

Payne Receives Special Service Award

Written by Rick Strunk

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The North Carolina High School Athletic Association presented special awards at its just completed eight regional meetings across the state.

Commissioner Davis Whitfield of the NCHSAA, on behalf of the Association, presented both the Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Awards and the Special Person awards to recipients in each region.

The Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Awards are given per region and go to a person with at least 10 years experience in education and athletics who is still active in the field and has regularly gone "above and beyond" the call of duty at both the local and the state level. The Special Person award is similar but may go to a contributor to the NCHSAA who is not directly in coaching or education.

Among the winners included is Ashe County High Athletics Director Marc Payne. He received the Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award. Payne is the long time men's basketball coach and athletic director at Ashe County and he coached at Beaver Creek prior to that.

He did an excellent job serving a four-year term as a member of NCHSAA Board of Directors. He has also done a great deal of work with the North Carolina Basketball Coaches Association.

Payne was at Watauga High for 13 years (1989-2002). He was the men's basketball coach from 1989-2002, and he was the school's athletic director from 1991-2002. Payne is also ranked No.2 all-time in coaching victories at WHS with 182 wins (Carter Lentz is the all-time leader with 198).