

IBCA Assistant Coach of the Year: Dean Scott, Barr-Reeve boys



Dean Scott has been an assistant coach in the Barr-Reeve boys' basketball program for the past 21 seasons. He has been a fixture as a player or coach in southern Indiana basketball for twice that long.

Scott started his coaching career as an assistant coach for five seasons at North Central (Farmersburg). He then served as head coach at South Knox, his alma mater, for six seasons. After two seasons out of coaching, he hooked on as a Barr-Reeve assistant in 2003-04 and has been with the Vikings ever since. Thus, Scott has been named an IBCA Assistant Coach of the Year for 2024.

"Dean has the tremendous ability to use his vast experiences coaching the game, as a veteran coach, while at the same time relate to current players on a personal level," Barr-Reeve head coach Josh Thompson said in nominating Scott. "Dean knows everyone of our players extremely well. He has coached and developed a relationship with many of their dads, uncles, older brothers, etc. When people think Barr-Reeve basketball, they think of Dean Scott and how he has been a stalwart coach for the Vikings."

Scott has been a part of many successes during his time at Barr-Reeve. Those include Class A state championships in 2015 and 2021, four other State Finals appearances (2007, 2010, 2014 and 2019) and a 25-3 record in 2023-24. Equally important, Thompson said that every player who has put on the Barr-Reeve uniform over the past 21 seasons has the utmost respect for Scott.

"Dean epitomizes servant leadership plus modeling integrity and hard work to our players," Thompson said. "While Dean is a tremendous coach, he is an even better teacher and human being. Dean is also there to support our students in a variety of ways.

"As a senior sponsor, he is busy helping with the concession stand at lower level and girls games. It is great to watch the rapport that he has with our seniors. He attends other events and volunteers to help at our cross-country invitationals. If the Vikings are competing, Dean is there to support our school and team."

Barr-Reeve athletic director Aaron Ash concurred.

"Coach Scott consistently has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the development and success of our student-athletes both on and off the court," Ash said. "His passion for the game of basketball is infectious, and it is evident in the way he inspires our players to strive for excellence, both individually and as a team.

"One of Coach Scott's greatest strengths is his ability to effectively communicate and connect with our student-athletes. He possesses a unique talent for motivating and empowering our players to reach their full potential while also instilling important values such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance."

Principal Jeff Doyle said that Scott's unwavering commitment was a big part in the success of the Barr-Reeve teams.

"His passion for the sport, coupled with his strong work ethic, has been instrumental in fostering a positive and competitive atmosphere both on and off the court," Doyle said. "Whether devising strategic game plans, refining players' skills through rigorous training sessions or providing invaluable mentorship, Mr. Scott consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the growth and well-being of our athletes."

Doyle added that Scott possesses outstanding leadership qualities that command respect and admiration from players, fellow coaches and staff members alike. His ability to communicate effectively, motivate others and foster a cohesive team dynamic has been pivotal in Barr-Reeve's achievements, Doyle said.

"Mr. Scott and the rise of Barr-Reeve from a local power to a state power go hand in hand," the principal said. "He is an outstanding teacher and an even better person. He connects with students and is able to bring out the very best in all of them."

A 1986 graduate of South Knox, Scott was an all-conference player in basketball and baseball for the Spartans. He matriculated to Oakland City University, again playing basketball and baseball for the Mighty Oaks while also earning a bachelor's degree in math and physical education in 1990. He also earned a master's degree in education from Indiana State University in 1994.

Scott began his career in education as a math teacher, assistant boys' basketball to Glen Andrew and varsity baseball coach at North Central (Farmersburg) from 1990-95. He then returned to South Knox as a teacher and coach, guiding the Spartans to three winning efforts and a 50-79 record over six seasons.

He remained at South Knox as a math teacher for 10 more years, commuting after school from Vincennes to Montgomery from 2003 to 2011. He then moved to Barr-Reeve as math teacher, where he is completing his 13th year. Scott assisted Bryan Hughes at Barr-Reeve for 15 seasons, and he just completed his sixth season working with Thompson.

Scott and his wife, Gina, have two adult children – Samantha and William. They also have one grandson, Landan.