

Coach Levi Walden

Coach Levi Walden is strong, hard-working, and passionate about what he does and more importantly, a leader of youth. Coach Levi has coached at every level — AAU, JV, and high school — and is a true back-to-back champion across the levels he's coached. He attended Teasley elementary school and started playing basketball in 4th grade with Coach Foster on the 6th grade team and throughout middle school in the Campbell program. Coach Levi also competed in golf and track growing up. Coach Levi played 4 years of high school basketball, left Campbell and went to Grimsley High School as a shooting guard.

From there, he played college basketball at Miles College, for a year as a combination guard. He began coaching immediately after college, spending about 2 years coaching both boys' and girls' teams. After leaving Miles college, he has head coached at every level, including Smyrna basketball, sponsored AAU and most recently assisted with Campbell's, JV, and high school. Currently is also the personal trainer for more than 25 elementary, middle, high school and college kids.

Coaching Philosophy

“Hard-nosed defense — we get it out of the mud. When my team walks into the gym, it’s going to be an off day and an off night.” Coach Walden values competitors and hard workers. “Talent isn’t the top priority. You don’t have to be that great because I can develop you. Above all else, I just want dogs, killers.... guys who'll dive on the ground for any loose basketball.” He believes in leading players where they are and building them up, rather than only recruiting the most gifted athletes.

Career Highlights

“Every level that I have coached at I’ve won. I am a true Nike EYBL Champion. Many of my girls are starting to get offers from the likes of Alabama A&M, and Georgia Southern, to name a few in the class of 2030. We had 3 All CCJBC tournament kids win MVP and 6th grade championship awards, one of which barely played as a 5th grader.

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Coaching Influences

Greg Foster, Thomas McConnell, Eric Spolettra, John Calipari, Dawn Staley, and Greg Popovich. Following and listening to all these leaders have helped Coach Levi shape his coaching style and acumen. “Coach Calipari doesn’t always win, but his guards always advance to the next level developed, and game ready. South Carolina’s Dawn Staley is a true player’s coach, and I see myself as the same thing.” Coach Walden points to the lasting respect and love she gets from former players as something he strives for in his own program. “You can see that she is well liked by the people that are around her.”

Goals

“Regardless of level, my short- and long-term goals are to have some type of positive impact on every player and continue to teach the game. I want to continue to win championships while developing every player and teaching the game the right way. If I am consistent, I will be able to advance to a high school head Coaching leader, advance to the collegiate level with an ultimate first priority goal of coaching in the WNBA or at a high-major college program.”

Message to Parents

“You're getting the best coach in the CCJBC. I am a responsible, trustworthy coach that puts your kids first, and is committed to their development both on and off the court. I am a no-nonsense coach.”

Favorite Quote

“Rain sleet or snow, the work is going to show...made for more.”