

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION:

DATE:

October 20, 2011

Commencement Speaker

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve George Gervin, Professional Athlete and Founder of the George Gervin Youth Center, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, December 20, 2011 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Education to Mr. Gervin.

SUMMARY

Mr. Gervin's biography follows on the next page.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer
Provost and Vice President

Date

George Gervin

Professional Athlete,

Founder of the George Gervin Youth Center

George "The Iceman" Gervin (born April 27, 1952 in Detroit, Michigan) played in both the American Basketball Association (ABA) and National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Virginia Squires, San Antonio Spurs, and Chicago Bulls. Gervin finished with an NBA career average of 26.2 points per game, and is regarded by most to be one of the greatest shooting guards in NBA history. Nicknamed Iceman for his cool demeanor on the court, Gervin was primarily known for his scoring talents. He led teams at both Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan and Long Beach State.

Gervin led the NBA in scoring average three years in a row from 1978 to 1980 (with a high of 33.1 points per game in 1979-80), and again in 1982. Prior to Michael Jordan, Gervin had the most scoring titles of any guard in league history. When he left the NBA, Gervin played for several years in Europe: in Italy for Banco Roma during the 1986-87 season, and in the Spanish National Basketball League for TDK Manresa team (he was 38 years old at the time). He averaged 25.5 points, 5 rebounds and 1.2 assists, and in his last match he scored 31 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to keep Manresa in the first Spanish division.

Gervin was inducted to the Basketball Hall of Fame, had his #44 jersey retired by the Spurs and was named to the NBA's 50 Greatest Players. He holds the distinction of being a former teammate of both Julius Erving (with the Squires) and Michael Jordan (with the Bulls).

Gervin remains active in the San Antonio community with his seven organizations designed specifically for underprivileged children, including the George Gervin Youth Center. Gervin is beloved in San Antonio and believes that his own experience as an underprivileged child in Michigan inspired him to get involved.