

ASK THE EXPERT: RETIRING DETROIT MERCY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

'... and I don't know if that's good for athletics'



Free Press sports writer Vince Ellis sat down with Detroit Mercy athletic director Brad Kinsman, who is retiring

today after 25 years leading Detroit's only Division I school.

ON DICK VITALE (WHO HIRED HIM AS UDM'S GOLF COACH IN THE '70S): A man ahead of his time in term of promoting the sport of bas-

ketball. He is the ultimate promoter and marketer.

THE NO. 1 CHALLENGE FACING DIVISION I SCHOOLS: The separation between the big schools and the little schools. Instead of seeing the 300, you just see the one. The gap has continued to broaden and I don't know if that's good for athletics.

WHAT WOULD SURPRISE FANS ABOUT THE JOB OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: The complexity... you deal

with issues of athletics, alumni, marketing, compliance. It's a very diverse field. Also the summers are some of the busiest times of the year for us. That's when a lot of the administrative stuff takes place.

FUND-RAISING: I absolutely love it. I learned you could never insult anyone by asking for too much. I was really impressed with our philanthropic alumni. They take a lot of pride in the school and fund-raising is more

significant at the private-school level than the public-school level.

WHO IS GOING TO CUT DOWN THE NETS IN MARCH? You could put 10 programs in a hat (and pull out the winner). I'll go with Duke. I have a lot of respect for that program. Cameron (Indoor Stadium) reminds me of Calihan Hall. They have a quality program and I have a lot of respect for (coach Mike) Krzyzewski.

Detroit Free Press 12/29/06