

## Mark Potter



Mark Potter has been a head men's basketball coach for the past 30 years. Potter began coaching at Cheney High School in 1987. He led the Cardinals to two state tournament appearances. Potter then headed to Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School where he also led them to a state tournament appearance. At Potter's third high school tenure, South High School, the team finished third in the state tournament. After only one year at South High School, Potter accepted the challenge to restart the men's basketball program at Newman University after an 11-year hiatus. In the second year of the young program's existence, Potter's team made their first national tournament appearance. After 10 years competing at the NAIA level, Potter again lead the Newman Jets as they made the transition to the NCAA Division II level. Potter has the most victories and highest winning percentage in Newman University's program history. Potter coached over 800 games during his 30-year tenure. His teams have been successful at all levels. He was named coach of the year five times and has been named top 15 most influential people in the Wichita sports world. He was recently inducted into the Wichita Sports Hall of Fame.

He recently left the coaching profession to pursue his passion for educating and motivating people from all occupations. Potter speaks on many topics including motivation and mental toughness, but his greatest passion lies in his personal battle with severe depression. Twelve years ago, Potter knew something wasn't right and he began a downward spiral into a world of darkness. Potter missed eight games and 25 practices due to severe depression. Since that time, he has been on a crusade to educate people about depression and encourage others suffering from mental illness to seek assistance. His passion is to share his story in hopes that people will pursue treatment and find a way to live productively with mental illness.



Potter is a 1986 Newman graduate, where he played both basketball and baseball. He averaged 15 points per game as a guard for the basketball team and was all-district on the baseball team. Potter also served as assistant coach for both basketball and baseball for the Jets for a year following his playing career.

Mark and his wife, Nanette, have been married over 30 years and have two grown children, Zechariah, and Chelsey, and one granddaughter named Sterling.