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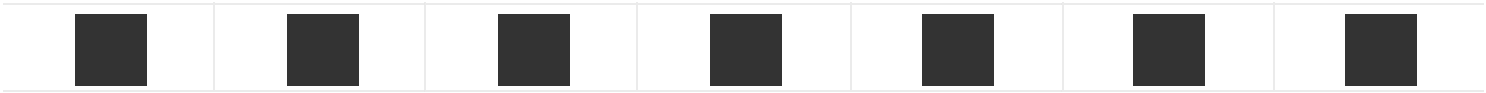


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EDITOR'S PICK

Boys Basketball Coach of the Year: Sellers Keeps Kell on Top

By Liam Dreesen MDJ Sports Writer
Jun 6, 2024



The Kell boys basketball team joined elite company by reaching the top step of Georgia high school basketball for the second year in a row.

The Longhorns defeated Eagle's Landing 62-51 in a rematch of last year's Class AAAAA state championship game, and with it, became just the second boys basketball program in Cobb County history to win back-to-back state championships.

Kell joined Wheeler, which achieved the feat twice in 2002-03 and 2020-21.

"We tried to keep things the same as last year as much as possible," Kell coach Jermaine Sellers, the Cobb County Boys Basketball Coach of the Year, said. "We kept our main three guys together and were able to lean on them to lead us."

Jaylen Colon and CJ Brown, both senior guards, were pivotal to the Longhorns' success.

"(Colon) has been in our program for four years and is our glue guy, our leader," Sellers said. "He's the pulse of the locker room. He has the experience so I know I can trust him. (Brown) set the temperature for each game. If he comes out and goes hard and competes, then the team just kind of falls in line with him."

Colon, Brown and Sellers, along with the rest of the Kell roster, helped lead the team to the second title, which capped off a 27-game win streak and helped the Longhorns finish the season with a final record of 28-3.

Sellers was named the county's top coach for the second straight year.

"It's a blessing," he said. "Testament to my staff — Theron Cooper, Chris Marcusky, Quin Watts and Ray Fajay. Players buying in, trusting and believing in what we do."

The Longhorns' season got off to a slow start after losing three of their first four games. Sellers called for a team meeting, which helped turn the season around.

"At that point, everyone decided to buy in and make personal sacrifices in order to help the team," Sellers said.

After the meeting, Kell began its winning streak.

Sellers said competitive practices helped keep the team focused. Cannon Richards, a senior forward, was a big part of those practices.

"He's so vocal, and he sets the tone for the rest of the team to follow in practice." Sellers said.

Kell went 56-5 over the last two seasons. Next season, it will make the switch to Class AAAA, where it will try to become the first Cobb County boys basketball team to win three straight state championships.

"We just try to maintain what we believe in," Seller said. "We feel like we're not going to be outworked. We're going to play hard, try to be consistent in what we do on a day-to-day basis, whether it's practice or games."