

## **ED MERKLING, ASSISTANT COACH**



Ed was born and raised in northern Indiana where he swam competitively from age six to age eighteen on club and high school teams. He attended Ball State University where he graduated with a Physical Education major and Aquatics minor. Although he did not swim competitively at Ball State, he did pursue teaching and coaching of swimming.

In 1993, Ed started his career at the IU Natatorium as a manager and in 1995 started the Indy Dolphins Swim Team. In 1998, he became the head coach of Roncalli High School and continued as the head coach of the Indy Dolphins while still serving as a manager at the Natatorium. During his tenure of coaching, Ed was fortunate enough to coach all levels of club and high school ranging from development through IHSAA State Championships and USA Swimming National qualifiers.

From 2005 through 2012, Ed competed in triathlons ranging from sprint distance to full Ironman distance. In 2010, he qualified for and competed in the 70.3 Ironman World Championships in Clearwater, Florida and completed the Chicago Marathon. During this time, he trained and competed with Indy Aquatic Masters.

In 2017, Ed retired from club and high school coaching to take on the role of Director of the IU Indianapolis Sport Complex overseeing the Natatorium, Carroll Stadium, and Tennis Courts.

None of this would have been possible without the support and patience of his loving wife, Bonni, of 31 years. They live on the southwest side of Indy and have two adult children.