

Rick Semmler



Rick Semmler became the sports director at WTHI-TV in August 2009. Semmler feels truly blessed to have covered sports in the Wabash Valley. He has seen some incredible games and outstanding athletes while in the area.

Some of those memorable moments include Washington winning the 2005 Class 3A state basketball championship on a half-court shot from Luke Zeller, Wayne Newton Post 346 advancing to the American Legion World Series, Shakamak winning the 2008 Class A state baseball championship, and the latest with Josh Phegley, Brady Shoemaker and Nick Ciolli – all Chicago White Sox draftees.

During basketball season, Semmler produces a segment every Friday night called “In The Paint” that highlights all the Valley’s high school games, boys and girls. He concludes the segment by recognizing the “Stars of the Night” for the top performances. In addition, he regularly features high school athletes who have overcome injury or other adversity in human-interest stories. Beyond his on-air work, he is especially adept at promoting Wabash Valley-area athletes and their accomplishments on “X” (formerly known as Twitter).

“Rick makes high school basketball a priority,” said Terre Haute North boys’ basketball coach Todd Woelfle, who also is an IBCA district representative. “He understands that it is important to many of his viewers.”

Semmler is a three-time local Emmy Award winner and a 2010 Spectrum Award winner from the Indiana Broadcasters Association. He also received the Media Award from the Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association in 2010, the Rex Kirts Media Award from the Indiana Football Coaches Association in 2015, an IHSAA Distinguished Media Award in 2016-17 and was named winner of the Marv Bates Award in 2019 by the Indiana Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association as Sportscaster of the Year.

A 1998 graduate of Brownsburg High School, Semmler played basketball and tennis. He was a member of a sectional champion in tennis as a sophomore and basketball as a junior.

He went onto Ball State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications in 2002. After college, he worked at WYMT-TV in Hazard, Ky., as a sports reporter and photographer for one year before returning to Indiana in July 2003, initially at WTWO-TV in Terre Haute for six years as a weekend sports anchor. He moved across town to WTHI-TV in 2009.

Semmler and his wife, Robin, are parents to three children – Savannah, 16; Austin, 13; and Kennedy, 10.