

Payne Hospitalized

Written by Mike Kelly
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Ashe County High Athletics Director and men's basketball coach Marc Payne has been hospitalized for chest pains. He has been admitted to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. Payne, who has been in coaching for 37 years,

was the Athletics Director at Watauga High for 14 years before he left for Ashe County in 2002. Payne has won more than 500 games coaching men's basketball at Beaver Creek, WHS and Ashe County. He is the winningest coach in Beaver Creek and Ashe County history; he is second all-time with 182 wins at WHS behind Carter Lentz.

Payne, who just completed his tenth season at Ashe County, led the Huskies to a 25-4 record last season. The Huskies lost to Shelby in the second-round of the Class 2A state playoffs.