

SHS Volleyball Coach D.J. Zipp Brings Wealth of Experience to Local Team

Written by Administrator

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Volleyball is in the blood of Scottsburg High School's new head volleyball coach, D.J. Zipp.

"I grew up in the volleyball gym around my mom's practices and grew up around the game," Zipp said.

Zipp's mother, Dottie, is an Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association Volleyball Coaching Hall of Fame member and has the gym floor at Providence High School in Clarksville, Ind., named after her. In addition to her 21 years coaching at Providence, Dottie Zipp started coaching the sixth-grade girls volleyball team this year at Scottsburg Middle School.

"It's nice to have someone to lean on that has been in your shoes," D.J. Zipp said about how his mother has influenced his coaching and his game. "As a coach, you face many situations on and off the court that are hard to prepare for, so it's nice to have that advice of a Hall of Famer. But, she will be the first one to tell you that she has learned stuff from me as well." Not only does Zipp have the experience of growing up with an ICGSA Hall of Fame coach in his household, he also has the experience of playing volleyball competitively firsthand. He has been playing in open tournaments throughout the United States and in the Louisville adult volleyball community for nearly two decades.

"Louisville has a great adult volleyball community, and it was a natural fit for me to join," said Zipp, who is an outside hitter known for his heavy arm and solid serve receive. "I now run most of the big tournaments in the area."

Because of his understanding of all aspects of the game from observer, player and coach, Zipp is able to better coach his players than others without these experiences.

"I bring a different style to coaching than a lot," Zipp said. "I use my playing experience to translate what it takes to win at a high level. It is not all about being on the court with me. We do a lot of mental preparation and work on building instincts to make good decisions and stay focused."

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For Zipp, this method has worked — he won two sectionals, four conference titles and three coach of the year awards while coaching at other schools in the region. Currently, he is 23 wins away from a 200 career record.

“The goals for the season are simple: learn and compete. We will break down the game and mold ourselves into a team that pays attention to detail,” Zipp said. “If we work hard and smart, we will compete with the blue bloods of the conference and sectional.”

Zipp and the SHS Warriorette volleyball team will play its next home game at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. For a complete schedule, visit the SHS Athletics website at www.scsd2.k12.in.us/shs.