

Greg Rakestraw



Greg Rakestraw's love of Indiana high school basketball began in kindergarten when his beloved Lanesville Eagles had one of their best seasons in school history, going 18-3. Even an opening-night sectional loss to end that magical season couldn't dampen Rakestraw's love for high school hoops. Neither would a 2-19 finish the following season.

Rakestraw was hooked – and has been for the past 43 years.

Rakestraw's playing days at Lanesville only lasted two seasons before he turned his athletic exploits to focusing on baseball and tennis, the latter being the sport he played collegiately at the University of Indianapolis. But Rakestraw would stay connected to basketball at LHS by serving as the mascot, the public address announcer and writing about the team for the school newspaper and yearbook.

Once Rakestraw made the move to Indianapolis in the fall of 1994, his basketball horizons expanded to quickly serve as one of the voices of U of I games on WICR radio. Before graduating from UIndy in 1998, Rakestraw began working on Johnson County high school basketball broadcasts on WPZZ Radio based in Franklin, which eventually led him to being named the program director of what would become ESPN 950 in Indianapolis in the summer of 2002.

At that point, Rakestraw began to leave a greater impact on the high school sports scene in Indianapolis as live high school play-by-play was a staple of what 950 would broadcast on a regular basis. He served as the voice of Roncalli High School football for four years, including three state championship appearances. He also called IUPUI men's basketball, home and road, for nine seasons.

Rakestraw moved to HomeTown Sports in 2009, where his focus shifted to multiple high school sports, including basketball. He served as the television play-by-play voice for the Class A and Class 2A boys' basketball State Finals in 2010, and he has been on the call of at least two basketball state championship games every year since (except 2020 when no boys' basketball title games were played because of COVID). Over the past 25 years, he has called more than 200 IHSAA state championship events, including basketball, football, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer and wrestling.

These days, Rakestraw serves as vice president of the ISC Sports Network, which produces more than 50 telecasts a year on WNDY-TV in Indianapolis. He also serves as the lead voice of the IHSAA Champions Network in terms of play-by-play and hosting numerous pairings show, is the preseason voice of Indianapolis Colts games on television and has been the voice of the Indy Eleven since the franchise was founded in 2014. In basketball alone, Rakestraw calls more than 100 games each year, ranging from high school regular-season games, high school tournament games, college games and all-star events such as the Indiana-Kentucky All-Star series.

Twice a winner of the Marv Bates Award as Sportscaster of the Year from the Indiana Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association, in 2015 and again in 2020, Rakestraw also was recognized as the National Sports Media Association's Indiana Sportscaster of the Year for 2023.

Rakestraw and his wife, Amy, have been happily married for more than 25 years. Together, they raise their daughter, Mia, and son, Jack, in the Broad Ripple area.