

BILL GRIFFIN

BILL GRIFFIN CAME TO DORA JR. HIGH SCHOOL IN JANUARY 1976 AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE

University of Alabama in December 1975. He was hired as a science teacher and basketball coach to finish out that semester but that one semester hire turned into a successful 44½ year coaching career.

Griffin coached 4½ years at Dora Jr. High School before moving up to Dora High School in 1980. He coached B-Team basketball for 2 seasons before taking over the varsity job in 1982. During this time he also served as an assistant football coach.

In 14 years as the head basketball coach, his teams won 253 games, 4 area championships and 5 county championships. He took Dora to the State Tournament in 1990 and 1991 when the tournament was held in Tuscaloosa, AL. His 1995 team advanced to the Final Four at the State Tournament held at the BJCC in Birmingham, AL. Coach Griffin was named Walker County Coach of the Year 5 times.

While at Dora, Coach Griffin served as the defensive coordinator for 10 years. The 1985 Dora football team advanced to the state finals and the 1988 team advanced to the state semifinals. He also coached the 1989 Dora baseball team winning the area championship with a 20-5 record. During his tenure at Dora High School, he also coached boys' golf and girls' softball winning a county championship in 1982 in softball.

Coach Griffin left Dora High School in 1996 and became the head basketball coach at Gardendale High School. He coached there for 12 years. While at Gardendale, his teams went 258-119, highlighted by a 31-3 Final Four appearance in the State Tournament in 1999. Griffin was named State Coach of the Year by the Birmingham Tip Off Club that year and was selected to coach the North/South All-Star game in Montgomery, AL. His Gardendale teams appeared in two regional finals in 2000 and 2003 and also won 4 Area championships and 2 Jefferson County Tournament championships in 1999 and 2004. Coach Griffin was named Jefferson County Coach of the year in 1999 and 2004. While at Gardendale, he also coached football and boys' golf. He was named Jefferson County Boys' Golf Coach of the Year in 2006. He retired in 2008 but continued to volunteer as an assistant coach for girls' basketball for 3 more years. In 2015, he was inducted into the Gardendale High School Athletic Hall of Fame as the school's all time winningest basketball coach.

In 2011, Griffin decided to come out of retirement when he was offered the head basketball job at Sumiton Christian High School. He coached there for 9 seasons. His teams at Sumiton Christian won 152 games and advanced to the regional tournament in 2014 for the first time in school history and again in 2019. He was named Daily Mountain Eagle Coach of the Year in 2019.

In 35 years as a varsity basketball coach, his overall record is 663-362. This currently ranks him as the 17th all time winningest basketball coach in the State of Alabama according to the ahsfhs.org website.

An avid golfer, Bill won the Horse Creek Club Championship three times and has made 10 holes in one. In 2002, he won the 7th Annual State Net Golf Tournament. He also won the Woodward Country Club Championship and Senior Club Championship in 2004. Bill also enjoyed playing men's slow pitch softball locally for the Green Top team and also in the Birmingham Metro League for 20 years. He played in many softball state and national tournaments and was selected for the All American Team in 1989 at the 35 and over Nationals.

While his sons were growing up, Bill coached many youth baseball teams, and also ran the Sumiton Youth Basketball League.

Looking back on his career, Coach Griffin is most proud of his coaching tree. At least ten of his former players have gone on to coach at the high school or middle school level. He also takes pride in the fact that many former players have gone on to play college level basketball.

