



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawrence North Basketball Coach, Jack Keefer, Announces Retirement

INDIANAPOLIS – This evening, Lawrence North High School Varsity Basketball Coach, Mr. Jack Keefer announced his upcoming retirement. Coach Keefer has served as the coach since the school opened in 1976. The 2022 calendar year marks his 46th year as the program's head coach. Prior to taking the reins at Lawrence North, Coach Keefer served as the varsity coach at his high school alma mater, Oak Hill High School, for four years, giving him a fifty-year head coaching tenure. While at Oak Hill, he was an assistant coach for six years prior to starting his head-coaching career.

With 804 wins for Lawrence North and 865 wins overall, Coach Keefer ranks second in the state for all-time career coaching victories while also boasting an unmatched winning percentage. What's more, Coach Keefer earned those 800-plus wins while competing in Marion County, arguably the most competitive county for basketball in the state. Wildcat basketball teams have achieved much success under Coach Keefer's leadership, including four State Championships. Between 2005 and 2007, Lawrence North teams set the state's all-time consecutive wins mark at 50 wins, breaking a 50-year-old record. The 2006-2007 team extended Lawrence North's sectional victories to five in a row. Arguably, no high school team in the history of basketball achieved more success than the 2005-2006 team that finished 29-0, winning Lawrence North's third consecutive State Championship – the first Indiana high school team to achieve such recognition. This team was also crowned the 2006 National Champion.

In March of 2007, Coach Keefer received the ultimate honor for those associated with Indiana basketball, induction into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Keefer has also been recognized as the National High School Coach of the Year by USA Today, Sports Illustrated, and the National High School Coaches Association.

Coach Keefer has been honored to serve as coach of the Indiana All-Star team in its annual two-game series against Kentucky and to serve as coach of the winning East team in the 2005 McDonald's All-American Game. Coach Keefer has served as coach of the McDonald's Derby Classic, the Indiana East/West All-Star game, the Indiana North/South All-Star Game, and the Jermaine O'Neal All-Star Classic. Coach Keefer has been recognized as the Marion County Coach of the Year, District Coach of the Year, and Conference Coach of the Year multiple times.

Accomplishments in his tenure include 1 National Championship, four State Championships, one State Runner-Up, five Semi-State Titles, seven Regional Titles, 19 Sectional Championships, three Hall of Fame Tournament Championships, 7 Central Suburban Athletic Conference Championships, 10 Metropolitan

Interscholastic Conference (MIC) Championships, and 10 Marion County Championships. Coach Keefer has had 17 players named to the Indiana All-Star team, including three McDonald's All-American players. He coached Greg Oden, named Indiana Mr. Basketball in 2006 and Gatorade National Player of the Year in 2005 and 2006. Coach Keefer boasts three, top ten first-round NBA draft picks (Eric Montross, Greg Oden & Mike Conley). Mike Conley has been named NBA Sportsman of the Year three times and named to the 2021 NBA All-Star team. The 2021 Wildcats were State Runner Up along with a top-notch 2020 team that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were unable to compete for a state title.

According to Superintendent, Dr. Shawn A. Smith, "Coach Jack Keefer is a legendary basketball coach, one who transcends generations. Coach Keefer has built excellence in his players, resulting in success on and off the court. He adds, "He is one of the greatest high school basketball coaches in our state and country!"
Lawrence North principal,

Lawrence North Principal, Mr. Brett Crousore, believes that, "Mr. Jack Keefer represents Lawrence Excellence and he values the students and families that we serve. His longstanding dedication to helping you people better themselves through his guidance will be a major part of his legacy."

Lawrence North High School Athletic Director, Mr. Mike Penrose shares, "Coach Keefer has had a long lasting positive impact on our school and community since the doors opened in 1976. He understands the importance of education-based athletics for young people. He and his teams have volunteered at many community service events over the years. Moreover, for someone who has had his kind of success, he has been extremely humble. He showed me what it meant to be part of the "Wildcat Family" when I started my career at Lawrence North 28 years ago, and I will be forever grateful to have worked with such a wonderful coach, teacher, and mentor."

An Indiana native, Coach Keefer graduated from Oak Hill High School in 1961. He then went to Ball State University where he competed in Freshman Basketball and was a four-year Track & Field athlete, studying both Education and Accounting. He later earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Indiana University. Coach Keefer has two grown children, Joel and Jake. He and his wife of 38 years, Jan, are looking forward to traveling, spending more time at their Brown County property, and enjoying warmer winters.

A presentation recognizing Coach Keefer's commitment to both Lawrence North High School and the MSD of Lawrence Township will take place in the Jack Keefer Gymnasium at Lawrence North High School on Friday, April 15 at 8 AM. Media should enter through Door 7. Speaking will be Lawrence North Principal, Mr. Brett Crousore, Athletic Director, Mr. Mike Penrose, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Shawn A. Smith, Board of Education President, Mr. Reginald McGregor, and of course, Coach Keefer. Interviews will be available immediately following.

About the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township:

The ninth largest and fastest growing school district in the state, the MSD of Lawrence Township serves approximately 16,000 students across four Early Learning Centers, eleven Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, two High Schools, a Center for Innovation and Technology, and an alternative setting high school. Lawrence Township strives to be the district of destination, a reputation built over the years based on the district's award-winning staff, accomplished administrators, high-achieving students, supportive community, and innovative educational programs. Visit our website at www.LTschools.org.