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Jorgensen named NCS Honor Coach

Daniel Squier



FERNDALE -- The legacy of former Ferndale head coach Carl Carlson lives on, this time in the form of one of his former players and assistant coaches, Kim Jorgensen.

The current Ferndale head

coach has been named the 2005 North Coast Section Honor Coach of the Year, along with girls volleyball coach David Rentz of Sonoma Valley High. Jorgensen is the third Humboldt-Del Norte League coach to be so honored in the last 22 years. Even more impressive is the fact that he joins both Carlson and current Eureka head football coach Jack Lakin as honorees.

The fact that the three men, all with the Ferndale connection, have been awarded the honor speaks volumes about the excellence the Wildcats have enjoyed over the past 40 years.

Carlson was named NCS Honor coach during the 1983 season, and Lakin earned the honor after his Loggers rode roughshod over the NCS with an undefeated championship season in 2003.

Now it's Jorgensen's turn, keeping alive a very unique lineage that dates back to when Carlson first took the field as the Cats' head coach.

"It's hard to put into words ... I'm just thankful for the honor and hopefully we've been representing the school and the town well," Jorgensen said as he tried to explain the legacy left by Carlson. "I see it as something that has been ingrained in us and it was taught by him. It's a way of doing things, an attitude that we hope to pass to those who are learning."

The Wildcats don't pass the ball much on the football field, but the manner in which they practice, play and perform has certainly been passed along. Jorgensen, who is currently in the midst of his 15th season as Ferndale's head coach, has compiled a 143-32 record over that span, and if the regular season record doesn't catch your eye, look at what his teams

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have done in the NCS playoffs.

The Cats have won six NCS titles under Jorgensen, five in Class B, and one in Class A, the latest a title in 2002. If the Cats aren't winning a title, they are fighting for one, as they have been in the Class A Championship game three out of the last five seasons and each time they faced Justin-Siena.

Jorgensen has close ties with both Lakins -- Charlie and Jack -- and he played under Charlie Lakin when Charlie was an assistant under Carlson. Charlie Lakin was also the principal at Ferndale when Jorgensen was hired, a decision he can certainly look back upon as one his best.

"Kim's morals, character and integrity are unquestioned," said Charlie, the Humboldt-Del Norte League Commissioner, who has close ties to all three men honored as NCS Honor Coach. "He expects that from his kids, and when you demand that character and integrity from the kids you're going to have success."

And success is rarely in doubt when it comes to Ferndale football. Jorgensen, as his is way, made sure that his assistants -- Tom Weber, Trevor Christiansen, Eric Kindall, Mike Collenberg and JV coach Jeremy Griffith got the credit they deserved, but he saved the highest praise for the players.

"I learned my coaching from Mr. (Charlie) Lakin and he's been an excellent role model," Jorgensen said. "But the biggest key to our success is that the players have bought into the system. They recognize the fun of playing in the atmosphere we have down here and it takes an awful lot of good people to have the success we've had."

The Cats will attempt to continue that success on Saturday when they face Justin-Siena in the second round of the NCS Class A playoffs. Ferndale advanced by beating Middletown 17-3, and even though Justin-Siena is the higher seed, the Cats were awarded the home game because they are a league champion and Justin-Siena is not. The game begins at 1 p.m. at Coach Carlson field.

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