

# Gary Roberts wins Athletic Director of the Year



"I've tried to make a mark on our athletes," Roberts said. It's a big deal to be an athlete and it's a big deal for our students to support athletes. We've had rooster buses go to playoff games. For football and basketball this year we have worked on making admission free for students. We are trying to make it so kids can be connected to our school through athletics. I think that's pretty much where the area of recognition was given. When the committee asked me 'what have you done?' I said 'I worked hard to get kids connected to athletics, worked with our coaches on their professional development, and worked hard to make athletics accessible to kids.' Either that be through being an athlete or watching it. Our attendance at games has increased, our school spirit has increased, and it's been a great year."

Roberts has been both an educator and long-term head football coach at Cottage Grove high school before taking over as athletic director from David Presley a year ago. Roberts remains head football coach while continuing his athletic director duties. He has worked closely with coaches at Cottage Grove high school to create a great experience for both coaches and student athletes.

"We spent the last year looking at different models. I tried to make my own mark as the athletic director. I'm big on coach centered education and the trickle-down effect that happens. I don't want to go directly to the athletes, I want to go to the coaches and let them go to the athletes. So I've been spending more time on the coaching part of it."

Though as athletic director, Roberts has been focused on training and connecting with the

coaches, he has still left his mark on student athletes over the years, according to Lions football and basketball player, Blake Sentman. "I'm glad he got that award. Since my sophomore year he believed in me even when I was questioning myself as a quarterback. It was a tough year, I was young but he stood with me and told me to keep in there and keep working hard. He motivated me and has been there all four years, which has helped a lot," Sentman said.

Cottage Grove High School has lost a few head coaches over the course of the last few months, but Roberts remains optimistic. "One took a college job at UCC and Don Pollard retired (from being boys' basketball coach). On the surface it looks like we lost all these coaches, but it's just been a weird coincidence of things."

Roberts hopes to continue to build on the success that year one brought both himself and Cottage Grove high school athletics.

"Whether it's playing or watching, I just want it to be the thing to do."

BY KYLE MCGOWEN  
For The Sentinel

One year after taking over as Cottage Grove high school athletic director, Gary Roberts has been named 'Oregon athletic director rookie of the year.' Roberts was nominated by Sky-Em league representatives. The Oregon athletic director's association picks the winners based on the achievements done by the athletic department over the course of the year.

## N. Douglas ends season 18-10



BY CAITLYN MAY  
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North Douglas played hard. But the rain didn't help. The team lost to Reedsport in the first round of the division play-offs but according to coach Jeff Davis, it was the determination of the players that brought them that far after a particularly wet winter that hindered practice.

"There was some bad weather and because of the way we practice, we didn't always get a chance to work on skill development," Davis said. "But as far as what went right this season, the kids really hung in there especially when we had those rough stretches."

Those rough stretches were 10 games that found the team on the losing end of the score card in their 18-10 season.

"We didn't play well for some stretches," Davis said. "We came back because the kids kept persisting."

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