



**Curt
Kramme**
Athlete Coach

One of the most recognizable names in Lynden High School sports, Curt Kramme is synonymous with winning. The years he spent as a Lion are filled with awards and honors, but his successful career began well before that.

Growing up as a Blaine Borderite, Kramme developed a passion for sports, and his achievements there included starting at the quarterback and safety positions on the 1978 state Class 1A championship team—the only Blaine team to ever win the state football championship. Last year, Blaine High School honored him by retiring his number.

After high school, Kramme attended Western Washington University; while attending there, he started coaching at Blaine. His first teaching position took him to Bakersfield, California, and after three years there, he journeyed north to Burlington-Edison, where he was hired as an assistant football coach, the head girls' basketball coach, and the head boys' golf coach. Then he returned home to Whatcom County, where he spent 26 years as a teacher and coach at Lynden High.

Kramme enjoyed immense success as the Lions' head football coach. With only two losing seasons in 26 years, Kramme's teams had an overall record of 248-61. During that time, he led his teams to 7 state championships, 12 conference championships, 10 state finals appearances, 14 semi-final appearances, and 15 quarter-final appearances. These accomplishments ranked him among the top 10 winningest high school football coaches in state history. According to LHS's athletic director, Curt's success as a coach stemmed from his ability to "build trust and connect with kids." Because of this, he also received a number of personal accolades: Coach of the Year for the conference (8 times), Seahawks Coach of the Year (twice), Seattle Times Coach of the Year (twice), and NW Regional Coach of the Year in 2010.

Kramme's involvement in sports extended beyond the gridiron. Along with football, Kramme also spent several years as the JV baseball coach and a couple years coaching the girls' golf team. Outside the school, he spent years as a referee, calling basketball games at various levels throughout Whatcom County. Besides that, he and his wife Wendy enjoyed watching their daughters, Alayna, Zoe, and Madeline, participate in sports over the years, and most recently, he spent a great deal of his spare time on the links, enjoying countless hours on Shuksan Golf Course.

Kramme's contribution to the LHS athletic program will continue to benefit the many athletes who are yet to come. His inspirational quote, "Setback, Comeback", greets everyone entering the weight room as a mantra to excellence.