



Athletic Department Announces the Hiring of New Coaches

Emphasis to be placed on skill development, inclusion of lower school students and athletic performance

St. Mark's Athletic Director, Brian Justine, has announced the hiring of two new coaches. Palm Beach County native Eddie Shannon has been brought on to run the basketball program, while seasoned veteran Juha Lahtinen, a former European professional player and youth soccer coordinator, will be overseeing the soccer program.

Coach Shannon, who also serves as Associate Head Coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University, is a Cardinal Newman graduate who was a star player for Billy Donovan's Florida Gators. As an All-Sec performer, Shannon played ten seasons professionally overseas. In addition to his duties at PBAU, Coach Shannon has been active in the local youth basketball scene. He is a fixture at All-American Sports Camps as well as being responsible for the administration of an annual skills camp in his native Riviera Beach that bears his name.

Coach Lahtinen arrives at St. Mark's from his native Finland where he was heavily involved in all levels of soccer as player, coach, and administrator. After finishing his collegiate career in the United States, Coach Lahtinen returned to Finland where he played for nearly twenty years at the professional and semi-pro levels. During that span, Coach Lahtinen also served as a professional players' agent, managing director of the Premier League of Finland, and Club Chairman for one of Finland's top youth soccer development programs, the Salon Palloilijat Sports Club.

"We are thrilled to have Coach Shannon and Coach Lahtinen on board. Being able to attract coaches of this caliber to St. Mark's is something we want to continue doing in an effort to drive skill development and a commitment to excellence among our student-athletes," commented Athletic Director Brian Justine.

The first set of skills camps being offered by our new coaches are scheduled for October 10-11. Coach Shannon will be holding basketball training camps for girls in grades 5-8 from 9 a.m.-noon and boys grades 5-8 from 1-4 p.m. Coach Lahtinen has scheduled his soccer skills camps for boys in grades 5-8 from 9a.m.-noon and girls grades 5-8 from 1-4 p.m. The timing of the camps correlate with the beginning of our soccer and basketball seasons which are set to kick off October 20. These camps will provide an opportunity for our staff to get a head start over our competition. Fifth graders, although not eligible to participate in the after school sports program until next year when they begin middle school, are encouraged to attend to gain familiarity with the philosophy and expectations of our athletic programs. D1 Sports will be on hand at both camps to introduce an Athletic Performance training program which will be held exclusively for St. Mark's athletes grades 4-8 every Saturday morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m. beginning October 25th in the gym.

Camp registration is underway and can be completed online at <https://stmarkspbg.eventbrite.com>.

Upcoming Middle School Calendar:

Middle School Girls Basketball Training Camp scheduled for October 18.

Girls Basketball and Boys Soccer tryouts scheduled for October 20; Season runs October 21-December 10.

Boys Basketball and Girls Soccer tryouts scheduled for December 11; Season runs December 12-February 4.