



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WeCOACH Announces 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients**

October 10, 2022 – WeCOACH with partners Hudl and Jostens are proud to announce the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. This prestigious award is presented to women in sports who succeed at the highest levels in their respective careers, while also displaying an unwavering commitment, pioneering spirit, and trailblazing leadership to empower and pave the way for girls and women in all sports and levels to breakthrough for many generations to come.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX this year, we recognize and honor three deserving Lifetime Achievement Award recipients: **Coach Nikki Franke**, recently retired Temple University Women's Fencing Head Coach, **Coach Carol Hutchins**, recently retired University of Michigan Softball Head Coach, and **Coach Jodi Manore**, Bedford High School (Michigan) Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach.

All three recipients of this year's award will be formally recognized during the 2022 BreakThrough Summit on Friday, December 16 in Omaha, Nebraska. Registration details for this year's BreakThrough Summit can be found [here](#).

"It is only fitting that as part of our Title IX at 50 celebration, we are honoring three longtime, highly successful women coaches who are the epitome of what Title IX has meant to so many women in sports. Coach Franke, Coach Hutchins, and Coach Manore have not only won a lot of contests in their careers, they have established holistic program cultures for other coaches to emulate. What's even more remarkable is the lifelong impact they have had on the many, many student-athletes they have coached. They are leaders, they are role models, and their legacies are forever cemented. WeCOACH is grateful these three coaches are a part of our Community, and we are thrilled to honor them for their inspirational achievements," said Vanessa Fuchs, WeCOACH CEO.



### **About Coach Nikki Franke**

As our country celebrates Title IX at 50, Dr. Nikki Franke celebrated her 50th year at the helm of Temple University's Women's Fencing, a program that she founded in 1972. Over those 50 years she amassed a 898-277 career record, complete with a National Championship in the 1992 campaign. She also received the United States Fencing Coaches Association Women's Fencing Coach of the Year honors in 1983, 1987, 1988, and 1991. Franke was the first and only black female head coach of any NCAA Division I Fencing Programs in the country at the time of her retirement in August 2022. Coach Franke was also a co-founder of the Black

Women in Sport Foundation which focuses on introducing inner city youth to non-traditional sports and mentoring

women of color involved in all aspects of sport. Later this year she will be inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame which is her fifth Hall of Fame induction. She has also been inducted into the Women's Sports Foundation, Temple Athletics (as a team and individual) and Brooklyn College Halls of Fame. As an athlete, she was a member of the 1976 and 1980 U.S. Olympic teams and was the USA Fencing National Foil Champion in both 1975 and 1980, respectively. Her legacy continues to be paid forward as her successor at the time of her retirement is one of her former student-athletes, Coach Jennie Salmon.



#### **About Coach Carol Hutchins**

The NCAA's all-time winningest softball coach in history, Coach "Hutch" masterfully steered the University of Michigan's softball program for 38 seasons before she retired this past August. Hutchins is also the winningest coach -- male or female -- in Michigan Athletics history. Her impressive record of 1707-555-5, included 12 appearances in the Women's College World Series complete with a National Championship in 2005--the first of any Division I program east of the Mississippi River. Hutch's Wolverines also claimed 22 Big Ten regular season titles, 10 Big Ten Tournament Championships and qualified for the NCAA Tournament 29 out of her 38 seasons. Inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006, Hutchins earned Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year honors 18 times, eight NFCA Regional Coach of the Year awards and a pair of NFCA National Coach of the Year honors. In 2016, she was named the inaugural recipient of espnW's Pat Summitt Coaching Award, presented to the coach who "exemplifies the character and courage" of the legendary basketball coach who led the Tennessee Lady Vols.



#### **About Coach Jodi Manore**

Coach Jodi Manore entered her 38th season as the Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach at Bedford High School (Michigan) in August of 2022. As of July 2022 she held an overall record of 2175-383-63 for a winning percentage of 84 percent. In 2015 she surpassed the record for most match wins by a high school varsity coach in the nation at 1,833. That's a difference of 342 more wins than any other coach. Her accolades include numerous Hall of Fame honors including the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA), American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and the Michigan HS Coaches Association (MHSCA). She has led her Bedford team to three state championships, five state runner-ups, and 16 semi-final appearances. Coach Manore also holds 24 regional, 31 district, and 16 of 21 conference titles during her tenure. Of her many remarkable achievements, Coach Manore maintains she is most proud of having more than 100 former athletes go on to play volleyball in college.

#### **About Hudl**

Hudl is an industry leader in performance analysis software and hardware, empowering more than 200K sports teams worldwide to achieve their goals with best-in-class video and data technology. For more information visit [www.hudl.com/](http://www.hudl.com/).

#### **About JOSTENS**

**WeTEACH. WeINSPIRE. WeMOTIVATE. WeLEAD.**

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### **About WeCOACH**

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, 50 years later, data indicates that number has decreased to a stagnant 43% in Division I (41% in all three NCAA Divisions), with only 7.3% women coaches of color. A dearth 5% women coach men's teams, and at the youth level, the data is hard to estimate (approx. <20% of teams are coached by women). As part of its year-long Title IX 50th Anniversary campaign, WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS to help change the landscape for women coaches and to impact history for the next 50 years. For more information visit [wecoachsports.org/50th](http://wecoachsports.org/50th).