



FENWICK
HIGH SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAUNTON PECK, FENWICK BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, STEPS DOWN

Search commences for the Friars' next hoops program leader.



April 13, 2021, OAK PARK, IL – After three seasons at the helm and five as a varsity assistant, Staunton Peck (left) is stepping down as Fenwick High School's head boys' varsity basketball coach for personal reasons. "I have given all my energy and heart to the Fenwick basketball program over the past eight years," Peck said. "After speaking with my family, we feel this is the best time for me to make a change.

"This does not change how much I care about each of my players," the emotional coach continued, "and I will forever be thankful for the many relationships with athletes and coaches that I have formed as both assistant and head coach at Fenwick."

Peck went on to thank Athletic Director Scott Thies, former Friars' head coach Rick Malnati (for whom he played at New Trier) and Fenwick "for giving me the opportunity to coach basketball at Fenwick. My passion has always been to help boys become men through basketball at a strong academic institution," he said.

"I feel Fenwick High School's academic and faith-based infrastructure has been the perfect place to fulfill my passion. Fenwick is a special place, and I will continue to advocate for the school and basketball program."

AD/alumnus Thies '99 added: "I want to thank Coach Staunton Peck for all he has done for the basketball program at Fenwick. We have experienced great success during his time as an assistant varsity coach and the last three years as the head coach at Fenwick. Our student-athletes have benefited greatly from his leadership, coaching and passion for basketball." The school is beginning its search to find Peck's replacement, he noted. Peck will remain at Fenwick in his role as an assistant athletic director.

"We will collectively always share some great memories and moments during Coach Peck's tenure with the Fenwick basketball program," Thies concluded, including these highlights:

Accomplishments (8-year Malnati/Peck era):

- 4 Chicago Catholic League (CCL) Championships in 2021, 2018, 2017 and 2016
- 5 CCL Lawless Players of the Year - Bryce Hopkins (2021, 2020), DJ Steward (2018), Jamal Nixon (2017), Mike Smith (2016)

- 40 straight CCL wins (from end of 2014-15 season to beginning of 2018-19 season)
- All-time winningest player in Fenwick history - Jamal Nixon '17 (102-25)
- Three of the top four winningest seasons – 30-5 (2017), 28-3 (2016), 27-7 (2020)
- State Runner-up Finish (2017) – Best finish in school history
- Individual Single-season Scoring Record – Bryce Hopkins (817 pts. in 2019-20)
- Six All-State players (Mike Smith, Jamal Nixon, Jacob Keller, DJ Steward, Trey Pettigrew, Bryce Hopkins (twice))
- Two CCL Tournament Championships (2016, 2017)
- Four-time Sectional Finalists (2014, 2016, 2017, 2020)
- One of three Chicago area schools to be sponsored by Jordan Brand for the past 8 years
- 6-1 record vs OPRF
- Created the Annual John Malone Thanksgiving Tournament hosted at Fenwick

Celebrating 92 Years

Fenwick High School, founded in 1929, is a Dominican college preparatory secondary institution with a co-educational enrollment of approximately 1,100 students. Guided by Dominican Catholic values, its mission is to inspire excellence and educate each student to lead, achieve and serve. Today, Fenwick has a Golden Apple teacher on its faculty and an alumni list that includes a Skylab astronaut, Rhodes Scholars, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Heisman Trophy recipient and other leaders making a positive impact locally and internationally. Fenwick is celebrating its 92nd academic year in 2020-21. www.fenwickfriars.com

Additional photos are available upon request.

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