

Perrysburg baseball coach Hall collects win No. 700

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BY STEVE JUNGA / THE BLADE

Perrysburg's Dave Hall became the 12th coach in Ohio high school baseball history to reach 700 career victories on Thursday with the Yellow Jackets' 4-2 win over Citizens Christian Academy from Georgia in the final game of the team's spring-break trip to Florida.

Hall, who is in his 38th year as the Jackets' head coach, is now 700-359 in his career.

"The key is having lots of good players over the years, and having great assistant coaches," Hall said of reaching the milestone.

At the moment win No. 700 was attained, his thoughts drifted back in time.

"I was remembering back to when it all started," Hall said. "Some of those guys from when I first started are now in their mid 50s, and I always tell our kids the guys in 1986 started this stuff.

Ohio baseball coaching wins leaders

- **1,011:** Don Thorp, Hebron Lakewood, 1,011-335-3 (1973-2021)
- **779:** Tom Held, Defiance, Bryan, Elmwood, 784-177 (1988-2023)
- **769:** Dennis T. Woods, Mentor Lake Catholic, Cleveland Heights, Glenville, Cleveland VASJ, 769-410 (1974-2022)*
- **768:** Doug Miller, Canton Central Catholic, East Canton, 768-333 (1982-2022)*
- **768:** Ken Gray, Mason, 768-292 (1973-2013)
- **767:** Mike Cameron, Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller, 767-304 (1969-2007)
- **760:** Timothy Engleka, Centerville, 760-307-5 (1964-2002)
- **759:** Rich Arbinger, Start, 759-214 (1976-2009)
- **750:** Lou Brunswick, Coldwater, 750-166 (1969-1993)
- **743:** Chuck Harlow, New Lebanon Dixie, Clayton Northmont, Brookville, 743-332-2 (1981-2021)

■ **714:** Bruce Cahill, Tipp City Tippecanoe, 714-301 (1981-2021)

■ **700:** Dave Hall, Perrysburg, 700-359 (1986-2023)

* — Active coach's win total entering 2023.

Source: OHSAA.com

“The players still have guys [from past teams] following them who they've never met, and those are the guys who laid the foundation here. The way we play now hasn't changed a whole lot, and those [early] guys set the standard.”

Perrysburg, the defending Northern Lakes League champion, finished 23-6 overall (11-3 league) last season. It was the Yellow Jackets' 12th NLL title under Hall, who has also guided the team to six district champions.

His 2011 team was Ohio's Division I state runner-up, and his 2003 team also reached the D-I state final four. The Jackets' best record under Hall was a 27-3 finish in 1999.

“I think we've built a team that comes hard every day to play, and they play the game right,” Hall said. “Some years we have guys who are very young, like this year [4-2 record], but the kids are buying into what we're doing.

“I've just been blessed with a lot of kids that have bought in and work hard, and want to do things the right way. That's what makes it easy to do, and why I've been doing it for so long.”

Hall, who graduated from Ohio's St. Marys Memorial High School in 1974, earned his degree from the University of Toledo, where he played freshman baseball for the Rockets, then remained as the program's varsity scorekeeper.

He began his coaching career as an assistant at Whitmer (1979-82), served as Perrysburg's junior varsity coach from 1983-85, then stepped up to the varsity post in 1986. The Yellow Jackets resume their schedule on Monday with an NLL game at defending D-I state champion Northview at 5 p.m.

Hall joins two other northwest Ohio coaches among Ohio's top 12.

With a 5-0 start this season, current Defiance coach Tom Held ranks No. 2 all-time with a 784-177 career record, trailing only Don Thorp of Hebron Lakewood (1,011 wins).

Now in his 24th season at Defiance (581-104 record), Held began at Elmwood (39-29 record, 1988-90), then moved to Bryan (164-44, 1991-98) before coming to Defiance, where he has guided the Bulldogs to 16 Western Buckeye League titles and three Division II state championships (2013, 2015, 2016).

Ranked No. 8 on the list is Start's Rich Arbinger, who guided the Spartans to a 759-214 record between 1976-2009, a run that included Division I state championships in 1994 (31-0 record) and 2000 (25-3), and to runner-up finishes in 1987, 1997, and 2005 among seven trips to the state final four.