



Hall-of-Fame Employee

May 16, 2018

Growing up in Cincinnati, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina employee Bob Dissinger recalls spending most of his time on a basketball court. Last month, Dissinger's lifelong dedication to the sport was rewarded in a special way. At a ceremony held April 21, Dissinger was inducted into his college alma mater's hall of fame.

Dissinger first started playing basketball in third grade. "I wasn't very good then, but I was tall," Dissinger joked. He recalls his parents sending him to a basketball summer camp in sixth grade. It was at that camp when he first thought, "I can be really good at this." And to get better, he practiced every single night. "I remember playing with the neighborhood kids at night, under spotlights until 11 p.m.," Dissinger said.

He credits his parents' support as the main reason for his success. Dissinger's younger brother followed in his footsteps and also began playing basketball. "They gave us the freedom to choose what we wanted to play and drove us to practices and games," Dissinger said. With both sons loving the sport, the Dissingers installed a half court in their backyard when he was in high school.

All the hard work paid off when Dissinger received a full scholarship to St. Francis College (Now known as the University of St. Francis) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "Other schools were interested in me. Stanford, Notre Dame ... but I knew I wouldn't be able to be a starter at a bigger school. I really wanted to play all four years," Dissinger said. Another appealing factor was that his childhood best friend and former teammate was already playing for St. Francis College.



The 6-foot-6-inch Dissinger's accolades during his four years at St. Francis include first in blocks, second in steals and second in offensive rebounds. Dissinger's wife, parents, brother, sister-in-law and niece were all able to attend the hall-of-fame induction ceremony. Dissinger admits getting choked up during his acceptance speech in front of about 700 people.

When asked about March Madness, Dissinger said, "It's my favorite time of the year. I usually take two days off to watch all the games." Growing up in Ohio, Dissinger says he was a Duke University fan because of their famed coach, Mike Krzyzewski. As far as NBA teams go, he was mostly a Chicago Bulls' fan, but also liked the Dallas Mavericks because of a player named Dirk Nowitzki. "Nowitzki and I have a similar style of play," Dissinger said.

Dissinger began his career at BlueCross as a contractor on the business objectives team in 2007. Last year, he moved into a new role for staff resource management as a lead data analyst and SQL designer. In his spare time, he enjoys being a husband to wife Missy and father to his two girls, Maddy and Gaby. Although Dissinger now sticks mostly to playing golf due to age and injuries, he still enjoys playing basketball at lunch and in local leagues.

Congratulations, Bob Dissinger!