

New basketball coach selected to lead the Blue Streaks

Ryan Starnes has been hired to lead the Woodstock High School boys' basketball program following his run as a longtime assistant at Huntley High School.

"We are excited to welcome Ryan to Woodstock High School," WHS Principal Art Vallicelli said. "Ryan has worked under two great coaches and comes highly recommended as someone who makes amazing connections with kids and brings a great basketball pedigree to the Blue Streaks program."



Coach Ryan Starnes

Starnes, who teaches social studies at Marlowe Middle School, said he's excited about the opportunity to lead the varsity Blue Streaks for the 2022-23 season and into the future. The Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education approved the hire at its Tuesday (April 12) meeting.

"I felt like this was a good opportunity to help with a program in a great community with a lot of good kids," Starnes said.

Starnes began his coaching career at Marlowe and also spent a year at Marengo High School where he once played before coaching different Red Raiders levels for the past 13 seasons for coaches Marty Manning and Will Benson. Starnes has spent the last four as a varsity assistant under Benson.

Starnes said he considers Benson a close friend and mentor but said he is ready to take the next step toward leading his own program. He's looking forward to meeting the players before team workouts begin this summer.

Starnes said Benson gave him many responsibilities including game prep work, scouting reports and drawing up plays during games that have prepared him well for the new role.

"He's been a huge factor in helping me get ready," Starnes said. "As a coach, I'm a positive guy — constantly encouraging. I just believe that hard work pays off. There's no magic pill in basketball; it just takes work and commitment."