

PORTLAND

## Wells coach Jeremy Shetler focuses on student growth beyond wins

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2025 Amazing Educator, Ida B. Wells High School coach Jeremy Shetler standing in front of some of the trophies he has he  
Staff Photo: Jonathan House

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- Jeremy Shetler, Ida B. Wells coach and teacher

(PORTLAND) — When Jeremy Shetler says he is committed to the Ida B. Wells High School community, he is not kidding. After graduating from the Southwest Portland school when it was still Wilson in 1992, he returned 16 years later as a coach and teacher. Since then, Shetler has worked to inspire generations of students to be prepared to succeed when it is their time to graduate.

"I don't see these kids as who they are. I see them as the people they are going to become," Shetler told the Portland Tribune in the boy's locker room, where he found a duplicate of the former jersey he wore as student assistant coach amid the new uniforms for the current teams.

Shetler has an outstanding coaching record. He has 146 career wins against only 95 losses as a head coach. Wells has made the playoffs every year under Shetler, except for the canceled 2020 season and the 2021 season that weren't OSAA sanctioned and didn't have postseasons. The school was second in the Portland Interscholastic League four times, including the last three years. He was also an assistant for the school's two state baseball titles in 2006 and 2012 under head coach Mile Clopton, who has the sixth-most wins in Oregon history, with the field at Wells being named him.

Shetler gives all credit to the students on the teams, praising their abilities and dedication. He also believes their personal growth is even more important than their victories.

"Winning isn't everything," he said. "Being able to succeed in the future is more important."

Shetler also has a teaching degree and has taught many classes, including first-year Algebra, Geometry Support, Modern World History, Health Occupations, Psychology, and College and Career Exploration. He does not see any difference between coaching and teaching.

"Sport is an extension of the classroom. The classroom is just outside. Sport is a way for students to establish the same skills that will serve them in the future," he said.

Shetler is especially proud of his current College and Career Exploration class, where he presses students to plan what they want to do after high school, whether that means going to college or pursuing any other career that will support them. He offers his own life as an example, where the love of sports and coaching he developed at Wilson led to his return there.

“It was more of a decision to continue to be a part of something that gave me purpose and fellowship, especially at the place that gave me such an opportunity,” said Shetler, who received his Master of Arts in Teaching degree from the former Concordia University in Northeast Portland in 2008. “The connection to the community became my purpose.”

It's no coincidence that Shetler got his teaching degree at Concordia. He was born in Northeast Portland, where his mother and uncle had graduated, and his grandmother worked as an assistant in the book room, helping ensure students made it to their classes on time. After his parents divorced when he was four, she eventually moved to Salem for a better-paying job with him but returned to Portland in time for him to enroll in the sixth grade. After graduating from Wilson, he attended Linn-Benton Community College before earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science in 2006.

Shetler says he has always been interested in sports. He remembers following teams every day on the sports pages of his hometown newspapers. In 1996, he even worked as a sports reporter for the Daily Barometer at Oregon State University without any journalism training or experience.

Shetler also served as Dean of Students from 2014 to 2020, which suggests he could become an administrator if he wanted to. But he doesn't. He would rather remain a coach and teacher at Wells for the rest of his career.

The Shetler family is so much a part of the Wells community that they live within its geographic PPS boundary and are remodeling their home to stay. One daughter is already a sophomore at Wells, continuing the family tradition he started there.

“There's nothing greater than standing on the field after a game and watching the sunset. There's nowhere else I'd want to be,” Shetler said.