



Russ Dorr

Coach



Very few coaches can say they were a part of a program from the moment it began, but Russ Dorr is one who can. Not only was Dorr an integral part of starting the Lynden High School golf program, but he led the team for over 20 years and made school history while building lasting relationships.

As the son of two Bellingham High School teachers, Dorr did not necessarily grow up a Lynden fan, and he says it was in his DNA to compete against Lynden. He remembers playing against Jake Maberry's basketball teams in the old Middle School gym in the 1960's.

He also cultivated his love for singing as a teenager, and he considers being selected as the soloist for his high school graduation one of his greatest high school accomplishments. Dorr's voice still remains one of his most recognized qualities as he often sings the national anthem for school programs and events.

After high school, Dorr competed at Mesa Junior College in Colorado, playing football and baseball; he eventually transferred back closer to home, where he finished his college baseball career playing for Western for two years.

Fast forwarding to the early 1990's, Dorr began his journey with Lynden High School athletics when he received a call from a fellow high school graduate and family friend who asked him to be a coach for a golf program that was non-existent at the time. After petitioning the school board and getting the green light from Homestead to allow the golfers to play for free, the school board approved Lynden's very first golf program.

Throughout Dorr's 22 years at the helm of the program, Lynden won League Titles, District Championships, and a number of team trophies as well. When Lynden High School was still in the 3A classification, they won their first state championship in 2001 and then snatched a 2A title again in 2009.

However, when Dorr looks back on his years as a coach, these impressive accolades are not what primarily stand out in his mind. He says the best part about being a coach is the lifelong friendships that he has acquired along the way. He considers all those years of coaching as more of an honor than a job.

Dorr is a prime example of a determined yet humble leader because he consistently tries to push the spotlight away from himself. He thanked the Lynden Tribune for being an important part of promoting the new golf program during its startup and throughout all of the years afterward. He is also grateful to all of the school district employees, including administration and athletic directors, who continually supported him. He is appreciative to them for trusting the program to him for over two decades. He says, "I felt then as I do now--blessed."

It is clear that Coach Russ Dorr represents more than just a remarkable golf program at Lynden High School. He is a role model for anyone who dares to start something new and tread into unknown waters. His faith in his teams and confidence in the program made a lasting and influential difference not only in the hearts of his players, but also in Lynden High School athletics. Every player, past and present, who has played or will play golf at Lynden has Russ Dorr to thank, and his legacy is one that will continue to make an impact on the future players and coaches at Lynden.