States. "That is exactly who you are and what you represent here today. You are the national champions in your sports, and you're here today representing all those who played with you and against you."

Christopher Newport has now won three National Championships in the last 18 months, as men's basketball followed titles won by women's soccer and softball during the 2021-22 academic year.

