

“Striking Out to Discover Duckpin Bowling in Detroit”

By: Emily Kunzelman, Henry Ford College

<https://mirrornews.hfcc.edu/news/2025/05-05/striking-out-discover-duckpin-bowling-detroit>

Judge’s comments: “This is a terrific subject for a sports feature with a potentially wide audience of readers considering that Detroit once was one of the bowling meccas of the nation. However this doesn’t quite fit the category. Written in the first person with no other sourcing, it’s more of a feature column.

There is a decent level of reporting, with the writer giving readers a fairly thorough comparison of the two forms of bowling with one important exception: We learn that in 10-pin bowling there are two rolls per from and in duckpin bowling there are three. But nowhere in the story do we learn how many frames per game there are. We’re left to guess there are 10 frames in each game.

I would have liked to read a bit more about the demographics of each sport. Participation in bowling has imploded in recent years, which many blame on the change in the “smoking in public” laws.

Dozens of bowling alleys have shuttered their doors. What’s the story with duckpin? Has it realized any growth that proprietors might link to the plunge in 10-pin bowling?

This is where additional sourcing could turn this piece into a bona fide feature story.

As much as I enjoyed this piece, it killed me to see a horrific typo in the lead graph. There are also issues with consistency. You capitalize Taphouse correctly when you first mentioned it; it’s a proper noun after all. Then you lower-case the noun in several places thereafter. Also, and I cannot stress this enough: you must get better acquainted with the AP Stylebook. There are several style issues in this piece.

That said, I see some real talent here. You have a good command of the language, and a decent command of grammar and punctuation. This can take you places.”

“A family rooted in LCC”

By: Nicole Wadkins, Lansing Community College

A family rooted in LCC



Chief of Staff Layne Ingram, Coach Mike Ingram, and Marketing Coordinator Tonya Causley-Ingram, pose together on campus. Photo courtesy of Layne Ingram



[Nicole Wadkins](#)

November 5, 2025

By Nicole Wadkins
Staff Reporter

For Coach Mike Ingram, basketball and Lansing Community College has always gone hand in hand. Before he became one of the coaches at LCC, he started out as a student athlete attending LCC.

Mike Ingram grew up in Jackson, Michigan, and played basketball at Parkside High School alongside Tony Dungy—future NFL head coach and Hall of Famer. After graduating high school, he came to LCC to play basketball and built a name for himself, hoping to open doors at the Lansing Board of Water and Light, "I got the job," Mike Ingram said. "I played well enough at LCC to get a full ride scholarship to play basketball at Central Michigan University."

Before Mike Ingram left LCC for CMU, he left his mark on the court. He scored over more than 1100 points, became a second team All American at LCC (1981), earned two conference Player of the Year honors, and was named MVP of the Western Conference MCCA. He credits his former LCC coach, Art Frank, "who has been instrumental in both my basketball and coaching career."

After graduating from Central and getting married, Mike Ingram decided to reconnect with Jud Heathcote, former MSU basketball coach and Art Frank. This ultimately led him back to sports. "I called Jud Heathcote one day and said, 'Hey, can I come to the game?'" Mike Ingram said. "And then the next day, I called Art Frank and said, 'Hey, do you need any help coaching?' And I've been here ever since."

Mike Ingram started out as an assistant coach during the 1986-87 season. He helped lead the stars to a [National Championship in 1988](#). "A couple of years after that, Art retired," Mike Ingram said. He became head coach in 1990, a position he has held for 35 years.

Mike Ingram's approach to coaching has always revolved around helping students grow, both on and off the court. "I help them learn how to be more responsible," Mike Ingram said. He often reminds his players that basketball is more than just a game, as being on a team can help you out later in life. "Be on time, be accountable, do your best, be somebody that you can count on. This will help you later when you become a husband, a father, an uncle, a brother— that's the thing that I really try to instill into the guys, let's prepare for when you go from being a young man to a man."

Over the years, LCC has been a constant in Mike Ingram's life. It's where he met his wife, Phebeit, and where their family built lasting connections to the college as their children grew up. His son, Mike, played for Mike Ingram at LCC, while Layne, Justin, and Jocelyn spent a lot of time around the college community. "Being on LCC college campus helped them prepare to be college students," Mike Ingram said.

Coach Mike isn't the only one from the Ingram family who found a career at LCC.

His son, Chief of Staff Layne Ingram, spent most of his childhood in the gym, surrounded by the game that defined so much of their family life. "There's videos from back in the day, like I'd be playing basketball with the team, my brother might be like off on a side basket, and then my sisters like roller skating around the gym," Layne Ingram said. "Basketball was such a pivotal, foundational thing in our family that LCC was just kind of the cornerstone of that."

His connection to LCC started at his father's basketball camps when he was around five or six years old. He was one of the youngest kids on the court, learning the fundamentals right alongside college athletes. "Layne just really loved basketball, if he couldn't shoot, he could dribble," Mike Ingram said. "I think every player that's ever played here knows Layne from that experience. So yeah, Layne grew up here." By the time Layne Ingram reached high school, his dedication and skills would earn him a full ride scholarship to the University of Michigan.

After college, he began coaching at Virginia Tech and worked across Division one, Division three, and junior college basketball programs. Eventually, he returned to LCC, following in his father's footsteps.

It was in 2013 when Layne Ingram officially started a career at LCC. In 2012, while living in Iowa, he saw a part time Marketing Coordinator opening on campus. "I got an interview and they ended up hiring me," Layne Ingram said. "And it's really been an amazing experience to go from being a part time Marketing Coordinator to Chief of Staff in the president's office."

Shortly after, Layne Ingram started to coach LCC's women's basketball team for six seasons. "My first few years were pretty great," Layne Ingram said. "Then we got hit by COVID. We had to take the year off and coming out of that was tough."

As his administrative responsibilities grew, he recognized that the program was in good hands. "I had a really great assistant coach who had the time, has the passion to do all that she could to bring the program to new levels," Layne Ingram said. In 2023, he made the decision to step down from coaching. "I wanted [the team] to have the best opportunity to be great," Layne Ingram said. "But my job was changing. It was just going to get bigger, more demanding, and it wasn't going to be sustainable, to be able to give what the program deserved."

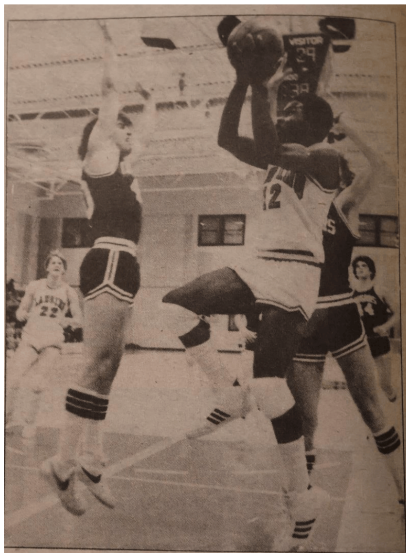


Photo by DeAnn Eddy
Mike Ingram makes his way to the basket against the Kalamazoo Valley Community College defense.

In a 1981 edition of *The Lookout*, Mike Ingram, a student athlete at LCC at the time, is playing basketball against the Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Photo originally by DeAnn Eddy

Over the years, Layne has worked across nearly every corner of the college. From the President's Office and the Gannon building, to the TLC building, and even the West Campus, where he was the marketing coordinator before having an office in the Administration Building. When it comes to his role as Chief of Staff, a typical day doesn't exist for him. Much of his job revolves around solving problems, meeting with LCC president, working with legislators, planning events, or helping different departments remove barriers that stand in the way of student success. "I do not ever do the same thing every day," Layne Ingram said. "LCC is a big place, at any moment, something could happen in the government that affects us. Something could happen with the student issue. Something could happen even down to our koi fish."

That unpredictability is one of the things Layne Ingram likes about his job, "Every day is potentially a new challenge," Layne Ingram said. "I really like when I'm able to work with people across campus to make things better for our students. I imagine that's kind of the point- everything that I do should make things better for our students."

His works go beyond the walls of the administration building. He helps plan campus events, collaborates with leadership on student-centered projects, and has even started projects of his own. LCC's most popular campus tradition, Party with the Prez, was made by Layne so that students can have a sense of connection and inclusion. He also helped develop the Star Standard to ensure every program graduation feels meaningful for students. "We want those students and their families on those days to feel as proud of that accomplishment as we do," Layne Ingram said. "So that students know that we care that you did this, we see that you did this, and we're very proud of it. All of the work I do is to support our student's success."

Currently, he is working on another project, the Changemaker Center, a new space on the third floor of the Gannon Building which honors and recognizes African-Americans throughout Lansing's history. "From 1847 when the first black person came to Lansing to the present, we're retelling those stories in a really amazing way," Layne Ingram said. "That's going to open next year, be ready to be wowed."

LCC has always revolved around Layne's personal life. Like his father, he met his wife, Marketing Coordinator, Tonya Causley-Ingram, at LCC. Then in 2016, the couple married on campus at the president's home after rain canceled their original garden wedding plan.

Both Mike Ingram and Layne Ingram share a commitment to supporting students.

"We're attacking the same problem, just in different ways," Layne Ingram said. "Where he's coaching and supporting them to meet their goals, I'm trying to make sure the goals they're trying to meet- they have the tools they need, to be able to do that from a college and institution standpoint." The work that both Layne and Mike Ingram do at LCC to support students across campus has created a legacy that runs deep throughout LCC history, and is felt by students and staff alike.

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Judge's comments: "This entry represents the start of what could have been an outstanding candidate in this category of the contest. The title teases the reader about "a family rooted." However, the story includes just two of the three people featured in the photo that accompanies

the piece. And sadly, those are the only two sources cited in the story. Tonya Causley-Ingram is conspicuous by her absence in the story.

This story begs for input from other sources. Not the least of which would be the president of the university, who should have much to say about Mike Ingram's legacy after 35 years on the bench as basketball coach and Layne's ongoing contributions as Chief of Staff. It also might include a comment or two from Mike Ingram's players over the years, talking about how much he meant to them during their formative years at LCC.

The timeline leading to Mike's hiring as coach is confusing. There are several AP Style issues that need to be addressed. There are issues with improper capitalization. For instance, when standing alone and not before a name, marketing coordinator and chief of staff should not be capitalized.

But most distressing of all is the massive grammar error in the most important part of your story: the lead:

For coach Mike Ingram, basketball and Lansing Community College HAVE always gone. . . .

Moving forward, strive to dig deeper with multiple – numerous – sources that will help you tell a story with myriad layers. Your subject here had enormous possibilities, and you deserve credit for recognizing that.”