

Tuesday, January 12: 11:30 am until 12:00 pm; Virtual/Rm 313

Dan Willen, MA, ATC Class of 1994

Dan Willen has over 20 years of experience as a certified athletic trainer. He is the Assistant Head Athletic Trainer for the Cincinnati Bengals and currently is in his 12th season in the National Football League. Dan previously served as the team's assistant athletic trainer for 10 years before moving to his current role with the club. As a member of the Cincinnati Bengals medical staff, he assists in coordinating medical care for all players, including acute injury management, rehabilitation, and return to play decisions.



Prior to working with the Cincinnati Bengals, Dan worked in the high school setting for 10 years providing medical coverage to several Cincinnati schools, including Indian Hill, Sycamore and Princeton City Schools. While working in the high school setting, Dan was actively involved in local and state athletic training organizations and served as the Southwest District Representative for the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association and Secretary/Treasurer for the Greater Cincinnati Athletic Trainers Association.

At the University of Cincinnati, Dan earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Promotion and Education and was a walk-on member of the school's cross-country and track teams. He then went on to receive his Master of Arts Degree in Sports Administration from Morehead State University and served as the Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer for the school's volleyball and baseball teams. During his career, Dan has had an opportunity to work with some of the best athletic trainers in the industry; Bill Walker, OATA Hall of Fame Member, and Paul Sparling, the current NFL Athletic Trainer of the Year, have been great mentors and instrumental throughout his career. In 2009, Dan was recognized as the Ohio Athletic Trainer of the Year.

Dan currently resides in Northern Kentucky with his wife, Mindy, and his three children: Alex (10), Ava (10) and Emma (9). He enjoys spending time with family and volunteers as a basketball coach at his kids' school. Dan continues to be an avid runner, competing in local races & marathons.

From his days at Carroll High School, some of Dan's favorite memories are the long bus rides to cross country meets, singing along to Violent Femmes, and doing mile repeats in John Bryant State Park, followed by Young's Dairy ice cream. Dan was a member of the 1993 Cross Country team that finished 5th place at the State Meet—which is still one of the best finishes in school history. He was also involved in Track, Ohio Math League, Action Appalachia, and Intramurals.