

# Head Coach Scott Briggs:

Jaguars' games are family reunions and show the team's preparation

By Bruce Smith

The West Jordan High School gymnasium feels like home to coach Scott Briggs.

He has been the head varsity basketball coach here for 12 seasons. Prior to that, he was an assistant for five years and he grew up in the area and played here.

If you add it up, that's almost 200 games. If you add the practices, pick-up contests and all the other action that doesn't count, it is his second home.

And, with the help of his Jaguar teams, Briggs also entertains.

"If you come to a game here, it's like a Briggs family reunion," he said.

Indeed. The Briggs name has played an important part of West Jordan basketball history. They all played here and, now, two of his brothers work at each home game, and another is a frequent fan. His parents are always in the stands and, when you combine them with their friends and families, it's no wonder the Jags seem to have a lot of support.

"It has been this way for so long, I usually don't notice," Briggs said.

"There was that one time, though, when a little ball got thrown out on the court and it belonged to one of my kids."

That's just one of many good memories. West Jordan's basketball program has a lot of support from fans, and especially the students. For Briggs, it's especially exciting to see it at his alma mater.

Briggs graduated from West Jordan in 1989. He played under coach Dan Cowan (now West

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Scott Briggs is in his 13<sup>th</sup> season at West Jordan and has won two state championships (2000-01 and 2008-09).

## Scott Briggs



**Family:** Wife – Lee. Children – Sadie 11, Ashlee 8, Jackson 6

**Favorite school subject:** P.E.

**Hobbies:** Boating, movies

**My best non-athletic talent:** Lawn care

**Music I like:** 80's Music

**Person I admire:** Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski

**Favorite movies:** *Hoosiers*, *Old School*

**Who would you like to meet someday:** Former NBA star Julius Erving, Coach K

**Best book I have ever read:** *Beyond Basketball*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

**Nobody would believe I watch:** Wizards of Waverly Place

**One thing I wish I were better at:** Mario Kart, Rainbow Road

**My favorite food is:** pizza and steak

**Highlight of last summer:** Trip to Tennessee

**My future goals include:** Being the best husband, dad and coach I can be.



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Jordan’s athletic director) and then Grant Price. He said he had a great experience, and it played a big role in who he is today, even if he wasn’t a standout.

“I started here for two years, but was nothing special,” Briggs recalled. “These kids (now) are better than I was.”

He enrolled at Dixie State and the University of Utah before deciding he wanted to be a teacher/coach. After making that decision, he created an important purpose.

While the 41 year-old coach hasn’t changed much from his 1989 yearbook picture, his accomplishments have. Briggs has found his niche, guiding West Jordan into a proud basketball program that has won two 5A state basketball championships and narrowly missed two others.

Briggs downplayed that accomplishment, giving a lot of the credit to his current and former assistants, like Andrew Blanchard (now at Brighton), Steven Tidwell (Taylorsville) and his longtime allies – Kevin Damron and Kasey Walkenhurst.

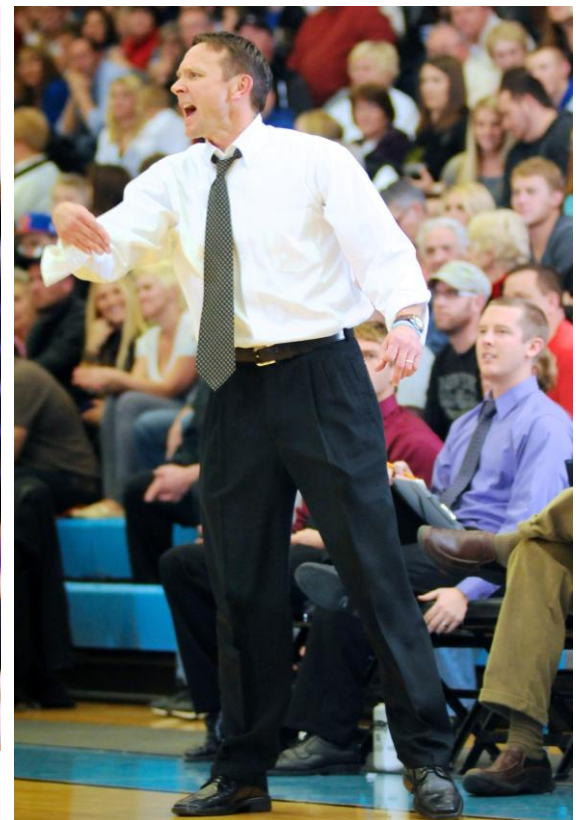
They all believe in how they teach their players, regardless of the talent level that arrives each season.

“Basketball is a thinking-person’s game,” he said. “Our guys don’t spend a lot of time watching film. We just try to focus on what each of us needs to do to get better at the end.”

In fact, that’s one commonality to each West Jordan team. They are focused and rarely beat themselves, even during a game’s frantic final seconds.

“I have confidence in my team,” he explained. “I want to know that we are always more prepared for our games than our opponent.”

That fact might be what West Jordan fans find so entertaining.



**TOP LEFT:** Coach **Scott Briggs** gives instructions to **Jaden Jackson** and **Jordan Pryor**.

**TOP RIGHT:** Coach Briggs is always well-dressed for each game.

**LOWER RIGHT:** Briggs with longtime assistant **Kevin Damron**.

