

# Tackling the Myths

Myth and misperception are germs when it comes to keeping your brand healthy. Don't let others define you based on myth.

We asked members of the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee about myths they typically encounter, and many had to do with Division II being regarded in some way as "less than." The most egregious one perhaps is the notion that Division II athletes "aren't good enough" to play in Division I.

At right is how SAAC members refuted that one.

Many Division II student-athletes received offers to play at Division I schools but made a purposeful choice to excel at their sport in a college setting that allows them to pursue other aspects of college life and prepare for a career in something other than sports. For example, I knew I wanted to be a doctor, and I knew that the smaller class sizes and more access to faculty would benefit me without compromising my desire to excel at the highest level athletically.

DII athletes are well-balanced – that's what makes DII unique, because we don't have to spend all of our time pursuing our sport. That balance builds character, which makes us who we are.

Division II is not a barrier to excellence. Being at a Division II school doesn't mean you can't excel to the highest level in your sport, even being an Olympic athlete.



## More Myths

**MYTH:** Division II athletes are forced into certain majors.

**FACT:** A recent survey of DII athletes indicated that most of them chose their academic major because they were interested in the topic and because it helped prepare them for a particular career field – not because their coaches steered them into that curriculum "to keep them eligible."

**MYTH:** Division II has no notable alumni.

**FACT:** On the contrary, here's just a sampling of influential folks who played sports at DII schools:

**Sheila Baxter** (basketball, Virginia State University; first female brigadier general in the Medical Service Corps)

**Bob Bowsby** (wrestling, Minnesota State University Moorhead; commissioner of the Big 12 Conference)

**Jim Crane** (baseball, University of Central Missouri; chairman of the Houston Astros)

**Tom Izzo** (basketball, Northern Michigan University; head men's basketball coach at Michigan State)

**Sandra (Hall) Magnus** (soccer, Missouri University of Science and Technology; NASA astronaut)

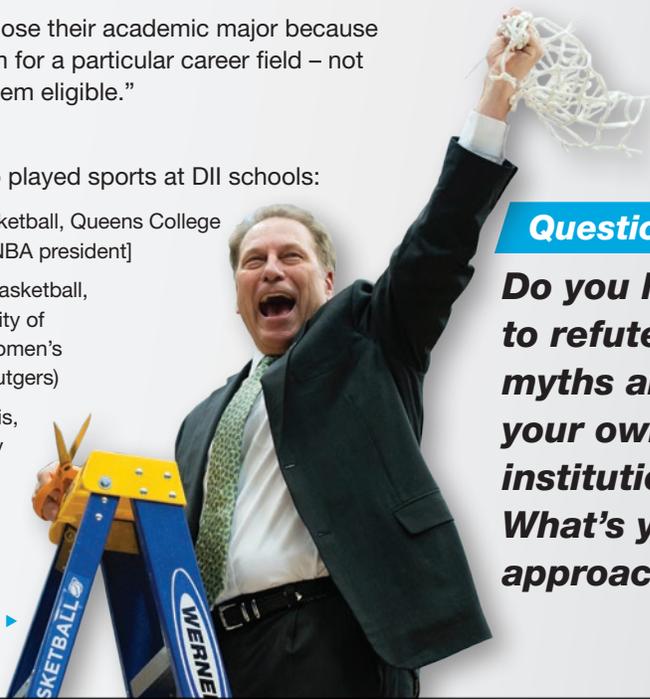
**Edwin Moses** (track and field, Morehouse College; chair of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency)

**Donna Orender** [basketball, Queens College (New York); former WNBA president]

**C. Vivian Stringer** (basketball, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania; head women's basketball coach at Rutgers)

**David Williams** (tennis, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation)

Tom Izzo ▶



### Question

**Do you have to refute myths about your own institution? What's your approach?**

For more information and resources, visit the "Tools to tell the DII story" link on the Division II homepage at [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org).