

Black River soccer coach named Division 4 Coach of the Year

By **ALAN BABBITT**
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Holland, MI — Black River girls soccer coach Kyle Lawton has been named the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Division 4 Public School Coach of the Year.

Lawton will be honored as the association's annual meeting March 6 in Mount Pleasant.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by my colleagues," Lawton said. "I would not have been in a position to be recognized if it were not for all the hard work and dedication that the girls put in everyday in practices and in games.

"I think this award is a sign that our program is going in the right direction. We want to continue to build off the success that we have had in the past few years and hopefully we can start to compete for district, regional and state championships in the future."

Lawton led the girls soccer team to a 17-3-1 record this season. The River Rats reached the district finals before losing to state champion Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central.

It was the best season in Black River's history.

Lawton also serves as Black River's athletic director, boys basketball coach and boys soccer coach.

"It is certainly an honor for him and for our sports program here at Black River," volleyball coach Cessie Wright said. "Kyle has done amazing things for this school, providing leadership and direction to our sports program."

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