



Eagle Fight Never Dies

Seven Down. Many To Come Coach Drew Coffman and his journey with the Eagles

Page and Story by: Jada Boner

The Decatur Eagles Basketball program made history this season with Coach Drew Coffman leading them to the State Semi-Finals in March. However, this wasn't Coffman's first trip to the state tournament, and judging by the past seven seasons he's coached at Decatur High School, it won't be the last.

In 2002 he went to the state tournament as a junior in high school. His determination to win remains the same even today and never goes unnoticed by fellow staff members or his players.

"His drive to win is my favorite thing about him," junior Izek Chavana said.

Coffman instills a new sense of hope in his players for future seasons.

"I am very excited to see what this season holds, and I know Coach [Coffman] will get us where we need to be in order to succeed," junior Carson Tibbels said.

Coffman claims his family motivates him to win as well. His wife, Lana Coffman, is the Principal at Young Elementary and shares the same passion for helping kids grow into their best selves. He also has three daughters who support his coaching career.

"My daughters haven't known any different because I've been a coach their whole lives, but they're very supportive and are always

excited to cheer me on," Coffman said.

Season after season, Coffman continues to push his players to become the best on and off of the court.

"I expect a lot out of them and I ask them to hold themselves, and each other accountable," Coffman said.

The 2018-19 season definitely became one for the record books. The team grew closer together and bonded through the pre-season, which is what Coffman believes helped them make it to state this year.

"These guys are extremely close, they have played 98 games together," Coffman said.

Even though the team experienced an unexpected loss to Liberty Hill, Coffman hopes "to use this heartbreak and get to the pinnacle of where [they] need to be as a team."

He has big plans for the Eagles in the coming seasons. And because he says off-season remains the place where champions are made, he expects the team to work even harder in the months leading up to next season in order to make it back to the state tournament in the spring of 2020.

"I think [the upcoming seasons] will be great, and that we will learn from our experiences this season and earn another opportunity to prove ourselves."



Coach Drew Coffman reacts to a call during the Eagles State Semi-final game.
Photo By: Jada Boner



After an unexpected loss to Liberty Hill, Coach Coffman walks to the locker room. "It wasn't the outcome we had hoped for, but I think we can use this as a motivator next season." Photo By: Jada Boner