

# Whiteman Retires From Coaching

Long-time and popular sports coach Steve Whiteman is hanging up the whistle.

After many years on the fields, courts, tracks and mats of several high school programs, Coach Whiteman ended a long and storied career when he coached the final game of the Vernonia Lady Loggers basketball season this year.

Whiteman, who began coaching football in 1972 and first coached basketball in 1977, has also coached wrestling, track and cross country in Vernonia, New Mexico and Colorado. According to Whiteman, he believes he has coached right around 500 basketball games and around 200 football games. Highlights of his long career include a trip to the state

title game as a football defensive coordinator with the Vernonia Loggers, a second place at state's boys track team and a state champion girls track team.

"I'm going to be sixty-four in a month and I have a whole list of things I want to do with my family," says Whiteman about his decision to retire now.

Before the final basketball game of the regular season, Whiteman was honored for his service to Vernonia Loggers teams. Members of Whiteman's

girl's varsity team read this poem:

*The crowd is gone, the cheers have stopped,  
and the equipment is stored away.  
The team is standing on the court  
because the coach is leaving today.  
He led us through the hardest times,  
and was proud of the times they have won.  
But now the season's over and  
his time as coach is done.  
The team will go on without him,  
will perform at the usual pace.  
But though another coach comes in,  
there will be a void in his place.  
Today when the court is emptied  
and the team has met the test,  
the coach can feel certain that  
he will be remembered as simply the best.*

But Whiteman's season, and career, wasn't quite finished. After what might have been his final game, the Lady Loggers found out they had qualified for the league playoffs and would face Neah-Kah-Nie the following Thursday. Unfortunately the Lady Loggers lost a close game by two points and Coach Whiteman's career was brought to a close.



Coach Steve Whiteman, pictured with his final Girl's Varsity Basketball team, retired from coaching high school athletics after 39 years.



Town Hall—The Vernonia School District held a Town Hall which focused on educational programs in the schools. Left - Students from WGS showed off rewards they can earn through the Positive Behavior Intervention Support program. Right - Members of the VHS Leadership Class, Jacob Alf, Natalie Wallace, Casimir Denecochea and Chantel Szlavich, were on hand to explain projects they are working on. Attendees could also learn about the Title I Reading Program, Career Education and Scholarship opportunities, the planned

Vernonia Rural Sustainability Center, Homework Club and more.



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A number of Vernonia students were selected to the District Honors Band this year. Pictured above - from Vernonia Middle School, Caton Watts-percussion, Damian Young-trumpet, Makayla Adams-clarinet and Julia Fletcher-flute. Not pictured was Nathan McCrosky-Issett-percussion and Britney Young. Below - from Vernonia High School, Brandon Krause-euphonium, Samantha Morgan-clarinet, and Christopher Dass-baritone-sax. Congratulation to all these fine musicians!



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