

The Architect of Excellence

Honoring the Career and Legacy of Coach Adam Priefer

Elks Nation Sports Desk | Centerville High School



Coach Adam Priefer on the sideline • Centerville vs. Fairmont

420 Career Victories

Win No. 400 • December 18, 2024 • vs. Wayne • 59-48

There are coaches who win games, and then there are coaches who redefine what a program stands for. Adam Priefer spent more than two decades at Centerville High School doing both. As he steps down from the sideline after a career that belongs in any conversation about Ohio's finest, Elks Nation pauses to honor a man who gave this program something far more lasting than a trophy case — he gave it a standard.

A CAREER WRITTEN IN THE RECORD BOOKS

Coach Priefer closes his coaching chapter with 420 career victories, a number built season by season through relentless preparation, high expectations, and an unshakeable belief in his players. The Lady Elks became a perennial postseason presence under his watch, and on December 18, 2024, the program reached a milestone that few coaches at any level ever touch — a 59-48 win at Wayne that was simultaneously a conference victory and his historic 400th career win. It was, in every sense, a Priefer-coached game: disciplined, physical, and earned.

“Coach Priefer never gets the credit he deserves. He’s built a program that consistently competes at the highest level... I’ve never been around a coach who gets more out of his talent than Coach Priefer. I have the utmost respect for him, his players, and his program.”

— Rob Dement, Retired Centerville Athletic Director

DEVELOPING ELITE TALENT

The wins tell part of the story. The players tell the rest. Cotie McMahon eclipsed 1,000 points as a junior under Priefer's guidance, delivered a GWOC title to Centerville, and went on to earn Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors at Ohio State before being selected 11th overall by the Washington Mystics in the WNBA Draft. Amy Velasco carried her Centerville training to Bowling Green State University, where she became one of only two players in Falcon history to surpass 1,500 career points and 400 career assists. Caroline McDowell, a 2025 graduate, is now competing as a freshman at Tusculum University — one more young woman whose path to college basketball ran directly through Coach Priefer's gym.

These are the headliners. Behind them stands a longer line of players — college competitors, academic All-Ohioans, and young women shaped by what Priefer demanded of them — that stretches across every class he coached.

A LEGACY BEYOND THE BASELINE

Basketball was never the full measure of Adam Priefer's contribution to this school. As Centerville's Career Pathways Coordinator, he brought the same intentionality he applied to game preparation into the work of guiding students toward their futures — a role he continues today. He served as an OHSBCA District Director, directed state All-Star events, and poured into the coaching profession with the same generosity he showed his players. He steps away from coaching, but he is not stepping away from Centerville.

“Adam Priefer is one of the most respected people in this entire district — not just in our athletics department. His integrity, wisdom, and genuine character speak for themselves. What makes him truly remarkable is his ability to bring the very best out of a team, year after year. His players were defined by relentless effort, toughness, and a composure under pressure that coaches spend careers trying to build. That doesn't happen by accident — it is a direct reflection of who he is. Centerville isn't losing Adam Priefer. He remains a valued part of our school community, and his continued presence is something our entire department is grateful for.”

— Brandon Hon, Director of Athletics, Centerville High School

THANK YOU, COACH

The gym will feel different this winter — the steady presence on the bench, the composed look that told his players everything was under control even when it wasn't, the quiet word between possessions that meant more than a timeout speech ever could. Those things will be missed. But the culture Coach Priefer built does not leave with him. It is woven into this program, into its players past and present, and into every young woman who will walk through that gym long after his last game.

He leaves it better than he found it. That is the only legacy that matters.

“Thank you for all the time you put into the Centerville Girls Basketball program — it didn't go unnoticed. I'm so grateful that you pushed me and encouraged me to play college basketball. You helped me make the best decision of my life.”

— Caroline McDowell, Centerville Girls Basketball Alumna | Guard, Tusculum University

