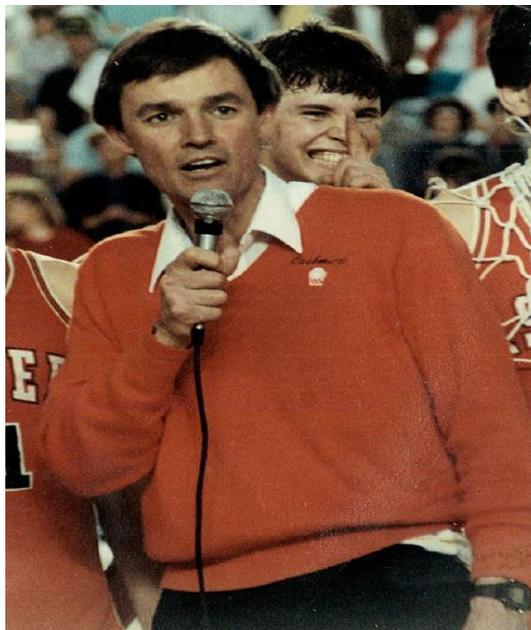


## BILL KELLY



Bill Kelly moved to Cashmere in 1973 when he was hired to teach history and be the head boys basketball coach at Cashmere High School. He was the head coach for 13 seasons (1974-1986) at CHS where he led the Bulldogs to four State Championship Titles (1975, 1977, 1980, 1986).

Coach Kelly's teams were known for their orange basketball shoes and knee pads, which were part of the Cashmere uniform, a symbol that his teams would play aggressive, all-over-the-court basketball. His teams were notorious for out-working their opponents. Team play, tough defense and blocking out on the boards equaled victories in the Kelly game plan.

In his 13 seasons at the helm of the Bulldog's basketball program, Kelly amassed an amazing record of 260 wins and just 71 losses. His records and accomplishments are remarkable including the fact that in one 4-year run his teams finished 1<sup>st</sup> (1977), 2<sup>nd</sup> (1978), 3<sup>rd</sup> (1979) and 1<sup>st</sup> in (1980) in the state tournament with each year virtually having different teams/players.

During those 13 seasons at Cashmere, Coach Kelly's teams won 8 League Championships, 7 District Championships, and had an amazing record of 123 wins and just 16 losses at games played in the friendly confines of the Cashmere High School gymnasium. Coach Kelly was inducted into the Washington State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1994.

Coach Kelly grew up in Puyallup, Washington and played high school basketball for legendary head coach, Dean Nicholson. He went on to play college basketball at Central Washington University, and was later inducted into the Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

Out of college, his first teaching/coaching job was in Raymond, Washington where he had outstanding success as a junior varsity basketball coach where he accumulated a win-loss record of 58-1 in his three seasons. His first head coaching job was at East Valley High School, in Yakima, WA. In total, he was a head basketball coach for 23 seasons, which also included head coaching stints at Nooksack Valley High School and Blaine High School. In 2004, Coach Kelly led the Nooksack Valley Pioneers to the 2A State Title. In his 23-year coaching career his teams won 430 games and lost just 150.

Coach Kelly will forever be remembered as a hard-nosed, no-nonsense coach with a simple philosophy: "Basketball is a thinking game. We look for smart, unselfish kids."