

MATTHEW HOWARD "MATT" RIDGE



For years, coach Matt Ridge has been producing champions at Davidson County Community College with such regularity it seems almost as if they bounced straight from basketball blueprints.

In the past 12 years, the Storm have posted an amazing 309-73 record – or, to put it another way, those 309 victories, combined with a winning percentage of .809, are the highest for any junior community college in the nation.

In fact, the team is 180-19 at home in that span.

Clearly, coaching pedigree has a way of showing itself.

There's a good chance that you can point to Ridge's success back to his playing days (1988-92) at Ledford High School, where he was an all-Central Carolina Conference and all-Davidson County player for the Panthers. He helped Ledford finish as state runner-up in 1992, and the team went 50-9 combined in his junior and senior years.

He played on the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill junior varsity team during his freshman and sophomore years, then served as student assistant for the team in his junior and senior years.

During his coaching stint at East Davidson High School, he inherited a struggling program and guided the team to a 57-24 record between 2004 and 2006. In addition, East won two Christmas tournaments and Ridge was twice named CCC coach of the year.

At DCCC, Ridge has taken the Storm to 10 regular season championships or co-championships. He's also been named eight-time Region 10 coach of the year and four-time District 7 coach of the year. His teams have advanced to the Elite 8 four times and the Final Four once.

Ridge and his wife, Candice, have three children: Mattison, 13; Parker, 10 and Ella, 8.

