

Sports

New coaches bring fresh outlook to fall sports

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Staff Reporter

Butch Self, new JV/ Varsity football coach, plans to bring a different outlook to the football team this year, having previously coached teams through their "re-building" years. Self assists Joe Cerny, assistant football coach, work with the receivers and tight ends, runs the defensive scout team with Erskine Hayes, assistant football coach, and is the self-proclaimed "tech guy", meaning he separates the video of the games into offense, defense and special teams and gives the appropriate DVDs to the other coaches.

"(Football) is the greatest game out there. It's like chess with real people. As we get older we realize that we can't keep playing, so we need to find a different outlet for our competitive juices," Self said. Growing up in Alaska, he played hockey and track in order to keep in shape for his number one sport, football. He also participated in Mock Trial and student government in high school.

"I am not a suit and tie kind of guy, to sit behind a desk and push papers. I like the real, visible impact of my job. I wouldn't trade it for anything—to help parents teach those important values that make us strong people in life. I teach because I love it. Every day is different and glorious. It has new challenges," Self said of both his new coaching and teaching position. He is endorsed in both Social Studies and English and teaches three U.S. History classes and two English 9 classes this year.

"The buzz on a Friday night, the smell of hotdogs and popcorn, the lights, the sounds: it is an experience that can't be duplicated anywhere," Self said, of his passion for football which he feels has only been strengthened by the students and staff at West Linn.

"West Linn was the enemy. I used to say I'd never wear green and gold," Greg Lord, new assistant defensive football coach, said, as he works with the inside and outside linebackers. Lord's resistance to the West Linn colors comes from having taught at Oregon City for 30 years and having coached there for about 20. He resisted the long Oregon City, West Linn rivalry when he joined the West Linn baseball coaching staff to coach with

his son, Mike Lord.

Lord says he's been involved with sports all his life, so his coaching position just fell into place. He graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1967, having played football and won a state championship in



Kevin Mills, new freshman football coach, takes a break from coaching Tuesday's freshman football game. Although Mills joined the school as a math teacher, his choice to teach at West Linn was widely influenced by the opportunity to coach football.

Photo by Jennifer Sitton

baseball there in 1966. Lord then played baseball at Pacific Lutheran University while earning his teaching degree.

Lord plans to bring his philosophy of "Victory with Honor" to the football program. This includes caring about others, having a good work ethic, being accountable for your actions, being responsible and "living for the we, not me".

"Everyone has been very welcoming. There haven't been any bad feelings because I come from the other side of the river," Lord said of the West Linn community. His main reason for coaching is because of his love for the Friday night lights.

Kevin Mills, new freshman football coach, says being able to coach was important to him when applying at schools and he eventually chose West Linn because of the community and the success it has had throughout the past. As freshman football coach, Mills is helping to develop players both on and off the field.

"I really enjoy freshmen because of the capability of seeing each one of them continue to grow as players throughout the season and years to come," Mills said. He played football for Tigard High School as a receiver

and strong safety and says his love of sports led him to become a coach and can't imagine not being involved with athletics.

Mills, who teaches math at West Linn this year, says his favorite thing about coaching football is the interactions he is able to have with all of his players. He plans on bringing a lot of energy and excitement to the program.

Annie Goulash, new assistant cheerleading coach, plans on bringing a fresh perspective on cheer presentation and a different personality and coaching style to the cheerleading. Goulash started cheerleading as a fifth grader through Pop Warner and continued through her sophomore year of high school. She quit to focus on soccer for her remaining years of high school and college, which she had also been active in since a very young age.

"Leading is exactly what cheerleaders do. Not just during games but also in school and the community.

I look forward to helping these girls become stronger individuals and continue their leadership throughout their lives," Goulash said, of what made her want to become a cheerleading coach.

For her day job, Goulash is a residential mortgage advisor with Northwest Mortgage Advisors and performs much of her business in West Linn. She was drawn to West Linn to coach because of her desire to become more involved in the community. In her free time, Goulash is an avid snowboarder and a self-proclaimed gym fanatic.

"We have a really strong team this year and the girls are extremely hard workers. They represent West Linn in a phenomenal way and it is exciting to be a part of it all," Goulash said.

Most students know Allister Bunch, as the school resource officer, but this year, he has also taken on the responsibility of Freshman Girls' Soccer Coach. Bunch already coaches the dryland

training for the Snowboard Team, intramural basketball and Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Team, but when this position became available, he jumped at the chance to coach high school soccer again.

"My favorite thing about coaching any sport is the kids. Being able to work with them, teach them and watch them grow as people and as athletes is an amazing thing. Plus, it allows me to give back and repay all the coaches who helped me when I was in school," Bunch said. He says his favorite thing about coaching freshman is the fun that the girls have. The group of 15 girls call themselves "sisters" and they are extremely close.

"I want to instill the three P's that were set by Coach Floyd Rocker and the varsity team which are "Pride, Perseverance and Positivity," Bunch said. He feels that if his team can incorporate the three P's into everything they do, they will continue to see only success.

Football team rebounds after tough start

DILLON GEORGE

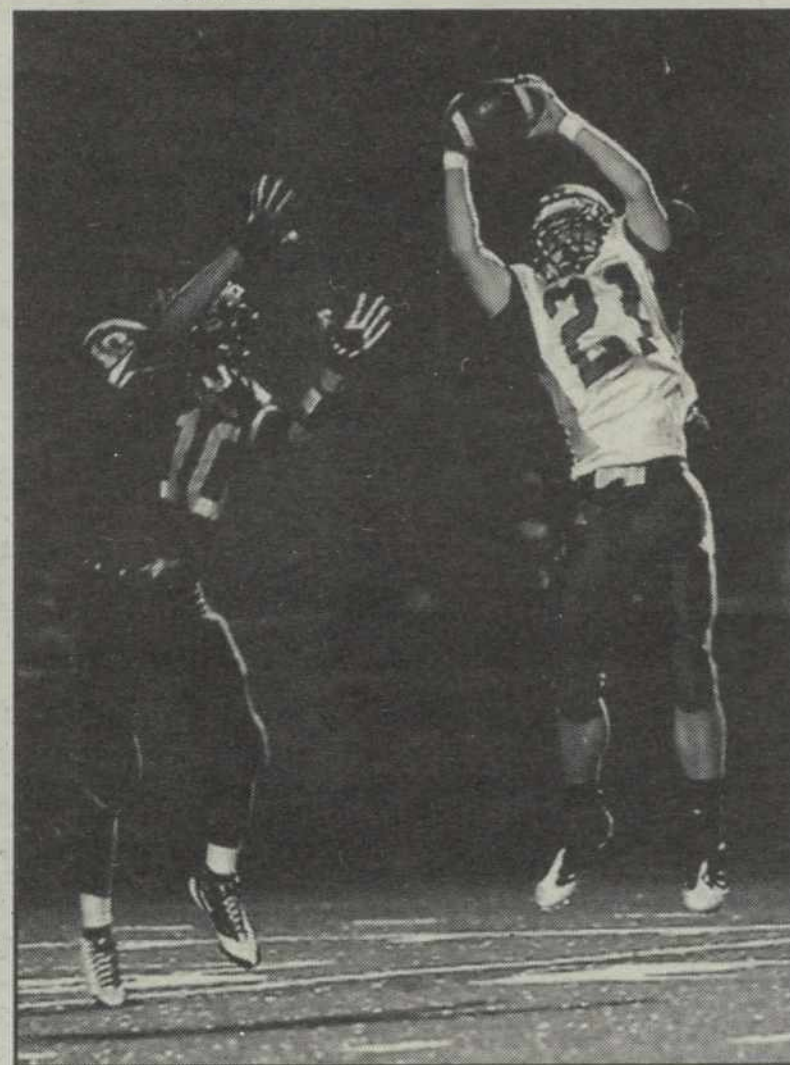
Staff Reporter

The Varsity Team got off to a rocky start this season during their tough non league schedule. But made a big turnaround dominating in their first league game against Milwaukie.

"It's good for the team being able to play three to four non league games. It gives us good in game experience before league starts and the games count toward playoffs," Ron Chappell, head coach, said.

The team started the season with a tough loss to fifth ranked Southridge by a score of 41-21 and a very strong Lincoln Team 21-17 in a nail biter coming down to the last second. The next game, the team began its turnaround at Wilson, winning by a score of 21-13 and then followed up the strong performance with a huge 41-17 victory in league play over Milwaukie, without starting quarterback Bryce Baker, senior. Logan Krellwitz, junior, had a phenomenal game in place of Baker, throwing for three touchdowns and running for another two. During the Homecoming game against

Redmond, the team couldn't comeback from an early deficit and lost a tough game 35-40. In the game, Baker injured his arm, forcing the less experienced Krellwitz got a lot of playing time and will be starting for a lot of the season.



Callen Keizer, senior, intercepts a pass in the game against Milwaukie. The Lions won the game 41-17 and are undefeated in league.

Photo courtesy of Tracie Krellwitz

"I was less nervous as the day went on, but once I got in the game I just played football," Krellwitz said.

The team this season is combining a lot of experienced players with younger players moving up

from the JV team. They work together in each game, look back at the latest games film, and improve for the next week. The recent goals for the team include improved short yard running and faster defense.

"The most anticipated game of the year is always the next game," Chappell said.

Key players include Baker, the returning State leader in passing yards, Josh Oltman, senior running back, Michael Fay, junior wide receiver, and Mitchell Gaulke, senior lineman. Since there are a five juniors on defense and six on offense, there are a lot of outstanding underclassmen on the Varsity team. These players include Michael MacLanathan, and Mason Haye, juniors who are impressive inside linebackers, Reid Adams, junior cornerback, and Kaden Staskiewicz, sophomore lineman.

Chappell thinks that the team is scrappy and hard working. This factor definitely stood out during the home game against Lincoln where they fought hard until the final buzzer.

Upcoming home games include Lake Oswego Oct. 9 and Clackamas Oct. 17.