

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

July 2024

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office
301 W. Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-361-6360
alumni@wabash.edu
wabash.edu

Dear Men of '66,



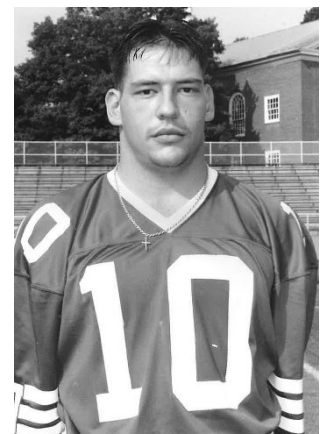
Wabash College will have a new head football coach starting in the 2025 season, and his name is Jake Gilbert '98. There is great enthusiasm and excitement from this announcement, and we need to thank the current head coach, Don Morel, for his efforts to recruit Jake back to Wabash. Morel has led the program with class, character, dedication and success, and he wanted to ensure that the great tradition of Wabash football continues into the future. So, enjoy the below information, and if you have a chance please congratulate Jake - **SOME LITTLE GIANT!**

Wabash College alumnus and standout high school football coach Jake Gilbert '98 will join the College's football coaching staff as defensive coordinator for the 2024 season. Thereafter, Gilbert will take over for Don Morel as the head coach in 2025, ensuring a smooth transition for the next chapter of this storied football program, director of athletics Matt Tanney announced Monday, March 11.

Gilbert was the head football coach at Westfield High School (Indiana), where he has posted a record of 103-55 in 13 seasons since 2011, including a 43-10 mark (.811) over the last four seasons. Along the way, Gilbert's Shamrocks claimed three Hoosier Crossroads Conference (HCC) titles, made eight state playoff appearances, and won the 2016 Class 5A state championship. Thirty-six of his players earned all-state honors and 43 were named academic all-state.

On the field, Gilbert's success has led to a trophy case full of honors. His accolades include being named HCC Coach of the Year three times (2013, 2020, and 2021), the Indiana Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year twice (2013 and 2016), and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Indiana Coach of the Year in 2017. Gilbert was selected to coach in the Indiana All-Star game in 2014 and 2024. He has served as president, vice president, and director of the Indiana Football Coaches Association.

He was twice the Midwest winner and national finalist for the American Football Coaches Association Power of Influence Award (2020 and 2021),





which honors coaches for the positive impact they have on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community.

Gilbert is actively involved in the lives of his students and in the Westfield community. He created a freshman mentoring program for the Life Ready Initiative at WHS. He served on the City Council and was a board member of the Heart and Soul Free Clinic from 2020-23. Gilbert was president of the Wellbeing Coalition of Westfield, an organization that exists to address community well-being issues through a collaborative approach. He was named the Westfield Community Volunteer of the Year in 2023.

From 2006-10, Gilbert served as an assistant coach at Wabash, handling offensive line duties in 2006-07 and serving as the defensive coordinator from 2008-10. In that span, the Little Giants posted a 46-10 (.821) record with three NCAA Division III Playoff appearances.



Gilbert was the head coach at North Montgomery High School in Crawfordsville for six seasons beginning in 2001. While there, four of his players earned all-state accolades, while 10 garnered academic all-state honors.



He got his start in coaching at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis under legendary coach Dick Dullaghan, where he served as an assistant coach for two seasons during which time the Giants won 26 games and captured the Class 5A state championship (1999).

Gilbert graduated from Wabash in 1998 with a degree in history and earned a master's degree in education from Purdue University in 1998. He and his wife, Christina, have three sons, Jackson, Logan, and Tyson. Jake has been an invaluable asset to the City of Westfield, IN and to Westfield High School as a great football coach, teacher and leader in the community. He will be missed and hard to replace, and here are some additional details about his work and success in Westfield.

About Jake

Jake and his family moved to Westfield on July 29, 2011. He and his wife, Christina, have been married since 2000. They have three sons: Logan, Jackson, and Tyson. Jake has worked for Westfield High School as both the Dean of Wellness and Head Football Coach. Christina works for Schaaf CPA. The Gilberts attend the Westfield Campus of Northview Christian Church.

Before Westfield

Jake grew up on the west side of Indianapolis and attended Ben Davis High School. After High School, Jake graduated with honors from Wabash College and earned his Masters from Purdue University in Educational Leadership. While a student at Wabash Jake started a mentoring program pairing Wabash students with local youths and was an honorable mention All-American football player.

Jake taught U.S. Government and Economics at both Ben Davis and North Montgomery High School before leaving to coach football and track at Wabash College. At North Montgomery Jake was in charge of Character Education for the high school and led the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. While at Wabash, Jake was twice a candidate for National Coach-of-the-Year awards.

Westfield Career

At Westfield High School, taught U.S. Government and Leadership classes before being named Dean of Wellness in 2017. Jake helps kids discover their passions, principles, and purpose to guide their futures. He also connects students to caring adults, healthy peer relationships, and community involvement in order to multiply positive interactions in their lives. Jake runs the Freshmen Mentor Program and is in charge of teaching the wellness skills necessary to ensure that our students are ready for life after graduation. As a football coach, Jake works with WYSI to run a youth football program that is modeled throughout the country. Jake has taken four teams to the State Championship, winning in 2016. His program is one of the winningest programs in Indiana over the past ten years, including a 43 - 10 record the last four years. Jake was named Indiana Coach of the Year in 2013 and 2016 and was a finalist for National Coach-of-the-Year in 2017 and the National Power of Influence Award in 2020 and 2021.

Westfield Community

Jake has immersed himself in the Westfield Community since arriving in 2011. He has served as president of the Westfield Wellbeing Coalition and as a board member with the Heart and Soul Free Clinic. Jake is an active volunteer at Northview Church, and has sponsored or supported numerous charities and community organizations including: Young Life, FCA, Student Impact, Open Doors, Youth Assistance Program, Indiana Blood Center, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Hamilton County Cancer Services, Indiana Women In Need, Relay for Life, Wounded Warriors, the Red Cross, Three Angels, Project Impact Mentoring, Kids Against Hunger, and Riley's Children's Hospital. In 2019 Jake was elected to the Westfield City Council and served one term before running for Mayor of Westfield in 2023.

Freshman Saturday is August 17 and a new academic year begins. I hope many of you will return to campus and enjoy the present day environment, students and activities while reflecting on the great years we spent as undergraduates.

“Do thou, our Alma Mater, turn back the hands of time...”

Cal