

## Coach Jesse Huff

Coach Jesse Huff started his head coaching career at South Hopkins High School from 1989 to 1994. During that time Coach Huff won 120 games. Coach Huff started the fast pitch program at South Hopkins when KHSAA changed from slow pitch to fast pitch in 1995. Coach Huff won 43 games in 2 seasons at South Hopkins.

In 1996-7 school year when South Hopkins and West Hopkins were merged to form Hopkins County Central, Coach Huff was given the job to start the fast pitch softball program at Hopkins County Central High School. Coach Huff was the softball Coach until 2013. During that time, his Storm teams won 416 games which were ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the state of KY at the time of his retirement, and he retired with 459 Fast Pitch wins which ranked him fifth all-time in 2013. Counting Coach Huff fast pitch and slow pitch wins his teams won 579 games at the varsity level.

During his 17 years as head coach of the Storm Softball team, Hopkins County Central won 10 Seventh District Championships, 3 Second Region Championships and the 2003 Storm team placed fifth in the State and the 2004 Storm team finished third in the State of KY. The Storm Softball team also won 4 Invitational Championships and was regional runner up three times and appeared in the semifinals of the region nine other times. Coach Huff had 14 players named All State including Class 2A 2004 player of the year Leigh Ann Moore and had seventeen players to sign to play college softball. 2 of Coach Huff's players have been selected to the KY Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Leigh Ann Moore and Megan Shadrick. Coach Huff was also the coach for the West squad in the 2004 JR All Star Game and was selected to be the coach in 2005 but had military duty that did not allow him to coach.

Coach Huff was elected in 2011 to the KY High School Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Coach Huff also served as the school athletic trainer at South Hopkins and Hopkins County Central until 2007 and continued to serve as trainer of the football team until 2013.

Coach Huff has also not only had a distinguished career as a teacher and coach, but he has been active in the Army National Guard and served his country overseas in two wars and retired as the rank of Colonel and was recommended as General at his last evaluation.

The dedication of Coach Huff to both team and country was never demonstrated in 2023. We were playing in the state tournament, and he received a call from his squad, and he told me next call I will have to leave and will not see you for a while. He came back in May of 2024 after serving in Uzbekistan and took over the team and lead us to a third-place finish at the state.

Coach Huff came back after retirement and taught drivers ed for 3 more years at both North and Central.

Coach Huff is the true meaning of what it means to be an EXCELLENT TEACHER, COACH, MENTOR, and leader of his country.