

Long-time statistician recognized for 33 years of service to football and boys' basketball teams

JENNIFER SITTON

Most of us are so wrapped up in our day-to-day lives, we don't take the time to learn about and gain respect for those who came before us and paved the way. West Linn sports have a legacy that goes back nearly 100 years. This year, the West Linn Hall of Fame will be recognizing a collection of athletes and other sports-affiliated members of the community who have impacted our school. One of those inductees, Doug Fiala, is possibly the most unique of them all.

Fiala graduated from WLHS in 1965. He was a member of the golf team for four years and wrestled for one, but Fiala was not the nationally-ranked athlete that you would expect to find at a Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Fiala is being recognized

for his contribution to the football and boys' basketball programs, for which he has served as statistician for over 30 years. Fiala is unique from the other inductees in that his service has lasted over three decades.

Fiala, who has been a WLHS fan since elementary school, officially gained his first taste as basketball statistician in the summer of 1973.

"In 1971, I went to watch them play Lake Oswego, whom they had not fared well against in past years," Fiala said. However, West Linn ended up winning the game, so Fiala went down to the floor to congratulate the coach, Ernie McKie. After this first introduction, the two kept in touch. Fiala attended summer league games to learn more about the team. "I went to see how they played

and I became interested in their style of play," Fiala said. McKie asked Fiala if

he would be interested in taking stats for the team that summer. Fiala agreed,



Doug Fiala, football and boys' basketball statistician, talks with one of the football coaches on the sideline of the team's homecoming game against Oregon City. The game marked the 56th consecutive West Linn vs Oregon City football game he has attended.

Photo by Alex Houston

I had to follow two rules. At away games, I would have to wear a green dress coat with a green tie, because that was what all the coaches wore, and at home games I had to wear a striped shirt." Fiala accepted the terms and began his tenure as scorekeeper in December 1977. Today, Fiala is one of only two high school statisticians in the state of Oregon who still wears a striped shirt to sit at the scorekeeping table.

Fiala is also one of very few people who can say that they have been an official score book operator for at least 15 OSAA State Championship basketball games. "I'd like to make it 15," Fiala said. According to Fiala, the best part of being involved at the OSAA State Championships is that he is able to meet coaches and officials from all over the state.

Fiala first became involved in the football program in the fall of 1978, when the coach, Tom Boyle, was looking for someone to take stats for the team. "Ernie McKie volunteered me for the job," Fiala said. Since that season, Fiala has missed only two WL football games.

When asked whether he prefers basketball or football, Fiala says he always replies with one answer: "I've never been rained on at a basketball game." Inclement weather has driven him to the football press box only three times in the last 32 years.

According to Fiala, his favorite part about being involved with the basketball program is getting to know the coaches, referees and players.

Fiala serves community
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ideas for students and staff

School '90

Work history: "After working in West Linn, I went to Tigard for three years, then owned my own real estate business for seven years, and now I'm back in West Linn."

Something unexpected: "I almost failed out of West Linn my senior year. There is hope!"

Biggest challenge: "Gaining the maturity to learn that you can't help everyone."

Biggest reward: "I love

the small rewards, the small victories that show you helped someone."

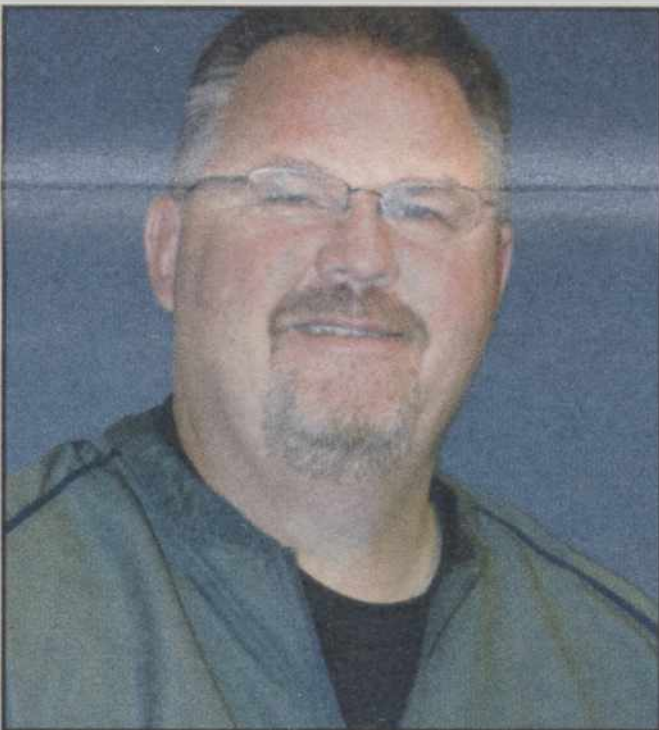
Doug Sommer, Social Studies

Favorite High school Class: "Accounting"

Hobbies: "Doing things with my family, coaching football, and track."

College: "I graduated from Willamette University Class of 1988."

Teaching history: "I've



Doug Sommer, Social Studies

taught at Tigard, Tualatin, Barlow, Milwaukie, and Wilsonville."

Something unexpected: "I went to high school with Mr. (Kevin) Egan and Mrs. (Megan) Karmakar was one of my ex-students."

Biggest challenge: "The biggest challenge is meeting the needs of all of my students."

Biggest reward: "Making sure that the students have a good experience in the classroom."

AT to qualify for National Merit
hips
or SAT class if you want
or ACT
possible colleges to decide if you need to
SAT subject tests
llenging classes

- At the beginning of the school year, ask teachers (usually two) for recommendations
- Decide on list of colleges (five to 10) and review the list with your counselor
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Senior

- Summer between Junior and Senior Year:
- Attend tours and information sessions at colleges to determine if you prefer a big or small college
- Fill out the Common Application

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- Talk about financial aid with your parents
- Decide if you want to apply early decision or early action; the deadline is November
- Send schools your SAT scores through collegeboard.com
- Start looking for scholarship opportunities
- Make sure you send in your applications for regular deadline, usually January
- Meet with your counselor and send your transcript
- Fill out the FAFSA form if you need to

