

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Chelle Watt

Years I have coached: Since 1997

Team(s) I have coached: The Colton Untouchables & The Wilsonville Pride

My favorite thing about coaching is: My favorite thing about coaching is the kids. I find each year that I coach I learn a little bit more about today's youth. They never fail to amaze me and teach me new ways to enjoy life. So often high school is a difficult time for them. Through out the years I have formed life long friendships and have continued to be a part of their lives outside of dance team, from planning weddings to attending college graduations and celebrating the births of their children. These young women have given me more than I could have ever dreamed. My coaching goal has always been to encourage them to follow their dreams, to never underestimate the power that lies within them to overcome obstacles that stand in their way and to help them develop high self esteems and learn life lessons that will carry on in future endeavors.

Most memorable coaching moment: There are so many, it's hard to narrow it down, but I'd have to say that watching my daughter perform at state in 1997, and win not only her first Championship title, but my own as a coach and the first one in Colton's history was amazing. Some years are just magical and that year was in every sense of the word. The kids had a passion and heart to succeed that I'd never seen before. Their hunger was a driving force and set precedence for all of my years of coaching to come.

My favorite routines are *(please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to):* It is impossible for me to pick just one routine as they all have left an imprint on my life. It is the beauty of the young women who perform it that brings it to life and engraves it upon my heart for all times. I would have to say that a few of my favorites throughout the years have been "Believe In the Power of Your Dreams" from 2001. This routine summed up my coaching philosophy in its theme. Everything fell into place, the kids were amazing and lovely and we made memories to last a lifetime. I also loved "Climbing to the Top" from 2003. Never before had I been privileged enough to have kids who actually had formal dance training. They reached heights that we only imagined could be possible and proved that dreams really can come true! "I Run For Life" from 2007 was magical in its own way. It was a brand new team except for one returning member. These kids knew what they wanted and nothing could stand in their way. They proved that nothing good in life comes without a price tag and champions are not made in the performance, but in the days, weeks and months prior to it. Lastly, "Conga Fury" from 2009, my first year coaching at Wilsonville. There was so much talent and I really stepped out of my comfort zone with this routine. I proved to my self that together we could accomplish much as long as we remained committed to each other and strived for the excellence that I knew the kids could deliver. We proved to ourselves and our community that hard work pays off.

Every year brings new challenges, new friendships blossom and memories are made. Dance team truly is the most unique family and there success has truly been my joy!

Something you might not know about me is: My love for dance began at age five when I began taking lessons from my Kumu Zita Ralph. I took tap, jazz and hula, but my passion for the arts stemmed from Polynesian dance and to this day nothing brings me more joy than to perform the Hula for those I love.

My favorite song is: “May My Love Give You Roots, To Help You Find Your Wings”, because it has my life’s quest to instill this in my children’s lives and in the lives of the young people I’ve been blessed to coach.

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Amanda Marvin

Years I have coached: 8 years

Team(s) I have coached: Central High School (4 years) & South Albany High School (4 years)

My favorite thing about coaching is: The most magical thing about coaching is being in the moment with young adults as they reach their goals and dreams. I feel that dance team is much more than dance. On our team, we try to teach perseverance, dedication, commitment, hard work, tenacity, leadership, and teamwork. These are the values that children will need to endure, to compete, and to be successful throughout their entire lives. I am blessed because I get to teach kids these positive character traits on a daily basis. Knowing that I am making a positive difference in the lives of kids keeps me going. It is also a joy when my dancers contact me after high school to keep me in the loop.

Most memorable coaching moment: My second year at South Albany, the year we danced "Proud", we were heading home from state. All of a sudden, one of my seniors, who was also one of my first all-state dancers ☺, came running up the aisle to the front of the bus. She sat down next to me, burst into tears, and hugged me with all of her might. I was very worried that something was wrong, so I asked her what was going on. She proceeded to tell me how hard it was for her to believe this would be her last time at state. She said that dance team had taught her more about herself than any other experience she has encountered. She thanked me for my encouragement, my motivation, and my love. She told me she was going to make big things happen in her life, and it was in part due to the fact that she had been on my team. The conversation left a permanent imprint on my heart. It's one that every coach dreams of. And, I am happy to announce, she is now in her second year of college, and she's the youngest member of the Portland Winterhawk's Dance Team. The first professional athlete at South Albany!

My favorite routines are *(please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to):* This is very hard for me to choose because each routine has a special place in my heart. I remember how much time and energy each routine took to put together, and the memories of watching the kids grow with each dance will last a lifetime.

"Aerosmith: Walk This Way" will always hold a special place in my heart because it was my first year at South and my first year teaching English. The kids and I grew by leaps and bounds that year. Although it was hard for me to leave the kids at Central, South Albany welcomed me with open arms. Plus, Aerosmith is my all time favorite band and I felt like I truly had a team that could finally pull off my vision, so I took advantage of the opportunity and our collective talents came together to put on one heck of a show.

The following year, we did “Proud”. It was one song, although I spliced the regular and techno versions together, and it was phenomenal. This year I was able to work with Robin Meier who taught me about forms, and our choreographer, Jordan Weiss, created some of the best choreography I’ve seen. Although, emotionally, this was one of the toughest years I have ever had coaching, the routine, despite all the chaos some parents and a senior tried to stir up, was spectacular. The girls really pulled themselves up by the bootstraps and danced their hearts out.

Other noteworthy routines are (in no particular order): West Albany’s “Fire Starter”, Lebanon’s “Mama”, Pendleton’s “Beethoven”, Tigard’s “Imagine”, Sweet Home’s “Jungle”, Estacada’s 2004 State Routine (Cindy Osterman’s last year), Glencoe’s “Words”, Rex Putnam’s 2009 State Routine, South Albany’s “Love Can Move Mountains”, South Albany’s “Move, Dance, Be Born”, Parkrose 2009 State Routine, and Churchill’s “The Others”

Something you might not know about me is: This year, I am coaching, teaching English, going through my masters program, and planning my 2010 summer wedding. It is a hectic year to say the least, but at least I have found a partner in life who understands me and supports me. Despite the fact there are times I feel I am going crazy, I know I am truly blessed to be living my dreams day in and day out!

My favorite song is: Aerosmith, “Dream On”

I love this song because it is a story of living and learning. Also, despite the fact that there’s no way to know what tomorrow might bring, we all need to keep our focus and “dream until our dreams come true.”

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Debbie Brown

Years I have coached:

This is my 30th year coaching, but just my 9th coaching dance team. ☺

Team(s) I have coached:

Well, not counting gymnastics, cheerleading, track and softball (and one season as flag football coach, lol) I have only coached the Marshfield Upbeats dance team.

My favorite thing about coaching is:

The kids!!! When I first started coaching (cheer team at Marist High School) I was in college and it was just something that fell my way and seemed like it would be fun. Over the years it has just become part of my life. I just can't imagine not coaching... I may still be around with a cane hobbling around the floor someday! I love watching a "little freshman", a young lady who has never danced, develop into an amazing dancer and performer. I love watching those who come to the team with some training grow in their performance quality. I love the smiles on their faces when they do something they never dreamed they could do. I love it when my dancers come to me head hanging low when they've gotten a bad grade and know they won't be dancing, and then turn that grade around and bounce into my classroom beaming because "I never thought I could do math, and I have a B!!!" The sleepless nights all coaches experience aren't wonderful, but most everything else about coaching is!

Most memorable coaching moment:

Well, there are so many. First might always be my daughters team winning state her senior year and getting to share that experience with her and the team. The year before was awful... parents... school board... and I won't say more, except that I decided I would give coaching one more year and then decide if I would continue or not. My two senior captains and I (casi was one of them) put together a dance to Evanescence that we just loved, the team bonded together so well that year. After the previous year we all just wanted to have fun and we did! Second might be last year. At state we placed 4th and I was SO excited and looked out at my team and they were bawling on the floor, so then I was annoyed at them... I told them... well you might imagine what I started to say... then one of my girls looked up at me and said, "that is the last time we will ever dance together" and I realize they were crying because they loved each other so much and it was the end of a very special time in there lives, and then I was annoyed with myself and, of course, I started bawling to!

My favorite routines are *(please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to):*

Well, for the Upbeats, Judy's Mortal Combat! Some of you might still remember that ☺ Amazing, strong precision, Loved it! Then Evanescence 2004 was so powerful, and I have to say this years. I like a strong, hard hitting routine. Thurston's Mask routine... WOW! Tap dancers on boxes, costume changes on the floor, what a kickline... awesome

routine. Stayton's dance, not sure the theme, but in the red dresses, maybe "Just Dance"
Loved the music, the dresses, the forms and staging (wish I could do that!) A beautiful
dance, Lake Oswego "stronger", Sheldon's "Don Quixote" ... Anything Parkrose does! I
could go on!

Something you might not know about me is:

I don't like talking in front of groups, REALLY don't like it! I'm uncomfortable around
people I don't know as I always wonder what they are thinking of me. I cry when I am
happy, mad, proud, sad, and it really annoys me! I wish I could be perfect and it annoys
me that I'm not. I'm a bit OC. I will try almost anything (that doesn't involve breaking
rules). I built an addition on my house, almost completely by myself... can even carry
90lb bundles of roof shingles up a ladder! It is amazing what one can learn watching
This Old House and HGTV! My favorite gift this Christmas was an air compressor and 3
nail guns!!! I think chocolate should be its own food group. ☺

My favorite song is:

Oh, really don't know the answer I like so many different songs and styles!! And
anything a small child sings can bring a smile to my face or tears to my eyes!

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: McKenzie Smith

Years I have coached: 13

Team(s) I have coached: Thurston

My favorite thing about coaching is: My relationships with the kids. I love walking down the halls or seeing students when I substitute teach at the high school and hear, “yeah, its coach Zie.” I love when they ask me to come watch their track meets or fundraisers or drama productions. It’s fun to be involved in their lives, instill in them positive values, help them understand the importance of responsibility, and to watch them grow into young adults.

Most memorable coaching moment: At the end of the 2000 season, we lost a pretty large and very talented senior class. For the next season we had a young/new team and more than one person felt the need to point it out to me when we started in the fall. My patented response was always, “they may be young, but what they lack in experience they more than make up for in hard work,” and it was the truth. These girls worked their butts off all season and came away from state with a 3rd place trophy (the highest Thurston has placed 20 years). It felt so good to prove the nay-sayers wrong and even better to watch a new team become so unified and work so hard to accomplish their goals as a team. We called ourselves the 3rd place state champions ☺ because it might as well have been first, it felt that good.

My favorite routines are (*please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to*): ‘Beauty and the Beast’ by Cleveland (I want to say 94, but I don’t remember for sure)...I still go back and watch that one on VHS ☺, Clackamas (I believe) did a routine with can-can girl costumes and flashing lights across a stage...it might have been called ‘Curtain Call’ but Im not certain...anyways, it gave me chills!, Parkrose’s staircase routine (again, I am not sure the formal name), Zorro by Pendleton and Caliente by Thurston in ’04.

Something you might not know about me is: I have been coaching alongside my mom since I graduated in ’97. Next year, after 20 years as head coach, she will be retiring and officially switching positions with me. So while I will be the new head coach, we will still remain a mother/daughter dance team coaching duo ☺

My favorite song is: “In My Life” by The Beatles

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Kimberly Linn

Years I have coached: 15 years

Team(s) I have coached: Rex Putnam Royal Crowns

My favorite thing about coaching is: My favorite thing about coaching is getting the opportunity to build lasting relationships with my dancers, their families, and my fellow coaches. I also really enjoy creating a show from scratch and working together as a team to turn it into something we can all be proud of.

Most memorable coaching moment: I think my most memorable moment from year to year is saying goodbye to our seniors, whom I've inevitably come to love and immediately feeling humbled that they've allowed me to be such a big part of their lives.

My favorite routines are *(please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to):* My favorite Putnam routines would most likely be 1992 Money (my senior year), 2006 A tribute to Billy Joel, and 2009 Say What You Need to Say. As for other routines, there are so many that I've admired through the years...Parkrose's Captivation, Clackamas' Hide and Seek, and Glencoe's Water Lilies instantly come to mind in the show division.

Something you might not know about me is: I'm really clumsy, I hate to cook, I'm kind of a neat freak, I love to laugh, and I'm a natural brunette ☺.

My favorite song is: My Best Friend by Tim McGraw