

SPORTS

Smart out as WHS boys basketball coach

Laurel Barber
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Boys basketball coach Chris Smart will not return next season.

The school board voted on rehiring winter head coaches at Monday night's board meeting. Wrestling coach Joey Heersche was the only WHS coach on the list, which was approved unanimously.

Principal Jan Hutley and athletic director Jeron Weisshaar declined to comment.

Reflecting on the team's season, Smart said "We made huge strides this year. I think that's what I'm most disappointed about is that I won't get to continue that. Not only as basketball players but maturing as people."

Smart ends his time at WHS with a record of 5-19.

The district is currently searching for a replacement. The new head coach will be the charger's third in three years.

SCHUTTER BREAKS TRIPLE JUMP RECORD

Four days after breaking the WHS long jump record, freshman Lauren Schutter made another mark in the record book at Friday's home meet. Schutter set the record in triple jump with a leap of 34'10. Schutter placed first at the meet. Junior Laurel Barber also earned gold in Javelin. The team competes again Thursday and Friday in Wichita.

SOFTBALL BRIEF

The Lady Chargers continue a strong start to the season. The team split against county rival Mission Valley on April 2, losing the first game 6-4 and winning the second 8-1. The Chargers swept the Rossville Lady Dawgs Friday, beating them 6-5 and 17-8.

STAR EVENTS

A REAL THREAT



Jessica Vanstory and Meredith Hess present their STAR project to underclassmen in the WHS library. "It was cool. I liked the way they talked to us as a group," junior Jessica Hedges said. Photo by Emma Alderman.

STAR event teaches danger of e-cigarettes

Kaytlyn Meseke
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Seniors Jessica Vanstory and Meredith Hess took on a project to spread public awareness of vaping.

To spread the awareness, Vanstory and Hess entered in the Illustrated Talk for their FCCLA STAR Event. Illustrated talk is a competitive event that includes an oral presentation for issues that concern the community. Vanstory and Hess said that their idea started when the vaping drama happened at the school.

"I think the topic is very timely because it's important for teens to know the effect of e-cigarettes

on their body," FCCLA adviser Diane Breiner said.

Illustrated talk includes researching a project and then creating a visual. For the research, Vanstory and Hess compared the Kansas statistics of high school students to WHS students through an anonymous survey.

"I liked doing the survey because it was interesting to find out the stats of our school," Vanstory said.

The competition requires a presentation to the targeted audience at least three times. Vanstory and Hess presented to FCS and English classes and were later asked to present to all WHS students by principal Jan Hutley.

"I think it was a timely and relevant topic for all students in the junior high and high school and the importance was definitely highlighted in the harmful, chronic effects of electronic cigarette use," Hutley said.

Vanstory and Hess said they enjoyed this STAR Event because it was simpler and got to use their creative skills.

"I liked making the board because we got to be creative since nothing was actually required on the visual," Hess said.

Hess and Vanstory took their project to state FCCLA this week, earning gold. They will compete at nationals in Anaheim this summer.

EDITORIAL

Coach's departure concerning

Chris Smart will not be returning as head boys basketball coach next year.

While no one on the newspaper staff played basketball under Smart, we have several concerns about his departure.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Send letters to the editor to whscharger@gmail.com.

Of course, no one working for the district will comment on the circumstances surrounding Smart's departure. That's standard for personnel issues. While Smart did speak to the Charger about the progress the team made this season, he declined to speak about the exact reasons he won't be returning.

We won't speculate on why Smart won't return, but coaching seems to be too temporary a position at Wabaunsee. Smart is the fourth head coach to depart in the last two years, following the removal of Maggie Strait (volleyball), Skylar Suther (boys basketball) and Brian Henry (football).

This pattern presents several problems for players and for the community.

A lack of longevity makes building a relationship between coaches and players difficult. On the best teams, players know their coaches and value their advice. The best coaches know their player's strengths and weaknesses — knowledge that takes time to develop. Some players in the WHS basketball program will have to play for three different head coaches, assuming the next coach gets more than a year to prove their worth. Constantly starting over creates a disadvantage for the team, not only in the present, but for years ahead.

We also worry that the frequent changes will harm Wabaunsee's reputation. Will uncertainty make it more difficult to fill coaching and teaching positions in the future? A school that doesn't retain coaches is less enticing for a person who wants to put in the work to build a successful program.

Smart's departure has not inspired the same level of anger in the student community that followed last year's firing of Skylar Suther. But that shouldn't necessarily reflect poorly on Smart. Suther had five years as a teacher and coach to build a reputation and connections. Smart only received one season.

We wish the best to the basketball team and its future coach, and we hope to see the program build in the future. We also hope the next coach has an opportunity to succeed.

Opinion: Barbers handle pressing prom questions

Laurel Barber, Luke Barber
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Siblings Luke and Laurel Barber are back to answer the most pressing issues surrounding Saturday's WHS Prom.

How much should I spend on Prom?

Laurel: The max you should spend on prom night is \$250 between flowers, the dress or tux, dinner and accessories. There is no need to go crazy for prom. It's one night and you probably will forget about it after high school.

Luke: Spend? I didn't spend a single dime on prom. All my clothing is hand-sewn and crafted from recycled ocean plastic. If you're spending money on anything other than food you are absolutely certifiably stupid.

What should I drive?

Laurel: Some schools don't do a promenade, but Wabaunsee does. It's a cool way to show off the

dresses and tuxes. Showing up in a super cool vehicle is awesome. It's a flex on everyone else. But if the vehicle doesn't suit your personality you don't have to take it. Take something you like and shows you.

Luke: Well, if you're looking for cheap, here's a few options. Wheelbarrow, tricycles, hitch hike, cartwheel. It doesn't matter. No one else cares what you drive. People only care about what they take so don't worry too much about it. In three years no one will remember anyway.

What are some good conversation topics if I want to avoid awkwardness with my date?

Laurel: Try going to prom with a friend — which is super cool. No need to only go to prom if you are in a relationship. The night can get awkward if you and your date don't have a lot to talk about. The best way to find ideas to talk about is ask them about things they like and see where it goes.

Luke: Current Eco-Political

atmosphere. Just talk about little things like that — not too serious but still topical for our age. Or just do what most people do at prom and gossip about other couples' outfits. Either/or really.

What are some essential manners for Prom?

Laurel: Prom essential manners are something that is in the unsaid book of high school. To latch arms for the red carpet, the male sticks his arm out and the girl wraps her arm around his. This way it's not awkward trying to watch them walk. The male should open the door and allow the girl to walk in first.

Luke: Fend for yourself. Again no one cares what you do. Everyone is too worried about what they are doing. Or try to be as awkward as you can and try to make people really uncomfortable that would be funny.

What are some huge mistakes to avoid?

Laurel: Mistakes to avoid at

prom are thinking that everyone should stop what they are doing and focus on you. When you are getting ready, everyone else is busy and you should be grateful that they are spending the day with you.

Luke: Don't throw up walking down in front of everyone. Too often has that mistake been made. The worst part is that the next couple has to walk through it. It's just a matter of time until someone pukes themselves and then the whole prom is stained green. Don't make that mistake two years in a row — trust me.

Is Prom as important as everyone says it is?

Laurel: Prom night is as important as you want it to be. If prom is the best night of your life then let it be. Don't let anyone ruin the night for you because of their opinion.

Luke: I can't remember half of what happened before or after. If it's important to you, don't go — it will never be as "magical" as you think it will be.

The Charger

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