

Oregon City loses an icon

Chuck Hudson passes away

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OREGON CITY – Clackamas Community College’s first athletic director, Chuck Hudson, died June 27 at the age of 80. Hudson served as athletic director at Clackamas from 1968 until 1986, when he retired.

When he began his career at Clackamas, Hudson was both men’s’ basketball coach and athletic director. At that time, the only sports offered were men’s’ basketball, baseball, wrestling and men’s’ track.

The founder of CCC athletics

Hudson was the founder of athletics at Clackamas and has remained close friends with many at the college as well as members of the Community College Association. He was known and respected as a man of integrity, fairness and foresight.

During the time he was athletic director, Clackamas added football, men’s and women’s cross country, volleyball, men’s soccer, softball, women’s basketball, women’s track, men’s and women’s golf, and men’s and women’s tennis.

“He was one of the nicest and cuddliest people anyone could ever meet,” says current volleyball coach Kathie Woods of Hudson, who hired her at the college in 1983. “He was my second ‘dad’ while he was at the college and I will miss him so much. I give a lot of credit to who I am today because of Chuck. He helped mold me as a young coach and for that I am very thankful.”

His first and only secretary for 16 years, Lynn Vaught, said, “I will always remember him as an important part of my life. He was easy to work for and almost never lost his temper or got in a bad mood. He had a million stories, mostly about growing up in Combs Canyon near Pendleton. He was instrumental in getting a lot of young people started in their careers.”

Hudson graduated from Pendleton High School in 1946. He played and lettered in football, basketball and track. At 17, he joined the army and was in the 7th Calvary. He served in occupied Japan as a cook and guard. At 19, he was discharged.

He returned to Oregon and enrolled at Lewis & Clark College, where he participated in basketball and track and field. Hudson was later inducted into the Lewis & Clark Hall of Fame as a member of the 1950 track team.

He married Eileen Senseney. They moved to Milton-Freewater (1953-1957), where he taught at the junior high and coached.

In 1957, Hudson moved his family to Ione where he taught, and coached football, basketball and baseball. His Ione football team won the first eight-man football championship the first year he coached. His basketball team placed second at state that year.

In 1968, the family moved to Bend, where he taught at Bend High School for seven years. He took Bend's basketball team to the state championship twice, while also coaching football and track and field.

Inducted into Hall of Fame

He was Inducted into the Northwest Athletic Directors Hall of Fame during his tenure at CCC.

He served on the Oregon City School Board as chairman.

He enjoyed fishing and hunting, and spending time with family. But his most enjoyable time was spent watching his grandchildren in plays, concerts, and athletics.

A memorial service and reception was held at Oregon City High School on July 9.

Hudson is preceded in death by his wife, Eileen, and is survived by his four children, Patti Rolen, Jim and Allen Hudson, and Joan Ferguson, their spouses, and ten grandchildren.