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**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**  
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**Matta returns to Butler to lead men's basketball program**

It's been said you can't go home again. Thad Matta is proving that old maxim wrong.

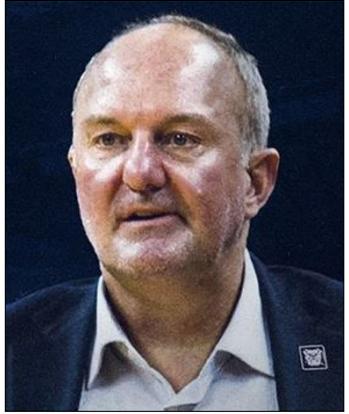
Barry Collier, Butler Vice President/Director of Athletics, announced Sunday that Matta will return for a second time as head men's basketball coach at his alma mater.

Matta, a basketball legend who graduated from Hoopeston-East Lynn High School, was a two-year starter for Butler in three seasons after transferring from Southern Illinois as a sophomore. He led Butler in assists (100) and 3-point field goal percentage (.433) in 1987-88 and in free throw percentage in 1988-89 (.872). He served as a team captain on Collier's first team in 1989-90.

Matta began his head coaching career at Butler in the 2000-2001 season. He was named 2000-01 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in his one season at the helm at Butler after leading the Bulldogs to a then school-record 24 wins. Butler won a league regular-season championship, a MCC tournament championship and made an appearance in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

From Butler, Matta moved to Xavier, where, from 2001-04, he led the program to a 78-23 mark and made three visits to the NCAA Tournament. The Musketeers captured two regular-season championships and two tournament titles with Matta at the helm. His 2004 team advanced to the Elite Eight, the program's best finish in school history. He led the Musketeers to three consecutive 26-win seasons, back-to-back Atlantic 10 Conference regular-season championships (2002 and 2003) and league tournament titles in 2002 and 2004.

Matta's next stop was Ohio State, where he coached from 2004-17, where he led the Buckeyes to two Final Four appearances, including the 2007 National Champion-



MATTA

ship game, a total nine trips to the NCAA Tournament, five Big Ten regular season championships, four Big Ten titles and the 2008 NIT crown. Matta, a three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year, is Ohio State's winningest coach, at 337-123 in 13 seasons and 150-78 in the Big Ten. At .733, he is third all-time winningest coach by percentage in Big 10 Conference history.

While leading Ohio State, he also finished with five NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearances, seven Big Ten Tournament Championship game appearances, saw 10 of his former players selected in the NBA Draft, 11 earn first-team All-Big Ten accolades, and posted 20 wins or more in a season 12 times. Matta was inducted into the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019.

After a final 17-15 season and negative recruiting efforts by other teams - including rumors of Matta's imminent death - Matta was released from the Buckeye program.

Matta said in 2017 that he planned to focus on getting healthy. He said then that he had four back surgeries starting when he was 15. A surgery in June 2007 left him with no feeling in his right foot, chronic back pain and balance problems. After the surgery, Matta spent a year not being able to walk or take his shoes off.

In a press conference announcing Ohio State would be looking for a new coach, Matta refused to use his condition as a crutch but admitted that he would probably still have been the head coach if his health were better.

Most recently, Matta spent the 2021-22 season as the Associate Athletic Director for Basketball Administration at Indiana University, working closely with Vice President/Director of Athletics Scott Dolson and head coach Mike Woodson on all facets of the Hoosier program.

**See MATT on other side**

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## Matta continued from other side

"The success that Thad has achieved at every one of his programs speaks for itself," said Collier. "He is a championship-caliber coach and recruiter who brings valuable experience and contagious energy to Butler. I have seen that personally in Thad as a player, assistant coach and head coach. The Matta family – Thad, Barb, Ali and

## From the Blotter

Joel Garcia-Hernandez, 28, of Hoopeston, was arrested after officers were called at 12:43 a.m. Saturday to remove someone from a residence. An investigation showed he entered the residence without permission, police said.

He was charged with criminal trespass to property and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

## Court Dispositions

March 9

**Mihail S. Mihalios**, Chicago, appeared at status hearing for nuisance structure; new status hearing May 11.

**Jesse J. Zarate**, Hoopeston, fine paid, case closed.

Emily – has a deep appreciation for Butler and I know they join all of the Butler community in how excited we are for what's to come."

Matta earned a B.S. degree in education from Butler in 1990. His wife, Barb, and daughter, Ali, are Butler graduates. Daughter Emily is pursuing her undergraduate degree there.

"Butler is a special place, one that Barb, Ali, Emily and I each chose as our school," said the 54-year-old Matta. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to Butler and lead our men's basketball program. There is a solid founda-

tion in place and I'm confident that Butler will consistently be among the top programs in the BIG EAST. I can't wait to attack the work we have in front of us and to be back on the sidelines at Hinkle Fieldhouse."

## Weather

Showers likely today, tonight. High 58, low 48. Tomorrow, showers likely, mostly clear late. High 58, low 40.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Rossville Family Restaurant is accepting applications for servers. Need to be available evenings and weekends. Room to grow into day shift and catering. Experience a plus but not necessary. Apply in person and fill out an application.

Hoopeston business is looking for an employee with data entry and telephone skills and multiple other office duties. Send resume to [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net).

Iroquois County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for full – and part time correctional officers, responsible for the daily supervision and care of arrestees brought to and/or detained at the Iroquois County Jail. Must be high school graduate or have GED, Iroquois County resident at time of employment (for full time) submit to criminal background check and have basic computer skills. Full time starting salary is \$39,685.65, part time wage is \$15/hr. Applications may be picked up at the Iroquois County Jail/Sheriff's Office, 550 S. Tenth, Watseka or online at [iroquoiscountyil.gov/offices/sheriff](http://iroquoiscountyil.gov/offices/sheriff). Completed applications/resumes may be mailed to the above address or emailed to [cperzee@co.iroquois.il.us](mailto:cperzee@co.iroquois.il.us). EOE

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Silgan Containers, Hoopeston, is hiring for a Production Supervisor/Manager Trainee. To apply or for more information, please visit this link: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12540/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12540/0)

Hoopeston hair salon looking for a cosmetologist, nail tech and esthetician. 765-413-3062

City of Hoopeston Cemetery is seeking applicants for a fulltime position. Candidate must have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or equivalent. Computer skills are necessary. Potential supervisory roll with proper training and licensing. Applications available at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com) under the Services tab/Employment Opportunities or City Hall, 301 W

Main St.

City of Hoopeston Cemetery is seeking applicants for a seasonal position. Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Applications available at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com) under the Services tab/Employment Opportunities or City Hall, 301 W Main St.

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for the position of probationary police officer. Applications will be accepted until the testing date of April 2, 2022. Testing will begin at 10 a.m. April 2 at Hoopeston Area Middle School Library for the written test. The physical agility test will take place immediately after the written exam.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0)

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City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

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