



BC SCHOOL SPORTS COACH OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2008

School: Kwantlen Park Secondary

Years coaching: 20 years.

Currently coaching: Senior boys' basketball.

Also coached: Junior boys' basketball, senior boys' basketball, teacher sponsor for track and field team, and grade eight rugby.

Subjects: Vice Principal.



Coaching credentials

NCCP Level 3 - Theory

Level 2 practical in basketball

What has been the most rewarding thing about being a teacher coach?

"Seeing young people develop, helping them understand what it takes not only to be a good athlete, but a good person and trying to use the sport as a conduit for teaching life skills. Especially in the Whalley area, often some of the kids here don't have the means that they might in other areas and I find the kids here to be very grateful and thankful for the time."

"The rewarding piece is the balance I get. Sometimes as a vice principal I face a lot of social issues and difficult problems and at the end of the day I'm able to throw on a whistle and a pair of shorts and enter a different class room."

Describe how you found sport in your life:

"My father immigrated to Canada from Scotland and through his and my mother's direction I was supported in participating in sport at a young age. Growing up I played soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and football. Growing up in Richmond I had the privilege of attending a Jr. & Sr. High School where athletics were an entrenched part of the school culture. I had an opportunity to attend R. C. Palmer Jr. High in the early '80s when all of Richmond was dominant in football and basketball. My teams made it to provincial championships in grades nine and 10 for football & basketball and at Richmond High our basketball team finished second in 1984 and first in 1985 "

“My father continues to live a life of volunteerism in the capacity of a sport governing presence. He was president Richmond Youth, BC Youth Soccer as well as the director of competition for the Canadian Soccer Association. He has also been the President of the Richmond Sports Council and was also my soccer coach.”

What do you believe would resonate with the teacher coach in terms of recognition?

“I think the recognition you get as teacher coach is the relationship you forge with young people. The opportunity to work with them outside of the classroom which isn’t governed by a curriculum per se.”

“The ability to give back to the community because more so today than ever before, the school is the centre of the community. With the break down of the family and the lack of influence of the church, the school is left as the centre of the community that helps build the capacity in young people.”

What has coaching taught you about life?

“Commitment. Both to myself and the people I coach. It’s taught me patience and really in the last four or five years it’s helped me see the big picture: professional athletes who are paid millions of dollars make the same mistakes as 13 year olds. I remind myself as I’m coaching that this isn’t the end of the world and I can turn on the TV at night and see the same mistakes in the NBA.” “The fact that sports often mirror life’s journey through the victories and defeats.”

What was your proudest moment?

“There are many. Speaking with ex-players and seeing how they have grown and I think last year reaching the provincial championships in Senior Boy’s Basketball and also in the previous year coming third in the Jr. provincial championships.”

Who would you identify as a role model or mentor in your life specific to coaching?

“My father, first and foremost. Paul Horne who was a national level Rugby Coach who taught at Semiahmoo Secondary School. I would also say my high School basketball coach Bill Disbrow and my junior high coach Dan Schofield.”

Describe your first coaching experience.

“It started at 13 years of age when I got a job with BC Youth Soccer in the summer of 1980. I coached six year olds making five bucks an hour. That was \$125 at the end of the week and bought a set of BMX wheels with my first pay cheque.”

Other facts about Jim.

“I am surrounded by a family of volunteers. My sister volunteers at Canuck Place and my Mother often endures hospice support. I was recently married to a wonderful woman who is a great elementary teacher. I am an obsessive recreational cyclist who puts in many miles on the road and dirt!”