

You may remember her as a Lady Pirate where she made history being the first girls basketball player to make the Indiana All-Star team. Or you may remember her as a leader on the University of Louisville Lady Cardinals basketball team. Or you may remember playing against her. However you remember her, Kristin (Mattox) Cox is ready to lead a new team.

Cox, a 1992 graduate of Charlestown High School, was recently hired as the Director of Youth and Family Sports for the City of Charlestown. The newly created position will allow Cox to take her passion for sports and help to create a program for the youth of Charlestown.

Cox has the background and knowledge needed to start the program from scratch that will allow the youth to be actively involved, grow friendships, grow character and be able to learn about being on a team and good sportsmanship.

During her career at Charlestown she earned runner-up honors for Miss Basketball in 1992. While playing for the Indiana All-Star team she was awarded the John Wooden Award. The annual award honors a male and female All Star for their commitment to academics, community service and mental attitude. Cox continued her record-breaking career at the University of Louisville.

While earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sport Administration and a Masters in Higher Education, Cox started all four years for the Lady Cards. She earned Metro Conference All Freshman team and Conference USA All Conference team. As a senior, Cox earned the NCAA Statistical Champion Award for Highest Free Throw Percentage in the country at 92.1 percent for a season. She is still ranked in the Top 10 among University of Louisville's Women's Basketball records for total career points, total 3-point field goals for a season and career and free throw percentage.

Cox was inducted into the University of Louisville Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

Cox will now combine her experience as a player and coach to bring a successful youth sports program to Charlestown.

"We are developing sports leagues and wanting to build on ones that already exist," Cox stated. "We have a Sports Council consisting of high school coaches, business owners and a college professor. The Council will help create leagues and come up with an approximate time table and strategy."

The development of the youth sports program is just in the beginning stages but the excitement is apparent.

"I am working on the development of handbooks for each sport. The handbooks will be a guide to bring kids fundamentally along in each sport. From the handbooks, we will roll out leagues. We hope to generate a lot of interest, a little bit of pride and a way for the kids to connect to the community," Cox added.

She continued, "This will be an avenue to grow socially, make friends, grow good character traits and learn to be good citizens and hopefully experience athletic success and grow into adults that will come back later on as a successful adult."

When asked what type of youth sports programs will be offered, Cox stated, "We will have basketball, we are hoping for soccer, volleyball. Really, there will be no sport off the table. If it's a high school sport and we create interest in it, then it's possible."

Currently Cox and the nearly 30 members of the Sports Council are focusing on research, planning and discussion.

Through the development of the youth sports program, Cox is looking to offer programs for adults and seniors.

"Over time we want to do things for adults and seniors," Cox explained.

The home for the sports program is still being decided as the Charlestown Civic Center is being assessed.

The Civic Center will be closed beginning June 1. Assessment teams will go into the building located at 150 Steve Hamilton Drive and determine what needs to be done.

"We will have to see what happens. Once they begin to assess the building, they will come back to the city and let us know what is found. Then decisions will be made as to what the best plan of action will be for the city," Cox stated.

Cox arrived to the City of Charlestown from the University of Louisville where she worked the past eight years as a counselor for Health and Sport Science majors and led the College of Education's NCAA certification of student-athletes.

Cox is looking forward to building a program the city can be proud of and something the kids will learn from while establishing traits to help them become successful adults.