

Heart of a Coach – September 2016

Name: Denny McDonnell
Hometown: Marion, IA
Alma Mater: Buena Vista College
Degree(s): Business Management
Masters in Arts and Teaching at Drake
(graduating Dec '16)
Coaches: High School Basketball



List your chosen attribute:

Servant/Service

What is your personal definition of this word?

Being a servant is taking care of and for all people indifferent of background, need and ethnicity as the Lord has called me to do so.

What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?

"Remember that mentor leadership is all about serving. Jesus said, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45)." -Tony Dungy

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

— Mahatma Gandhi

"True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers, not to enrich the leader."

— John C. Maxwell

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?

Galatians 5:13 – *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

Matthew 20:28 -*"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Why did you choose that particular passage?

These passages speak to the core of what I believe and how I try and lead my life.

Please give an application/example of this word in your life.

I have a passion for helping kids, specifically at-risk kids. All deserve to be cared for, not just those that want or ask for my help. Freedom for Youth Ministries is a faith based non-profit I have enjoyed volunteering.

How do you apply this word in your sport?

I have a responsibility to teach young men how to look after one another. It goes farther than just teaching them how to be a good teammate, but rather to look for opportunities to help others in need.

How did you become involved in FCA?

I started in college at Buena Vista. FCA helped me understand the direct connection between sports and leading a Godly life. It changed my life.

How active within FCA are you?

I am involved with FCA at Perry where I currently coach, and also started the first ever FCA chapter at Iowa Christian Academy.

What is your athletic experience? (Where?)

I played basketball all 4 years at Linn-Mar high school and all 4 years in college at Buena Vista.

What is your coaching experience? (Where?)

I was blessed to be an assistant coach for Chad Ryan at Des Moines North High School. I have been a head coach at Iowa Christian Academy in West Des Moines and now at Perry Community High School.