

2025 - 2026 Coaching Excellence Winners

Month	Coach	School	Activity	Description
May 2026	Josie Reddington	La Grande	Track & Field	Josie possesses all of the characteristics of an excellent coach. She loves each one of her athletes. She provides her athletes with the resources and skills to excel not only on the track, but in life. Her athletes are required to set goals, practice healthy behaviors in nutrition, sleep and mental preparation such as positive self-talk and confidence. Josie leads by example to her athletes. It is not uncommon to see Josie sprinting back and forth across the infield to provide her athletes with encouragement during a race.
	Mario Mendoza	Madras	Track & Field	Mario was a professional runner for variety of brands and gave a lot of his time to this Madras High School program and community. He also started a running club that is called Madras Runner. He is a board member that helps put on free running camps for the youth, and he recently helped Madras receive a grant that led to the purchase of new equipment for the runners. He's been in this program since 2018 after starting as an assistant coach.
	Donnie Thomason	Grants Pass	Girls Golf	Donnie took over as head coach in 2025, and in the past two years, she has helped the team grow so much as a community. The culture of our team has blossomed under Donnie, and they have grown into a supportive, close-knit group. At Grants Pass High School, they pride themselves on being the kindest, most educated team on the course, and no one embodies that more than Donnie. This year, we had a young team, with three underclassmen as our top 3, and Donnie has been a huge part of helping them reach the successes that they have achieved. Under Donnie's leadership, we won the district championships in 2025, and we placed 2nd this year.
	Brooks Gingerich	Canby	Choir	Brooks has established himself as an exceptional Choir Director through his unwavering commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and student growth. Under his leadership, the program has built a culture of high achievement, earning the 5A State Championship for 4 consecutive years. This accomplishment reflects Brooks' expertise and

				the dedication in his students. Brooks creates an environment where every student feels valued, which is evident in the nearly 100 students he serves within the program. His classroom fosters belonging while also maintaining high expectations, allowing students of varying backgrounds and abilities to thrive.
April 2026	Molly Bruins	St. Mary's	Speech & Debate	Coach Bruins demonstrates outstanding commitment to the development of students, her school and program, and the larger speech and debate community. She creates an environment where students, coaches, and schools feel supported. Molly is deeply dedicated not only to her own team, but also to the success of others in the community. She has answered countless questions, encouraged new coaches, and offered guidance that has helped growing programs. She models true sportsmanship by supporting students beyond her own. She is an excellent coach whose leadership inspires others and strengthens speech and debate for everyone involved.
	Chris Riley	South Salem	Baseball	Since returning to the South Salem High School baseball program as an Assistant Coach in 2025, after stepping down as the Saxons Head Coach in 2016, Coach Riley has helped the program reach an entirely new level of success. He spends a significant amount of time and energy building relationships with student-athletes and as a result, he's a go-to resource for them. He truly wants them to be successful in all that they do and serves as a constant role model for what it means to be a servant leader. He is always willing to step up and fill any role the program needs.
	Melissa Albert	Reynolds	Choir	Melissa is described as an extremely hardworking leader, and motivates her students to be better musicians, students and people overall. She is an inspiring director who is very dedicated to music and creating a safe space for students to be themselves. She has overcome many obstacles and aims to put smiles on everyone's faces.
	Lennie Wolfe	Warrenton	Baseball	Lennie's winning success is well documented with his 2 State titles, multiple finals appearances, and his induction into the State

				Hall of fame. His knowledge of the game is acknowledged all around the baseball community. What cannot be quantified by the W/L column is his deep love of the game and dedication to building it beyond WHS and instilling this in all his players. He loves his kids and staff at a level that has created relationships that mirrors a family unit. Deep emotional ties that live far beyond the short time the athletes are in his program. This is exemplified by the success of the annual alumni game and the fact he currently has 3 former players on his coaching staff.
March 2026	Mikyla Pruett	David Douglas	Cheerleading	Mikyla is the embodiment of Coaching Excellence. She leads the team with such perfection and makes the Scots look and feel the best they can. Mikyla not only pushes the girls in practice but also in the classroom. She understands that as student athletes the student always comes first with every athlete that has come into the cheer program graduates and this shows in her 100% Graduation rate. They completed the season with 3rd place at the OSAA Cheerleading State Championships in the biggest division in the state of Oregon.
	Tim Warnock	Crosshill Christian	Swimming	Coach Warnock started the Crosshill Swim program 3 years ago. He started with just a handful of swimmers and has grown the program to a team of 30+ athletes. Many of the students have little to no swim experience, but Coach Warnock knows how to teach new swimmers all the essentials of swim. Coach Warnock understands the needs of swimmers, both physically and psychologically. He counsels them and cares for them deeply. His laid back approach sets the athletes at ease. Kids who might not have tried other sports are willing to give swim a try, because they know they will be encouraged and they know they will develop skills for a lifetime of fitness.
	Jillian Ross-Dean	St. Helens	Girls Basketball	Jillian is a phenomenal coach who has completely transformed the Lions GBB Program. When she arrived 4years ago, the program was facing challenges. Jillian stepped in and immediately got to work, creating camps and opportunities to invest in younger athletes and build the program from the ground up. Her

				accomplishments this year:2026 COWAPA League Champions, 2026 OSAA 4A 2nd place , 2026 COWAPA league coach of the year.
	Kyle Wolf	Toledo	Boys Basketball	Kyle exemplifies coaching excellence through his commitment to student development, program growth, community dedication, and sportsmanship.A proud Toledo High School alumnus, Kyle returned to his alma mater two years ago with one goal: give back to the program and school that helped shape the man he is today. What he inherited was a once-proud basketball program that had slipped badly-just one win over two seasons. What he’s built is a program on the rise and back in position to compete for a league championship. The program is better, the kids are better, and Toledo basketball is back where it belongs.
February 2026	Kailey Fowlkes	South Medford	Girls Wrestling	Kailey has been a phenomenal leader for the Panthers, and is shown through the many high placing girls on the team. South Medford brought 2 girls and 6 boys to the 2026 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union Wrestling State Championships, and this year had an athlete place 3rd (highest ever girls state placer).
	Tal Wold	Stayton	Girls Basketball	Tal embodies commitment, character, sportsmanship, excellence, and a love for serving others. Since the beginning of last season, theLady Eagles are 44-4. But it's not the wins and accomplishments that make Tal stand out—his focus, preparation, and attention to detail is contagious, and the girls have become better students, better athletes, and better young people because of his leadership.
	Megan Smith	Central	Cheerleading	Megan took the Panthers to the UCA Nationals for the first time ever, ended up taking home 3rd place in their division after bringing home the OSAA State Title to Central in 2025, and placing 3rd in the OSAA 5A Co-Ed Gameday Division in the 2026 State Championships. She has raised the standard and has strong relationships within the Cheerleading community in Oregon.
	Aaron Toso	Summit	Boys and Girls Wrestling	Coach Toso has transformed Summit Wrestling by instilling a high-energy, hard-working culture that demands excellence both on and off the

				mat. His dedication is deeply personal. Having mentored many of our athletes from middle school through graduation, he has built a program centered on long-term growth and infectious enthusiasm. This commitment is evident in his animated coaching style and the unwavering sportsmanship he models. Under his leadership, the wrestling room has become a vibrant hub of school pride where students are pushed to their physical limits while maintaining the highest standards of integrity.
January 2026	Marla Olstedt	Seaside	Girls Basketball	Marla pushes her student-athletes to perform to the best of their abilities and has created a strong relationship with everyone in the program. She teaches respect, and great sportsmanship, and wants to be a strong role model. Her dedication, patience, and passion shines at each practice and game, and inspires her team to compete. The Seagulls are currently ranked #1 in 4A and sit atop the Cowapa League.
	Tommy Kennedy	Sprague	Boys Wrestling	Previously an official for 30 years, Tommy Kennedy is a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and brings a unique perspective to the Olympians staff. He makes sure everyone feels supported and included and supports both the girls & boys programs. Tommy preaches “do what we do” and “doing the right things, the right way”.
	Sierra Carrier	East Linn Christian	Girls Basketball	Sierra has led the Eagles to a strong start this year and are ranked inside the top 10 in the 2A rankings. She focuses on injury prevention & wants her student-athletes to compete at a high level, while prioritizing health. She is building the program and surpassing expectations at East Linn Christian. Her strong work ethic & character empowers all her student-athletes.
	Odin Miller	Union	Boys Basketball	Odin has led the Bobcats to a 16-1 start on the season, and undefeated in Old Oregon League play. Union won the 1A OSAA Cup, and his program has volunteered as youth refs, as community involvement is important for his team. He emphasizes sportsmanship and respecting their opponents. Union is currently ranked #2 in 1A.

December 2025	Brooke Cates	West Linn	Girls Basketball	Coach Cates is the coach every player hopes for and every parent is grateful for. She sees each athlete not just as a basketball player, but as a whole person; with fears, dreams, and limitless potential. In the gym, she teaches the game with passion and purpose. Outside of it, she teaches confidence, resilience, and belief when it's hardest to find. Her players grow under her care. They learn to trust themselves, to fight for one another, and to walk through life with their heads held higher because she believed in them first. Wins matter, but what truly sets Brooke apart is the way her athletes leave her program stronger, kinder, and more prepared for the world.
	Joseph Jackson	Milwaukie	Boys Basketball	Joseph is in his 3rd year as the Varsity Boys Head Coach at Milwaukie High School after spending 3 years as an assistant in the program. He deeply values relationships and emphasizes connection to his players, coaches, the Milwaukie Youth program, and the Milwaukie Community. He is passionate in helping players gain skills that will carry them outside of sports. In the Milwaukie program, the standards of Communication, Engagement, and Leadership are preached daily. So far, Milwaukie is 6-3 and has had the best start to the season since the 2019-20 season.
	Rachel Factora	Tualatin	Girls Wrestling	Coach Factora has been an incredible leader for the Timberwolves Girls Wrestling program. Her dedication, knowledge, and passion for the sport inspire her athletes to work hard, believe in themselves, and grow both on and off the mat. She creates a positive, empowering environment where every wrestler feels supported and challenged to reach their full potential. Tualatin is grateful for her commitment and the impact she continues to make on the team.
	Tim Kiesecker	Joseph Charter	Boys Wrestling	Tim is an excellent coach whose love for coaching expands beyond the walls of Joseph Charter. Last year, he allowed the Imbler program to ride along in their bus and gave the opportunity for some students to see the ocean for the first time. He goes above and beyond for the sport. One of his former wrestlers creates a painting each year, which is on every champion bracket board, and the original is

				auctioned off, with the proceeds going to the Joseph wrestling program.
November 2025	Corben Hyatt	Summit	Football	Coach Hyatt has instilled a sense of greater community responsibility in his student-athletes at Summit. He encourages his team to participate at local events, volunteering at races, parades, hosting car washes, or simply supporting other athletic program at Summit. He has led Summit to the 5A Football State Championship game this year.
	Candice Renyer	Umpqua Valley Christian	Volleyball	Candice has been voted the Skyline League coach of the year in back-to-back seasons and is the ONLY head coach in UVC history who has made the postseason. She has coached for 8 years and has done a fantastic job getting the youth programs involved, hosting younger students at practice and summer camps. Candice is a dedicated coach and cares about her student-athletes like they were her own daughters.
	Colby Tonn	The Dalles	Girls Soccer	Colby has had 2 separate stints for the Riverhawks, he has built a standard for the Riverhawks Girls Soccer team. He conducts grade checks, hosts tutoring sessions and encourages his team to get as involved as possible, whether that is officiating youth games, to donating clothing to people in need, Colby instills high quality values in his athletes and is everything that a coach should be: a teacher, mentor, philanthropist, and a strong leader. He led The Dalles to their 1st State Championship game appearance in school history, 17-1 overall record, and a team GPA of 3.56.
	Brittnay Day	Umatilla	Girls Soccer	Brittnay is a first year Assistant Coach for the Vikings Girls Soccer team, who made the Quarterfinals this season. She is always in the mix, staying constantly involved on the field and in the classroom as math teacher, and shows outstanding sportsmanship. She is well prepared for each match and can truly bring her girls together through her inspirational speeches, her patience, and discipline. She created a fantastic environment where the team could thrive, and led to a great season.

September 2025	Caleb Singleton	North Salem	Football	Caleb is in his 2nd year as head coach of the Vikings. He assembled his coaching staff to reflect the passion that he has for athlete development, commitment to a unified vision, and laying a foundation for sustainable growth for years to come. Caleb is committed to building strong leadership traits and strong character in his athletes and emphasizes accountability, teamwork, and integrity. The Vikings Football team also puts in volunteer hours, and organizes study sessions. North Salem is 3-2 on the year.
	Megan Smallwood	Newport	Volleyball	Megan took over the Cubs Volleyball program just a few years ago, at a time when participation was declining. Since then, she has increased participation by 15%, and her athletes have gone 2 consecutive years without any academic eligibility suspensions. The Newport team carries itself with pride and passion; they are true students of the game and unafraid to fail. Megan has also immersed herself in local youth programs - coaching during the off-season and consistently attending other Newport athletic events.
	Dwight Roberson	Corvallis	Football	Dwight is the head football coach at Corvallis, he cares about his athletes and sees them as individuals first, and wants to build a strong, positive team culture, and develop his student athletes on and off the field. He cheers on their successes, even outside of football, and wants to see his athletes develop into great young men.
	Shannon Steele	Vale	Volleyball	Shannon is the head coach of the Vale Vikings volleyball program. She emphasizes the importance of academics has been coaching for 16 years. Known as a hard worker, her leadership extends far beyond the volleyball court, helping to shape her athletes into well-rounded individuals. Shannon organizes various team-building activities- such as team dinners, poster-making events, media shoots, and assemblies - and ensures her athletes receive the recognition they deserve. The Vikings are currently 11-6 on the year.
October 2025	Troy Walker	Lebanon	Football	Coach Walker dedicates his whole self to Lebanon High School and its athletics. He is very personable and caring with all his students

				and athletes. While being at Lebanon he has established a culture with the football team that values integrity, respect, family, and community. As a coach he leads by example, being incredibly selfless and always preaching the value of “Us”, being “All-in together”. So far this year he has led Lebanon High School football to a 6-1 record, on a 6-game winning streak. No other individual spends more time than Walker caring for his players and staff, sacrificing much of his own personal hours to make sure all those under him are set up for success.
	Kristina Thom	Westside Christian	Volleyball	Kristina is a mom of 6 and recently started a new job. These commitments could have convinced her to leave high school coaching since balancing it all is a lot - but she stayed committed to the players this year that she has coached throughout high school. She is very passionate about demonstrating sportsmanship, doesn't allow booing by fans, and knows the game inside & out. She is described as extremely competitive, but not at the cost of sportsmanship, and teaches her players how to handle losing with grace and winning with humility. Kristina has strong character, and is shown through her leadership, many at Westside Christian have expressed their gratefulness for her.
	Chris Shields	Stayton	Boys Soccer	Chris has had a 21-year tenure at Stayton High School. As the head coach of the Varsity Soccer team and the founder of the Stayton Soccer Club (SSC), Chris's impact on youth sports in Stayton has been transformative. For the past two decades, Chris has exemplified dedication, leadership, and excellence in every aspect of his work. His teams winning 14 league championships in 15 years, Chris' leadership for this team has been consistent, supportive and stellar. In addition to his success at the high school level, Chris is the founder and creator of the Stayton Soccer Club (SSC), a program designed to foster a love for soccer from a young age.
	Suzy Cole	Baker	Cross Country	Suzy is in her 32nd, and final year of coaching and teaching at BHS, and has impacted thousands of student-athletes throughout her career. She has won state championships in

				both Track & Field and XC as a coach, and has the utmost respect from her peers, the community, and all of Eastern Oregon as well. Her commitment to the Baker community has spread far beyond and has impacted the lives of many.
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