

District 2: Matt Luce, Wapahani

Matt Luce is the IBCA District 2 Coach of the Year after guiding Wapahani to a 26-3 season that included a Class 2A state runner-up finish. Along the way, his Raiders won the Mid-Eastern Conference, Alexandria Sectional, Lapel Regional and Lafayette Jefferson Semi-State.

In 17 seasons at Wapahani, his alma mater, Luce has compiled a 309-97 record with six sectional titles (2013, 2014, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024), two regional crowns (2023, 2024), one semi-state trophy (2024) and the 2024 runner-up finish.

Overall, Luce is 359-157 in 22 seasons as a varsity coach. That includes a 6-16 mark in 2002-03 at Southwestern (Hanover), a 14-8 finish in 2003-04 at Crawfordsville, a 30-36 ledger from 2004-07 at Benton Central and his long run of success at Wapahani.

While with the Raiders, he mentored one Indiana All-Star in Grant Evans in 2014. His teams have won nine MEC titles (2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2023, 2024) and five Delaware County Tournament crowns (2012, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2023). He also coached in the 2014 North-South Indiana All-Star Classic, and he has been named head coach for the 2024 Indiana Junior All-Stars.

A 1992 graduate of Wapahani, Luce played four years of basketball and was an Indiana All-Star in baseball. He went on to Purdue University, where he played four years of baseball and earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership in 1997 plus a bachelor's in math education in 2001. He later earned a master's degree in education from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2006.

Luce – from a family of coaches that includes father Mike, brothers Joe and Kris as well as nephew Tommy – began his coaching career as an assistant at Fountain Central in 1999-2001. He then was an assistant at Crawfordsville in 2001-02 before beginning his head coaching career at Southwestern (Hanover) in 2002-03.

He currently is in his ninth year as an assistant principal and athletic director at Wapahani after teaching math at the school for eight years. He also was a math teacher for the seven previous years at his earlier coaching stops.

Luce and his wife, Marie, are parents to five children – Drew, 22, a senior at Anderson University; Lauren, 19, a freshman at Purdue; Nate, 17, a junior on the current Wapahani team; and twins Emily and Megan, both 16 and sophomores on the Wapahani girls' team.