

RESUME

Mark Anthony Walker



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Dynamic Coach with 28 professional years in the organization, strategic planning, management and peripheral responsibilities of many forms of basketball coaching.

- Innovative Offensive Coach skilled at adapting offensive structures to the available talent, within the team, this also applies equally to defense.
- Previous success identifying and securing talented individuals to play for their National Programs on several continents.
- Collaborative, passionate, motivating leader in basketball who has been officially commended by colleagues for ingenuity and a high degree of professionalism.
- Holistic and highly skilled at youth development, supervising coaches and involving parents in their children's athletic development.

I played wheelchair basketball for many years to improve my understanding and the pure mechanics of the game and working on court with players of various levels of functional ability. I have my own elite sports chair and can confidently and competently demonstrate skills I need from players to help them compile the building blocks to improve every aspect of their game.

SKILL SETS

- Extensive specialist sports knowledge
 - Basketball Coach
 - Motivational techniques
 - Team building
 - Wellness coach
 - Responsible and reliable
 - Diligent
 - Takes nothing for granted
 - Teacher
 - Lateral Thinker
 - Calm under pressure
 - Goal Setter
- Attention to Detail
 - Wheelchair Basketball Coach
 - Healthy lifestyle role model
 - Sound judgment
 - Agility drills expert
 - Plyometric knowledge
 - Defines roles
 - Mentor
 - Fierce Competitor
 - Program Builder
 - Systems Coach

Over 28 years starting out from very humble beginnings I have managed to have coached many teams and in many forms of the great game of basketball. This ranges from domestic basketball working with kids from 4 through to 21 and building 2 programs from zero to 50 plus teams (one of these is my own personal club currently at 91 teams I run along with camps and clinics) in short periods of time. Working with elite juniors over this period I have managed to build a 40 plus team Program from the ground up and have worked with many outstanding players who have gone on to careers as USA College, elite senior and many full-time professionals. I have worked at many camps, conducted clinics for many clubs and National associations and I have had several stints as a Coaching Director where my focus is on developing the coaches' skills along with the athletes in their charge. I have coached many seniors teams at various levels of competition both male and female athletes and there are definitely differences in the way to teach the games to both sexes.

Along with all the able-bodied coaching I have coached Australian teams for deaf basketball, intellectual disability in which I coached the first Men's Paralympic team at the test games in Madrid in 1992. All up I have coached well over 7 thousand games of basketball and conducted over 25 thousand hours of training and have never lost my passion but increased it for the greatest game in the world. Wheelchair basketball holds very a special place in my heart and long before I won Paralympic Gold in Atlanta, it has always been the interaction with the athletes that continues to inspire me and keeps me advancing my thinking, concepts and skills. I am grateful to have worked with so many amazing people over the journey so far and I look forward to forging new friendships and relentlessly pushing towards future successes and another Paralympic Gold Medal.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL COACHING

- Victorian Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team National Champions 1993, 1995 & 1996 (Voted 'Coach of the Tournament 1995') National Win/Loss Record 20 wins / 2 losses
- 1995 Australian Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team Gold Medallist Yamagata Cup, Japan - team averaged over 100 points per game (Qualifying Tournament for Atlanta)
- 1996 Gold Medallist - 1996 Paralympic Games Atlanta, USA Australian Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team (Historic first medal of any kind) Ranked 6 and given no chance, beat the top 4 ranked teams to win Gold.
- 1996 New Zealand Wheelchair Basketball Association 5-13 October - conducted a series of clinics for the New Zealand National Team
- 1997 Thailand National Wheelchair Men's Team Conducted clinics for their preparation for the FESPIC Games
- 1999 South African Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team Silver Medallist 1999 Afro/Arab Qualifying Tournament Qualified for the Sydney 2000 Paralympics (Historic first time qualification) Vodacom Cup winners - South Africa V Egypt in a nationally televised game (Spent 7 months in Africa conducting nationwide Clinics and Camps)
- 2007/10 South Korean Wheelchair Basketball Federation 2007 - Conducted 12 hours of clinics for the federation's coaches and 5 days of intense training sessions for the National Men's Team.
 - 2010 D-Ground Korea - 4 day Coaching clinic professionally filmed along with a 50 page wheelchair basketball coaching manual written for the clinic.
 - Australian Under 23 Head Coach Semi Finalists at the World under 23 Championships (Paris, France) The only team to get within 15 points of the USA, 11 of the 12 player suffered with a serious virus (swine flu) prior to and during the championships. 15 points down last 8 minutes of the Bronze Medal game fought back to lead by a point only to lose on a last second shot. 11 out the 12 players from this team have gone on to play senior representative basketball which could be a record that would be hard to equal in Australia by any other National junior team.
 - 2011 Head Coach South Korean National Men's Team After a terrible performance at the Asian Paralympics with China ending up higher and a 30 point thrashing by Japan I was given a short term contract to restore pride back to the Program. With only 5 weeks with the selected team and without 4 very good players who would have made a big impact (2 would have easily started). Lost a heart breaker to Japan by 1 point after being 11 down with 1.47 to go. We had 3 shots and 2 foul shots to tie or win in the last 14 seconds and missed out on qualification for London. Japan shot 59% from the field to win but pride was well and

truly restored to Korean basketball and we had 2 players in the All Star 5 including the MVP of the tournament who is now playing professionally in Italy a first for a Korean player.

- 2011 Master Class Coaching Clinic - Moscow Russia Conducted 3 days of clinics for Russian National Team players and coaches
- 2012 Mexican Women's National Team-5 weeks of preparation work for the team competing in London. Over this very short time I managed to improve the skills of the majority of the squad especially Flo who was aggressive and her tilting skills which were initially non-existent were a feature at the London games. Through a rigorous training regime and a slow carbohydrate diet I managed to help the players shed between 5 and 15 kgs each and built a great relationship with the team and was announced as coach. Pablo Larraga the President of the Paralympic Association decided at the last minute that he would coach the team and did not turn up to a single training session the entire time I was there. The really sad part was everything we worked on was forgotten, with players piling the body fat back on just before London. The huge positive was I made some great refinements to my system and training methods working with athletes that apart from one player were not elite.
- 2013 Hong Kong National Team Conducted 10 days of training in July and was then contracted to coach the team for the all China tournament coming up in October. We had 12 training sessions together and then History was made winning 4 out of 6 games which were more wins than the previous 15 years combined. The team is clearly a top 5 team in China and now has the respect of its peers.
- 2014 Hong Kong competed in its third Asian Games and managed to have its first ever win and playing off for 7-8th position and in several games including the final had turned losing margins around by as much as 60 plus points.
- 2014 West Asian Qualifying Tournament - I conducted a 2 day training course for coaches and assistant coaches of teams competing in the tournament, there were other interested coaches who attended that were looking to improve their understanding of wheelchair basketball. This has renewed interest by many countries in the zone for additional coaching for their programs and coaching staff.
- 2014 Chennai India - Through Choice International I conducted 7 days of clinics For over 20 coaches and athletes of various disabilities who had never seen wheelchair basketball before. India now has several official teams and the program will be expanded to the rest of India in the future. The Chennai Eagles will bring a new pride and respect to people in that region of the country.
- 2014 India - In December we held the first National Tournament for Wheelchair Basketball with 12 teams competing after we completed several 2 day clinics in various states and provinces as a lead up. This along with future work will change the life of many of the 35 million physically disabled people throughout the nation who are the forgotten people with little or no recreation.

OTHER BASKETBALL COACHING

1992 Australian Men's Paralympic Basketball Team (Intellectual Disability)

- First Australian Men's Team for the test Paralympic Games for Athletes with an intellectual disability. The team made the quarter finals but it was evident at these Games that many countries were not following the criteria for selection.

1997-98

Victorian Basketball Association

- Intensive Training Center Program

- Head Coach at ITCP Camps
- Individual Sessions for Elite Athletes

Co-founder of the Hawthorn Magic Basketball Club

- Joint Director of Coaching 1991-94
- Director of Coaching 1995-98 (16 Teams)
- Director of Coaching 2000-2003 (34 Teams)
- Club won best up and coming Junior Club VBA Awards

Hawthorn Magic VBL Program

- VBL Director of Coaching
 - VBL Division One Team - Semi Finalists
- 2003 VBL Premier League - Quarter Finalist
- Hawthorn Magic wins VBL Club of the year.

2004 VBL Division One Women - Semi Finalist

1998 Bulleen Basketball Club

- Specialist Skills Coach Junior Training Sessions

Victorian Maccabi Junior Basketball Club

- Head Coach (34 teams – began with 1 team in 93)
- Built the club into the biggest Jewish sporting club in Australia
- 70% of teams making finals each season.

1996 Victorian Maccabi Senior Men's Coach

- National Games Silver Medalist (Gold Coast)

1998 Geelong Deacon University Men's Team

- Semifinalists National University Games

2000 Carey Gramma School – Director of Coaching

1999-2020 Central City Breakers Basketball Club

- My own domestic club and business which started with 2 teams and has grown to 90+ for the coming season. The club is the strongest domestic club in Hawthorn and feeds several players to elite championship programs.

2007-2020 Breakers Victorian State Teams

- Ward Williams – Primary School State
- Matt Owies – Primary State, U16 & 18 State, Australian U19 Team
- Anthony Karabatsos – Primary State, U16 & 18 State
- Mathew Pappas – Under 16 Vic Metro – Primary School State
- Jack Railton-Woodcock – Under 18 Vic Metro
- Jacob Elordi – Under 16 Vic Metro
- Dane Pineau – Under 18&20 Vic Metro, U19 Australian Team, St Mary's University U.S.A, NBL Sydney Kings
- Josh Giddey – VIC Primary State, A.I.S
- Jessica Belle – VIC Primary State
- Will Tattersal – Under 18 State Vic Metro, AIS

- 2007 Chelsea Junior Basketball Club
- Director of Coaching
 - Specialist Training Sessions similar to ITC program
- 2008-10 Melbourne Tigers development Clinics
- A 10 week series of clinics designed to feed the Championship
 - Program and develop young potential coaches
 - Breakers has its first 2 U.S.A College Scholarship Players
 - Ashwood Basketball Club
 - Director of Coaching
 - Club has hired myself to help it educate coaches and build a
 - Solid Program
- 2010-14 Keilor Thunder Director of Coaching
- Overseeing the development of coaches and players for the program
 - Running specialist clinics
 - Developed a comprehensive coaching manual for the club
 - VJBL – Awarded larger Club of the Year 2013
 - Before my involvement Keilor had never had a VC girls team in the Program

2018 Have written my first basketball book – Basketball For Beginners will be released in early 2018 with over 60,000 words and original concepts for this level of basketball. There will also be a full complement of video's to help parents and coaches working with young athletes.

EDUCATION

Level 2 Coaching Certificate

20 years as an elite player

28 years as a professional coach

3 years teaching Swinburne University (Basketball Coaching) Hawthorn Campus

MEDIA

- 1999 SuperSport - South African National Wheelchair League providing commentary and on camera presentation for the Super Series along with segments on the various aspects of wheelchair basketball. I had many TV and radio interviews and used this to constantly promote the program and the athletes.
- 2000 C7 Sport - Live commentary at the Paralympic games in Sydney 2000.

PROFESSIONAL COACHING EXPERIENCE

Over 28 years starting out from very humble beginnings I have managed to have coached many teams and in many forms of the great game of basketball. This ranges from domestic basketball working with kids from 4 through to 19 and building 2 programs from zero to 50 plus teams (one of these is my own personal club I run along with camps and clinics) in short periods of time. Working with elite juniors over this period I have managed to build a 40 plus team Program from the ground up and have worked with many outstanding players who have gone on to careers as

USA College, elite senior and many full-time professionals athletes (not just basketball). I have worked at many camps, conducted clinics for many clubs and National associations and I have also served as a Coaching Director where my focus is on developing the coaches' skills along with the athletes in their charge. I have coached many senior teams at various levels of competition both male and female athletes and there are definitely differences in the way to teach the games to both sexes. Along with all the able-bodied coaching I have coached Australian teams for deaf basketball, intellectually disability in which I coached the first Men's Paralympic team at the test games in Madrid in 1992. All up I have coached well over 6 thousand games of basketball and conducted over 20 thousand hours of training and have never lost my passion but increased it for the greatest game in the world. Wheelchair basketball holds very a special place in my heart and long before I won Paralympic Gold in Atlanta, it has always been the interaction with the athletes and coaches that continues to inspire me and keeps me advancing my thinking, concepts and skills. I am grateful to have worked with so many amazing people over the journey so far and I look forward to forging new friendships and relentlessly pushing towards future successes and another Paralympic Gold Medal.

REFERENCES

Greg Love PHF, ASM

Australian Sports Medal 2000:

Australian Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Aug. 2010:

International Wheelchair Basketball Federation Gold Medal Triad Award Nov. 2011:

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