

GEORGE MAKELA



During his 27-year tenure (1971-1998) as the head track coach at Cashmere High School, the Bulldogs were one of the top track programs in the state. George led the CHS boys' track squad to three state championships (1971, 1977, 1994). His teams also won more than 20 league and district titles, and he coached 47 individual state champions. Under Coach Makela's guidance, Cashmere High School served as the host of the 1A State Track Meet for three years in the 1970s (1973-75).

In 1986, George was named the Washington State Track & Field Coaches Association Coach of the Year. In 2000, he was Inducted into the Washington State Track & Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

After graduating from South Kitsap High School in 1957, George attended the University of Washington where he participated in football his freshman year, and Track & Field all four years. He was a three-year letter winner for the UW Husky Track & Field squad while throwing the discus and shot put.

Prior to coming to Cashmere, George taught three years at Mt. Tahoma High School. He also served as an Army officer. He left the Army for the reserves as a first lieutenant, and left as a Captain in the reserves.

George married his high school sweetheart, Merrienne, in 1961. They arrived in Cashmere in the fall of 1968 when he accepted a teaching position at Cashmere High School where he taught Biology. He spent his first three years coaching track at the middle school before leading the CHS Track & Field program.

In his early days at CHS, George was an assistant football coach for the Bulldogs under Hall-of-Fame head coach Jack Collins. He also spent time coaching 9th grade and middle school football. In total, he coached football for 24 years in the Cashmere School District.

In the winter, you could find George in the CHS gymnasium serving as the announcer for the CHS Bulldog's home wrestling matches, or up on the slopes at Mission Ridge where he spent 45 years as a volunteer patrolman.

Following his retirement, George continued to serve as a volunteer coach for the CHS Track & Field program for many years under head coach Jeff Kenoyer.