



Shawn Bovenkamp

Athlete

Shawn Bovenkamp made an impact on the Lynden High School Basketball Program during his four years in high school, and this impact continued on to his career at Western Washington University. His ability to be the selfless player that every team needs while also being there to make the big plays is the reason why he is such a Lynden legacy.

Bovenkamp received a green and gold basketball from his grandfather when he was in kindergarten, and since then, he became passionate about the Lions and the game of basketball. He remembers growing up watching the Lynden High School basketball games when they were played at the old Middle School gym.

As he moved up through the Lynden schools, Bovenkamp continued playing basketball, but it became an even bigger part of his life during his eighth grade season. On the first day of basketball practice, he got the tragic news that his father had passed away. While he was a middle school boy trying to cope with this immense loss, basketball became one of the main outlets for his grief. He continued going to practice and would stay after school for hours to shoot hoops and spend time perfecting his game. One of his most memorable moments came during one of these eighth grade practices when the legendary high school coach, Jake Maberry, paid him a visit. He remembers being surprised that Maberry was there and became even more surprised when he pulled the young Bovenkamp aside to tell him, "Your dad was the only player I ever knew that could just walk into a gym and dunk the basketball without warming up." After that year, basketball not only became a connection to his dad, but a way of life as well.

When Bovenkamp finally got his turn to play on the hardwood in high school, he made the most of his time playing under Coach John Clark. He earned varsity letters during his last three years in high school, and during his sophomore year in 1985, the team finished 3rd in state. Moving onto his junior year, the 1986 basketball team took home the 2nd place State trophy, and Bovenkamp received the "Most Improved" award from his team as well. In his final state trip in 1987, Bovenkamp had a great tournament and ended the season with the Northwest Conference MVP award. He totaled 697 points during his high school career. However, Lion fans would say the best thing about watching him play was his affinity for dunking the basketball, as he had seven dunks during his senior State Tournament alone and 22 dunks during his senior season.

Those dunks would create a deafening reaction from the crowd, and Bovenkamp said the gym atmosphere was always one of his favorite parts about playing for Lynden. The fans and community would always pack the house, and it was enjoyable for him to play with a group of guys who continually made each other better and who had such great success as a team. He remembers memorable games like playing against his cousins in the Lynden Christian game, where refs would have to stop the game to continually push fans off the court and where "every basket felt like the state championship buzzer beater."

Although the majority of Bovenkamp's success came from basketball, he decided to be a part of the track team during his senior year as well. He admittedly joined because his then-girlfriend and now-wife, Kim, was on the team, but he actually ended up winning 5th in State for the high jump. He jokes that he didn't even have high jump shoes, and when he swapped out his regular running shoes with a friend's high jump shoes for State, he jumped four inches higher. All of these stories are just a testament to Bovenkamp's athleticism and ability to perform.

His dedication to basketball didn't stop after high school. After his outbreak state tournament as a senior, he was recruited by a majority of schools in the state and eventually decided to play at Western Washington University. During his college career, Bovenkamp played shooting guard and small forward, but he was valuable to the team because of his ability to fill whatever role was needed. He "knew where he fit in and what needed to be done." This team-first mentality not only gained him the "Most Improved" award during the 1990 season but resulted in his career high of 27 points in one game during the 1991 season and earned him the role of team captain during his senior season.

Although Bovenkamp had so much to be proud of, he was grateful that he was able to be the first person in his family to graduate from college. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Kim, and graduating with his Computer Science degree, Bovenkamp now writes custom accounting software. He continued his passion for sports through coaching youth sports, playing city league basketball, and watching his own kids play sports at Lynden. However, his mark will always remain on Lynden High School as one of the most dedicated, humble, and entertaining basketball players that Lynden has ever seen.