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Sikeston Basketball Coach Gregg Holifield Earns 500th Win

JANUARY 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sikeston Basketball Coach Gregg Holifield Earns 500th Win

Sikeston, Missouri - Gregg Holifield knows how to bring out the best in his athletes according to Sikeston fans. He has worked tirelessly to prepare his athletes for their basketball futures.

Since 1991, he has been at the helm of four different basketball programs. Before signing with Sikeston, he coached at Senath-Hornersville, Kennett, and Greene County Tech in Arkansas. Twenty-one years ago in 1998, he walked into the Field House of Sikeston High School as the new head boys basketball coach and he has taken the Bulldog Nation on a very wild ride. He has built an amazing basketball powerhouse in southeast Missouri.

For several years he has given the Bleacher Bums, Red Peppers, and Bulldog fans exciting and fun seasons on the court. His basketball program has gained him statewide respect for its consistency, sportsmanship, and always doing things the right way.

Under the direction of Coach Holifield, the Sikeston Bulldogs have won 22 regular season tournament championships and 8 regular season SEMO Conference championships. They have compiled 11 District titles, 9 State quarterfinal appearances and 5 Final Four appearances.

In 2011, they completed a perfect 30-0 season as the team took down St. Francis Borgia and were crowned State Champions.

The 2011 State Championship Sikeston Bulldogs team were inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Under Coach Holified, 26 players have moved on to play basketball at the collegiate level, ranging from junior college to Division 1 basketball.

Over the years, four players were named SEMO Conference Player of the Year. Thirteen players have been named to the Missouri All-State Teams and two players were named the Missouri State Player of the Year in Class 4.

In 2014, in Springfield, Missouri, Coach was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Just a few days ago against the Kennett Indians coach earned his 400th victory as a Sikeston Bulldog. Tonight against the Dexter Bearcats he earned his 500th career win.

He has maintained an amazing consistency and continuity within his staff. His coaching staff presented him a celebratory game ball after the win on Tuesday evening.

Brian James has been his assistant coach for 21 years.

Derek James has been a news writer, statistician and now assistant coach for 21 years.

Chris Sarakas has been assistant coach for 20 years and his son Will who played for him and is now beside him as a coach were all on hand to give the game ball.

Only six other boys basketball coaches have ever won 500 games in our area: Carroll Cookson (Advance, Twin Rivers), Ronnie Cookson (Scott County Central), Lennies McFerren (Charleston, NMCC, Kennett), Paul Hale (Delta, Bernie, Dexter, Notre Dame), Jim Hall (Dexter, Advance) and Jim Bidewell (Portageville).

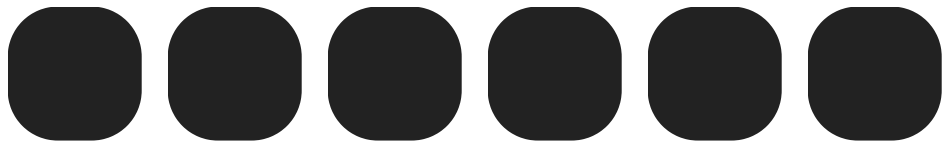
Tuesday night's win improved Sikeston to 17-0 on the season and 4-0 in the SEMO Conference. They are currently ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 4.

Congratulations Coach Holifield on your 500th career win. Bulldogs fans will be there to watch you bring home another state championship!

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Poplar Bluff Holds Off Dexter on Wrestling Senior Night

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Poplar Bluff Holds Off Dexter on Wrestling Senior Night

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Poplar Bluff Mules held their senior night on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 hosting the Dexter Bearcats wrestling team. The Mules defeated the Cats 42-33 in varsity action.

Dexter's Travis Waldner (138), Wyatt Chastain (152) and Jett Featherston (195) all earned pins while Mason Keana (145) injured his side in the second period against Kade Richardson and was unable to continue.

Poplar Bluff (POPLARBL) 42.0 Dexter (DEXTER) 33.0

106: Gatlin Taylor (POPLARBL) over Brett Frizzell (DEXTER) (Fall 0:37)

113: CJ Greene (DEXTER) over (POPLARBL) (For.)

120: Bryston Pemberton (DEXTER) over (POPLARBL) (For.)

- 126: Quinten Bell (POPLARBL) over Dawson Jones (DEXTER) (Dec 5-4)
- 132: Jake Lawrinenko (POPLARBL) over Wyatt Parker (DEXTER) (Dec 6-0)
- 138: Travis Waldner (DEXTER) over Garrett McClure (POPLARBL) (Fall 1:53)
- 145: Kade Richardson (POPLARBL) over Mason Keena (DEXTER) (Inj. [time])
- 152: Wyatt Chastain (DEXTER) over Colton Jackson (POPLARBL) (Fall 1:41)
- 160: Justin Mitchell (POPLARBL) over Alex Townsend (DEXTER) (Fall 1:32)
- 170: John Smothers (POPLARBL) over Parker VanSlyke (DEXTER) (Fall 1:33)
- 182: Wyatt Lazalier (POPLARBL) over Austin Stieferman (DEXTER) (Fall 0:18)
- 195: Jett Featherston (DEXTER) over Desmond Howell (POPLARBL) (Fall 3:28)
- 220: Colten Gibson (DEXTER) over Gavyn Hays (POPLARBL) (Dec 8-5)
- 285: Kendrick Gordon (POPLARBL) over (DEXTER) (For.)

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2019 SCAA All Tournament Cheer Team Named

JANUARY 29TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

2019 SCAA All Tournament Cheer Team Named

Bloomfield, Missouri - The 2019 Stoddard County Athletic Association (SCAA) All Tournament Cheer Team was named on Friday, January 25, 2019.

Ten cheerleaders were chosen to represent the All Tournament Team.

Advance - Alyssa Miles

Bernie - Makayla Turner, Cymber Arnold, and Madison Wooldridge

Bloomfield - Molly Below

Dexter - Blair Rogers, Hallie Keathley, and Rae-Ann Riddle

Puxico - Bailey Burns and Kylie Miller

The Dexter Cheer Squad won the All-Tournament Cheer Team for the sixth year in a row.

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2019 SCAA All Tournament Basketball Team

JANUARY 29TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

2019 SCAA All Tournament Basketball Team

Bloomfield, Missouri - The 2019 Stoddard County Athletic Association (SCAA) All Tournament Team was named on Friday, January 25, 2019.

Ten athletes were chosen from Advance, Bernie, Bloomfield, Dexter, Puxico, Richland and Woodland boys basketball teams.

Representing Advance was Jack Below.

Bernie athletes were Weston Zoll, Hunter Slavings, and Josh Ellenburg.

From Bloomfield, Travis McCullough was named.

Dexter had only two representing all-tournament members. They were Seth Rogers and Andrew Ellinghouse.

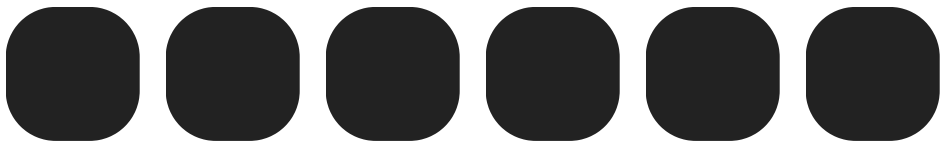
Puxico's Braiden Jones, Richland's Daniel Petty, and Woodland's Paul Duncan were also named as all-tournament athletes.

Dexter defeated Bernie in the Championship game.

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Trout Harvest Begins February 1, 2019

JANUARY 25TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Trout Harvest Begins February 1, 2019

Trout harvest begins Feb. 1

Trout lakes in Jackson, Farmington and Perryville are stocked and ready.

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) says trout may be harvested from Rotary Lake in Jackson, Giessing Lake in Farmington and Legion Lake in Perryville beginning Feb. 1.

According to MDC Fisheries Management Biologist Mike Reed, fishing has been very good this winter due to relatively warm temperatures. Anglers have reported success at all three lakes using a variety of artificial lures and flies.

“If the lakes don’t freeze we should have an excellent opener to the trout harvest season at all three lakes,” Reed said.

Reed said MDC stocked trout in November at the start of the catch-and-release season.

“These fish provide a tremendous amount of fishing opportunity through the fall and winter months when warm water fishing is at a lull,” Reed said, adding that in addition to catchable-size fish, a few “lunker” trout were also stocked at each lake.

Reed reminds anglers they must release trout caught now through Jan. 31.

Starting Feb. 1, any bait may be used and four trout may be kept regardless of size. All anglers between the ages of 16 and 64 must have a valid Missouri fishing permit and any angler harvesting trout must possess a trout permit as well.

“An amazing number of trout can typically be caught the first week of trout harvest season,” Reed said.

Many anglers frequently catch limits of trout using light weight or ultra-light fishing tackle or fly tackle. Reed recommends anglers use 2-4 lb. test line, small hooks and little or no added weight to their line. Popular baits include almost any type of small spinner, small crank baits, natural baits such as worms and cheese, and commercially produced dough baits.

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