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Sikeston Basketball Coach Gregg Holifield Earns 500th Win

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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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