

Chalkboard

By

Brae Harper, Athletic Director/High School Assistant Principal

Today's reading finds us deep into the football season, golf season over and the volleyball team finding itself going into the "next season" in coaching language, that is postseason play. Our golf team had a good season this year, we had two young ladies: Jade Shawver and Kelsea Whitten advance to regional play. Kelsea Whitten then advanced to state tournament play. We had two young men advance to regional play: Ben Sarratt and Thomas Helt. Our volleyball team has drastically improved throughout the season and is progressing as we speak. Our football teams have also improved to this point in the season.

I would like to take a little of your time and thank you for your continued support of our athletic programs at Gentry. We have tried to bring to you a diverse athletic program by adding: Wrestling, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, and Volleyball in the last two years. All of these sports have increased our population of student athletes by 50%. With adding these sports also brings costly budgets for them as we endure startup costs. We have survived this and I feel like the community of Gentry is better today for bringing these programs to the forefront and supporting these activities.

I would like to introduce you to our coaches and directors at Gentry Public Schools. These people are valuable to the school and the Gentry community. Our boys and girls golf coach is Conlan Efurd; he is also the Senior Boys Basketball Coach and Assistant Senior Girls Coach. Coach Efurd is also the senior and junior high boys track coach. Marian Killgore is our new Senior High Volleyball Coach and is still our Softball Head Coach. Tim Rippy is our new Head Senior Girls Basketball Coach along with being the Senior Boys Assistant Coach. Brian Little is our new Head Football Coach and Dean of Student Affairs at the High School. Daniel Ramsey is our new defensive coordinator in Senior and Junior High Football along with helping with our track program. Marty Edmiston is our new Head Junior High Football Coach and Assistant Senior High and Assistant Seventh Grade Football. Coach Edmiston will also serve as our Boys and Girls Bowling Coach; he will also be our new Head Baseball Coach. Nika West is our new Head Wrestling Coach; he also serves as an Assistant Senior High Football Coach and Junior High and Head Seventh Grade Football Coach. In addition, he will be assisting in Baseball. Chuck Jones is our Head Junior High Girls Basketball Coach, and assisting Junior High Boys Basketball Coach Assistant Coach. Coach Jones is also our Head Seventh Grade Girls Basketball Coach and our Head Girls Track Coach. Nick Bartmier is our Head Junior High Boys Basketball Coach, Assistant Football and Assistant Junior High Girls Basketball Coach. Joni Wilson is Head Senior High Cheer Coach and Rachael Thrailkill is our new Head Junior High Cheer Coach. David Nelson will be assisting in Girls Softball this season. Michelle Slayton is our Head Senior High and Junior Band Director. Trella Yates is our Head Choir Director. Darlene Roberts is our Drama and Forensics Director.

I realize that this sounds like a lot of coaches and activities and... it is. Gentry High School has the most athletic programs of anyone in the 1-4A Conference. We also

have the least number of coaches in our district; this means our coaches are spread thin. We have a great group of coaches and I would like to commend this group, for what they do for our students and our community. Again, I want to personally thank the patrons of the Gentry School District for your continued support of Pioneer Athletics and Activities. GO PIONEERS!!!