



**Mike Parkinson
Lynnville-Sully**

How long have you been at your current school?

10 years

What was your coaching path to your current school?

I first coached at Bishop Heelan in Sioux City for 1 year, then spent the next 3 years coaching for George Ashman at Woodward-Granger as the Offensive Coordinator. In 2011, I took over the Head Coaching position at Lynnville-Sully and have been here ever since!

What is an earliest memory that helps us understand how you fell in love with football?

My dad, Craig Parkinson was a HS football coach at Akron-Westified and was also my coach, and my earliest memories were watching NFL games with him. We went to watch Joe Montana when I was a kid and that sparked a huge interest seeing someone like that play. We went to a lot of games together, dad would have me come to practice when I was little, be around the team, travel to games, and all of those experiences shaped me as a coach.

Which coach had the greatest impact on you growing up?

My dad had the greatest impact on me. He was very passionate about the game but also found a way to connect with his players on a deeper level - they would run through a wall for him. My senior year when we won the state championship, that was the ultimate moment we shared together as it had become a goal we had for each other.

If you could pick one aspect of your coaching career that you are the proudest of, what would it be?

I am most proud of the work our football put in a few years ago when we were recognized as the Character Counts Team of the Year (2019). That was a very proud moment for our program - not only had we been successful on the field, but we were making a difference in our community as well. Our captains represented us at the banquet and it was evident that each one of them understood the meaning of this award and why we really play the game of football, it makes men of great character.

We are in the middle of clinic season, how do you approach an upcoming clinic?

Unfortunately, with the pandemic going on, we are doing all of our clinic work as a coaching staff locally. We look forward to returning to the normal clinic sessions as that is such an important time for our staff but also a great time for other coaches to get together and connect.

Which coaches are on speed dial for help and why?

My dad is always there if I have a question or a new idea and has been very supportive. Others who have been there through it all that are literally on speed dial - George Ashman of W-G. George had a tremendous impact on me as a coach and leader and I wouldn't be here without him. My assistant coaches who do such a great job with our kids, I depend on these guys a lot and they always come through - TC, Brad, Chad, Cale, Kevin, Nate, Ken, and Leigh - thanks guys! Aaron Shipley and Bob Scandridge are two others at L-S who have really helped shape me as a coach and have been vitally important to the development of our program over the years. I need to finally mention my life coach here - my wife Sara - she's great at putting everything into perspective and has always been my #1 supporter.

