



**PHIL RICE**

**JANUARY 31, 2015**



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Phil Rice is remembered for his long-time coaching career as one of the most successful basketball coaches in Ironton history. During his 20 years as head coach, Phil guided Ironton the boys' first-ever state tournament appearance in 1994.

But Phil was also an outstanding basketball player for Ironton who also played two years of varsity baseball and helped the Fighting Tigers win the SEOAL title in 1968. Phil averaged 23.7 points per game his senior year, helped Ironton to the Class AA district tournament — the Fighting Tigers first appearance since 1959 — and was named All-Ohio by the Associated Press and United Press International.

Rice scored 468 points his senior year (1967-68), the second most points in a single season without the 3-point line. Ralph Snead scored 527 points during the 1957-58 season. Rice was the Ironton team captain, team MVP and first team All-SEOAL.

After playing at Marietta College, Phil was an assistant coach at Rock Hill under Carl Large in 1972-73. He also coached cross country and girls' softball. He came to Ironton the next year as the junior varsity coach and his 1976 jayvee team was 16-0. He took over as head coach in 1978 and guided Ironton to its only SEOAL championship in 1979 when he was the Coach of the Year.

The 27-year coaching veteran was selected to coach the South team in the annual North/South All-Star Game. His teams won six sectionals, four district titles, one regional and had a Final Four appearance.