

Cahill coming home to take helm for Ross boys basketball

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(Photo: File)
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Fremont Ross couldn't say no to John Cahill.

Cahill graduated from Ross in 1987 and was inducted into the Little Giants' athletic hall of fame.

He won 315 games in 18 seasons as Clyde's varsity girls basketball coach until 2015.

He was announced Monday as Ross' varsity boys basketball coach. He follows Mark Gedeon after a 23-year tenure.

"He's an enthusiastic leader who has strong ties to the Fremont community," Fremont Ross athletic director Chad Berndt said. "He has a tremendous basketball pedigree and is capable of developing a program this community could be proud of.

“John has an incredible work ethic and his passion for the game is contagious. We are excited by the prospect of having Coach Cahill return to his alma mater to lead the Ross basketball program.”

Cahill moved to Fremont in the fourth grade.

“I grew up in that gym,” he said of Ross. “I watched games from the time I was little there. I watched Tony Gant. I probably didn’t miss two home games until I started playing there.

“I played with Greg Bender. He’s still the all-time leading scorer. It’s exciting to go back after all these years. I’m excited for the opportunity.”

Cahill was a varsity starter for three years (Freshmen weren’t eligible). He continued his football career after Ross at Toledo.

The Little Giants tied for second-place in the Buckeye Conference his sophomore year. They lost to Mansfield Senior in overtime in districts.

“I got to play with so many great players,” he said. “We beat Lima Senior in the sectional final my senior year. That was a big win. That wasn’t the most talented team I played on.”



John Cahill won 315 games coaching Clyde's girls varsity basketball team. (Photo: File)

Cahill ready for new Giants experience

Ross won nine games last season. Jabryis Heidelberg, Bryce Root, Bryce McKinstry, Hayden Lehmann and Ethan Chumley were juniors on the team and Ben Gedeon is a sophomore.

“I’m following the greatest coach in Ross boys basketball history,” Cahill said. “I’m humbled to replace Mark. I need to get to know the kids and they need to get to know me. We’ll get to know each other.

“I’m big on relationship-building. They need to learn my expectations. It’s late May and we’re figuring out the summer. It will be a challenge and I’m looking forward to it tremendously.”

Playing in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference is another hurdle Cahill plans to navigate.

“It’s a great conference,” he said. “I grew up in the Buckeye Conference, which was also a great conference. We can’t look at ourselves as a victim of the TRAC. We’re Division I. Fremont’s been known for decades to produce special athletes.

“Olympians. Heisman Trophy winners. It’s a special place that makes champions. For a town its size, it’s done incredible things. We’ll compete. Being a Little Giant means something.”



Former Clyde varsity girls basketball coach John Cahill is Ross' new varsity boys coach. *(Photo: File)*

Cahill’s return to coaching no surprise

Clyde's girls won six Sandusky Bay Conference championships and qualified to state twice in three trips to regionals. He was Associated Press Division II Coach of the Year in 2012.

"When I got done coaching at Clyde, it was the end of Amanda (Cahill's) freshman year (at Indiana)," Cahill said. "I didn't intend to be done, but I was missing so much. I resented missing family things.

"Timing-wise, it worked out well. I'm not interested in coaching in Columbus or Cleveland. This is home. This is my area. The job opened. Amanda is done."

Cahill founded the Northcoast Showtime AAU basketball program between varsity jobs and helped coach the teams his other kids played on when he could.

"I drove to a lot of Big Ten games," he said. "I'd get there at tip off and get home at 3 (a.m.) and then get to school. You can't get it back. You want to see your kids."

Cahill, 49, learned from coach Ralph Hohenstein before taking the varsity job at Clyde.

"We had good leadership and it trickled down from the older kids," he said. "The teams were selfless and played the right way. We built a culture of accountability and results spoke for themselves.

"Winning isn't easy. I learned a lot. Clyde-Green Springs has been so good to my family and I'd like to think the Cahills were good for Clyde-Green Springs. I'm going home. It's been a whirlwind working it out. I'm ready to get back to work."

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