

## 2024 - 2025 Coaching Excellence Winners

Month	Coach	School	Activity	Description
May 2025	Staci Miethe	Warrenton	Softball	Staci is the head coach of the Warrenton Softball program and leads with passion and commitment. She is looking to build a strong community and shaping her athletes to impact others on and off the field. She is well versed in the game and allows her players to make mistakes to be able to empower them. All her players feel supported and valued, and she constantly celebrates them.
	Jacob Tolan	Taft	Football	Jacob exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated and transformative coach, over the past 9 years at Taft, he has built a culture rooted in growth, commitment and excellence. When he began coaching, the football program only had 18 student athletes, this year, the Tigers had 54 players. He led the Football team to the 2nd round this year. As head coach for the Girls Basketball team, he led the Tigers to their first ever final 8 appearance and holds the record for All-Time wins in Taft school history.
	Megan Beith	David Douglas	Girls Soccer	Megan is the David Douglas Girls Soccer Goalie Coach. Starting this year with a brand-new coaching staff, Megan came back to the program as the only coaching veteran to coach our varsity Goalies. Megan's starting goalie, Evelyn was a key contributor to the Scots historic season, winning Defensive Player of the year, and Goalie of the Year for the Mt. Hood Conference. The Scots record this year ended at 12-3-2, the best record in program history and included the program's first ever playoff win.
	Sam Martin	McNary	Wrestling	Sam has been coaching at McNary for 7 years and 6 years as their head coach. He has grown his program to include over 25 female athletes and 65 male athletes. Over his time Sam has coached 5 state-champions Max Blanco, Josh Friesen, Ali Martinez (2x), and Marlina Martinez. He continues to use the wrestling program to develop student-athletes who demonstrate grit, dedication, and leadership on and off the mat. Sam is described by many as a servant leader; there is never a task too small for Sam not to take on.
April 2025	Carrie Yerton	St. Mary's Academy	Girls Track & Field	Carrie is the Head Track & Field Coach at St. Mary's Academy, she teaches Anatomy & Physiology at SMA. She ran Track at Cal Poly Humboldt and uses her athletic experience when coaching up her student athletes both on the track and in the classroom. She is an advocate for having a healthy relationship with everything in her students' lives and provides education on injury prevention and problems that are common in female athletes. She has a family-like approach to her team and supports her students in all of their adventures. She is an inspirational leader and has become a mentor for many.
	Kyle Garrison	Grants Pass	Baseball	Kyle is the Head Baseball coach at Grants Pass, they won the Southwest Conference last year and they are carrying their momentum into this year by focusing on culture. His student athletes love and respect him and has helped put together a strong supporting cast of assistant coaches. Kyle holds his program to a high standard of professionalism,

				never complaining about a call. His passion for the game is contagious. If you've ever played for Kyle or watched him coach, you know: he's not just building better players, he's building better people.
	Amber Lease	Crater	Girls Basketball	Amber is the Head Girls Basketball coach at Crater, this year they finished 28-1, and had a 12-0 record in the Midwestern League and a #1 ranking heading into the postseason. The Comets went on to win the 5A Girls Basketball State Championship, and Amber lead this success. She is truly committed to her athletes and cares about improving their character, leadership skills and handling failure. She is an asset to the community and is loved by many.
	Patrick Frost	South Salem	Baseball	Coach Frost is a volunteer assistant coach in the South Salem Baseball program, and over the last five years he's been as big of a piece of our success as any one person. He is so dedicated to Saxon Baseball and the growth of our players, not only as athletes, but as people. He'll let you borrow his hat, he'll tape you up with the best grip, he'll even bring clippers and line up your neck line after your barber does a less-than-stellar job. He is 100% there for our players. He is an amazing speaker and helps get the Saxons ready each and every night.
March 2025	Jessica Wilber	Milwaukie	Cheerleading	njuries Jessica has been the assistant coach at Milwaukie High School for the last two years and has done far beyond what is expected of her. Over the past two years, she has been a vital part of the program, helping to create a positive and supportive team culture. Jessica excels in leadership, fostering an environment where athletes feel encouraged and valued. She plays a key role in organizing the team calendar, planning fundraisers, and ensuring everything runs smoothly.
	Waylon Somers	Gold Beach	Boys Wrestling	Waylon has dedicated countless hours to the Gold Beach Wrestling program. This year, the team had 7 wrestlers with 3 athletes qualifying for the OSAA 1A/2A Boys State Championship. One taking 1st and another taking 2nd. The wrestling program brought home a 2nd place team trophy at one tournament this year, the first for the school in over 10 years. Waylon coaches to high standards, always encouraging sportsmanship from every athlete. He has created a family on and off the mats! Including welcoming the neighboring towns team to open practices and BBQ's.
	Maddie Mullins	Tigard	Dance/Drill	Coach Maddie is in year two of taking over a program with very high standards in both the competitive realm, as well as character development. She and her staff instill the values of care, compassion, hard work, sportsmanship, community service, and academic excellence, while also inspiring, coaching, and guiding them to perform at the highest levels in the state. They regularly place in the top three in every category they compete in, oftentimes earning 1st or 2nd place honors, while maintaining a team GPA that easily places them in the top 10 year in and year out.
	Nick Brown	Madras	Boys Basketball	Nick was born and raised a White Buffalo; he took over the program after his father Evan and has instilled his lifelong

				passion for the program into each and every one of his student athletes. Nick has revived the “Bustin Buffalo” Youth Basketball camp to grow the program and prioritizes team bonding through team dinners and scavenger hunts around Madras. He led the White Buffaloes to a 19-7 overall record and finished 2nd in league play. He is loved by his athletes, and the communities of Warm Springs & Madras.
February 2025	Megan Smith	Central	Cheerleading	Megan has been the heart and soul of the Central Cheerleading program for years, she has tremendous leadership skills and has stayed committed to each student-athlete since she started coaching. Megan emphasizes proper technique, conditioning, and spotting to avoid injuries. She cares about developing her Cheerleaders to become people of integrity and have a strong interest in teamwork. She organizes group lunches and works to build bonds with each student athlete.
	Sam Marshall	Southridge	Girls Wrestling	When Coach Marshall enters the room, he is greeted with smiles. He brings leadership and positivity everywhere he goes; he treats everyone like family. Coach Marshall teaches his student athletes about sportsmanship, composure, and having respect for each opponent, skills that are great to carry beyond Wrestling. Sam started the Wrestling program in 2022 with just 2 athletes and has grown the program this year to 25.
	Julie Otley	Roseburg	Cheerleading	Julie is the Head Cheerleading Coach at Roseburg, she emphasizes the importance of success in the classroom and is dedicated to making her team strong on the mat and in the classroom. Julie cares deeply about the sport of Cheerleading and helps different coaches and programs when she can, she is an inspiration for her student athletes and has been coaching for 20 years. At the OSAA Cheerleading State Championships, Roseburg finished 2nd in the 6A Small Traditional Division.
	Ken Thompson	Irrigon	Boys Wrestling	Coach Ken gets the very best out of his athletes and students. Whether it's a first-year wrestler or 12-year wrestler. Ken promotes having a strong character on and off the Mat. Win or lose, he promotes high standards among his student athletes. Ken's passion for the sport of wrestling is shared by all the athletes that he coaches.
January 2025	Megan Hoffman	Valley Catholic	Dance/Drill	Megan has coached the Valiants' Dance/Drill team for the last 20 years, during her time at Valley Catholic her team has won 12 State Championships. She is described as a selfless leader, who has a strong passion for her team, and provides them with the right tools to be successful. She also works as a Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse, and despite the long hours she works, she still manages to help lead a successful program. After this season, she will be retiring from coaching.
	Tom Johnson	Barlow	Boys Basketball	Tom has stood at the helm of Barlow Boys Basketball for the past 39 years, and he recently notched his 700th career. He believes in developing the young men that he has the opportunity to lead and is shown through winning seasons year after year. He recently retired from teaching English at Barlow.

	Brooklyn McElroy	Lebanon	Girls Wrestling	Brooklyn is the head coach for the Lebanon Warriors Girls Wrestling program, and her student-athletes describe her passion for the sport, as she has recruited many students from the school to join the program. She makes the mat room feel welcoming, and a place for motivation and encouragement. Brooklyn emphasizes technique, as well as rounding out these student athletes into the best people they can be – whether that be on the mat, the classroom or the community. She is also a science teacher.
	Eddie Littlefield	Century	Girls Basketball	Eddie is in his first year as head coach of the Jaguars Girls Basketball program. To date, Century has a 14-3 record, and 4-1 in conference play. He transformed this program with the help of his sons as assistant coaches. His energy and passion for the student athletes is felt beyond the program, and Eddie's family immersed themselves into Century's community. He is described as an equity minded leader and has turned Century into a strong contender this season.
December 2024	Megan Hali Fischer	Centennial	Cheerleading	Coach Hali is a Centennial alumni, she was a cheerleader during her high school tenure and is now leading the Cheerleading program. She is truly dedicated beyond measure to her team, and the Centennial community. She stands up for her team in the face of adversity, and deeply cares about each of her student-athletes in all aspects of their lives. She ensures that every athlete is seen and heard, and consistently recognizes their accomplishments on the mat, in the classroom, and in the community. Hali makes those in and around her program feel like they are family and shows through her unmatched investment.
	Josh Dill	Sandy	Football	Coach Josh Dill is an extraordinary Head football coach. He has been an asset to the Sandy High School football program. This season was the first time in 26 years Sandy has won a 1st round playoff game. It was a historic moment for the community and was only possible with his amazing coaching. He puts so much energy and time into his high school athletes. He doesn't only teach his athletes about the game of football he teaches them about life. How to be good people, community members and students. This season the Sandy HS football program won an award for high grade point average. The sportsmanship he has created in his program is first class. His program mantra is FACE: Family. Accountability. Citizenship. Earn It.
	Brandi Wittenborn	Creswell	Boys Soccer	Brandi exemplifies what it means to be a leader in athletics, fostering not only team success but also character development and community engagement among her players. Under her leadership, the Boys Soccer program at Creswell were league champions, and had an 11-3-1 overall record, while ending league play undefeated. She is described as a cornerstone of the community, inspiring players to be service minded and has emphasized community involvement. She instills values of teamwork, accountability, and perseverance in her players. Her commitment to shaping well rounded young men is evident in the strong relationships that she builds with players, families and the Creswell community.

	Jerome John	Glencoe	Girls Basketball	Jerome is the Girls Basketball JV2 Coach at Glencoe, in his first season last year, the Crimson Tide finished with a 17-4 record and developed his student athletes to prepare them for tougher competition. Coach John continues to strive for greatness in his team this year, and is truly passionate about his girls, coaching, and the Glencoe community.
November 2024	Jack Henderson	Dufur	Football	Coach Henderson became just the 7th coach ever in OSAA history to reach the 300-win milestone in OSAA Football History, regardless of classification. He is the winningest 1A coach ever in Oregon and has led the Dufur Rangers to 10 state titles, including a 4-peat from 2015-18. He continues to lead his players to be the best possible individual and team they can be every year and always is generous with his time to the community. He is also the Big Sky Athletic Director Commissioner and has held numerous leadership positions in the Oregon coaching circles.
	Kaela Wehrman	South Albany	Volleyball	Coach Wehrman just completed the season with an undefeated record (27-0) and a 5A state title. The South Albany Volleyball team had an unprecedented season, only losing two sets the entire year. This is the first and only state title won at South Albany by any sports program since the opening of the school in 1971. The girls also finished first in the all state academic competition with a team average GPA of 3.93. A huge portion of this teams success on and off the court comes from Coach Wehrman's hard work, dedication, genuine care for her athletes as students and individuals, and her families willingness to let her spend countless hours towards developing her program.
	Kevin Branigan	West Albany	Boys Soccer	Kevin has built the West Albany soccer program from the ground up. They have become contenders in his 10th year as head coach, this season, the Bulldogs finished with an 11-2-3 record. Kevin holds high standards for his student-athletes as young professionals. No matter the score, disagreements with calls, or how they are treated in return, Kevin maintains a standard for his team that they are respectful and kind. He is described as leading his squad by example and is dedicated to the school as a teacher. He also contributes to the Albany soccer community as a club coach, influencing players far beyond just his own at West Albany. Kevin earned Coach of the Year honors for the Mid-Willamette Valley Conference.
	Chelsey Evans	Beaverton	Girls Soccer	Chelsey completed her first season at the helm of the Beaverton Girls Soccer program. She is described as humble, a transformational leader that puts her student athletes above other priorities. Chelsey has exceptional knowledge of the sport, and has been successful in creating a strong, positive culture at Beaverton. Her squad finished with an 11-3-4 record and made the state semifinals. Her players believe that they succeeded this year in large part because of Chelsey's efforts throughout the year by treating everyone on the team equally, her emphasis on respect, community and most importantly – allowed each player to grow into the best version of themselves.
October 2024	Greg Grant	Heppner	Football	Greg has been the head football coach at Heppner for 35 years. Throughout his time, Heppner has never had a losing



				record and he has won 3 2A State Championships and was recognized as the NFHS Football Coach of the Year in 2021. Greg ranks 3rd on Oregon's all time wins list and leads his Mustangs at 8-0 heading into the playoffs. Greg pours great passion into each student athlete and attempts to create a great experience for his players to carry with them for life. In addition to coaching, Grant teaches physical education and health and has even served as the Athletic Director at Heppner. After this season, he will be retiring after a historic career.
	Lisa McBee	Nelson	Volleyball	Lisa is the head coach of the volleyball program at Nelson. She has implemented a strong culture through volunteerism and has prioritized the importance of players helping run youth camps at the elementary and middle school levels. Lisa also emphasizes sportsmanship which has been illuminated by Nelson winning the OSAA Sportsmanship award 2 years in a row, and has shown strong leadership through an initiative to cultivate the next generation of leaders in her own program. Nelson is 23-4 on the year and is in the quarterfinals of the 6A Volleyball State Championships.
	Scott Sagar	Bend	Girls Soccer	"Being a team isn't just about playing a sport. It's about coming together and making a difference." Scott Sagar has impacted the Girls Soccer program tremendously in a short period of time, leading the Lava Bears to improve their record 2 years in a row, off the field Sagar has influenced his student athletes to become outstanding individuals by implementing a strong theme of community and charity. Over the years, Sagar has developed a strong culture at Bend through inclusivity that has sparked the personal and athletic growth for all of his players. This radiates outside of the program and is felt by parents, alumni, and fans.
	Sierra Renham	OES	Girls Soccer	Sierra joined the OES Girls Soccer program this year and has already left a strong impact. She is a licensed therapist and has created the "Elite Mental Health" program that focuses on redirecting negative thoughts, snapping back from a mistake on the field, breathing techniques, and post game reflections, that aim to help female student-athletes maintain positivity about themselves and their abilities. Sierra is also in charge of coaching the backline and goalies. This season her defense has shown up, recording 8 shutouts and only allowing 8 goals all season, propelling OES to a #8 ranking heading into the postseason.
September 2024	Ken Potter	Jesuit	Football	Ken Potter has been at the head of the Jesuit football program since 1987. On September 20th, coach Potter became the all-time winningest high school football coach in Oregon. In addition to his incredible win total, he has also amassed 4 state championships for the Crusaders. In the Jesuit community, Ken also works in the school's counseling office, providing advice and guidance to all students.
	Megan Webster	Dayton	Volleyball	Megan Webster is in her 6th season leading the Dayton Dragons. Through hard work and discipline, she has elevated the program to be a consistent presence in the 3A State Championships. She holds her students to a high standard in the classroom, during practice and especially

				during games. Megan works with her assistants, parents and community to provide support for her program, having team dinners before games, holding team building activities, and has hosted a See Ya Later Kids Volleyball Camp (non-profit) for the Go Be Great Foundation. She helps athletes in the off-season as well, organizing a summer volleyball program that local schools can come and scrimmage.
	Tom Stephens	Glencoe	Boys Soccer	Tom Stephens has been at the helm of the Glencoe Boys Soccer program for over 20 years. On September 5th he celebrated his 200th win for the Crimson Tide in a victory against South Salem. Under his leadership, Glencoe has made the playoff nearly every year of his tenure including each of the last 10 seasons and won a 5A State Championship in 2007. Off the field, Tom is an incredibly inclusive leader serving as the Activities Director at Glencoe.
	Megan Norton	McLoughlin	Volleyball	In just her second year of coaching, Assistant Coach Megan Norton has already made an incredible impact to the McLoughlin Volleyball program, bringing a fresh lightness and enthusiasm to the Pioneers. One of her greatest strengths is her commitment to the holistic development of her players. She emphasizes the love of the sport and personal growth over the simple pursuit of wins and losses, creating an environment where athletes can thrive both as players and as individuals. She has taken the initiative to start a youth volleyball program in Milton-Freewater, offering young players a chance to experience and fall in love with the sport from an early age. This speaks volumes about her dedication to both the sport and her community, showing that her impact stretches far beyond the high school gym.