

Eric Smith

Herrin High School

BACKGROUND

My high jump experience began in 1970 as a 5th grader and continued until I graduated high school in 1977.

I began coaching Jr. High high jumpers in 2001. In 2002, I started working with 7th grader, Eric Thompson. In 8th grade, Eric jumped 6'5" at the state track meet. By the time Eric graduated high school in 2007, he was a three time high school state high jump champion with a 7'2" PR, Jr. Olympics National high jump champion and three time All American. In 2004 I started working with 7th grader, Zach Riley. His PR in 8th grade was 5'3". Zach's PR as a high school junior was 7'1". His average jump clearance in track meets was 6'10" as a junior. He was the 2008 state high jump champion jumping 7'0" at the state meet. He is a two time All American having placed 2nd and 3rd in the Jr. Olympic National Championships the past two years.

My success as a high jump coach is a direct result of learning from other coaches as well as from the jumpers that I have worked with and watched compete.

I am 50 years old, married and have two adult children living at home who are in college. I have lived in Herrin, IL my entire life. I graduated from HHS in 1977 and graduated from SIU, Carbondale with a bachelor's degree in business in 1982. I have worked as an insurance claims adjuster at the same company since 1982.. I was a mediocre high school high jumper with a 6'2" PR.