

Irmo-Chapin LEADER

by Jackie Perrone

Jason Jolley

Winning Records in the Softball World

Standing on one's records is a proud tradition in the sports world. When you're Jason Jolley, you just might find your head bumping the ceiling of all-time greats. After 10 years as coach of the Chapin Middle School softball team, he is now looking back on an impressive record of championships and, perhaps even more important, players who went onto more success in the field.

"It's been an incredible run," he says, "especially for the short-term sub who was supposed to be filling in for just one year. Now I am stepping down after 10 great years as softball coach at Chapin Middle."

This local boy grew up in the Little Mountain-Pomaria area and honed his athletic skills playing baseball and football at Newberry College. After graduation, he taught and coached in Camden until he got the call in 2006 to join the staff at Chapin High School. He was busy there when athletic director Larry Grady asked him to take on the Middle School softball program for one year while they searched for a permanent coach. When his first season, in 2009, produced a record of 21 – 4, their search was ended. The next nine seasons came up with similar results, totaling a 10-year record of 232 – 58.

Coach Jolley provided this documentation of his softball years at Chapin Middle.

- 10 years straight region championships
- Six district championships
- Three final four appearances
- 10 region players of the year
- 2012 state player of the year
- Coached 16 players who went on to play college softball
- 10 straight coach of the year awards
- Coached 2014 north/south all-star game, winning both games
- Won four tournaments: Two Snowball Classics; One Azalea Invitational; One Triple Crown
- Overall record: 232 – 58
- Coached Stars and Stripes National Team twice, one of them winning the Winter World Series Championship

He sums it up this way: "We had something special." And how! Jason Jolley is not giving up his career as a teacher and coach. He continues teaching P.E. and coaching football at Chapin High School. His successor at Middle School softball is Cal Sayer, who was an assistant on his staff. Jolley names his sons, 12-year-old Brice and 10-year-old Reese, as the reason for this change. "Boys don't play softball and I have missed so many of their baseball and football games these school years. I want to be there for them right now." ■

