

CHRIS REED

Class of 1991

Chris was an outstanding 3 sport athlete for the Vaqueros in the late '80's and early '90's, playing Football, Basketball, and Baseball. It is sometimes joked that an outstanding athlete could even play in the band and sell popcorn at halftime. Well, Chris did play in the band, and was an excellent drummer. In Football, Chris led Fernley's veer attack from his quarterback position, and was a dual threat as an outstanding runner and passer. Chris was one of a long line of excellent Fernley quarterbacks. Chris read the option extremely well, and so deft was his ball handling that he probably led the league in inadvertent whistles, as the referees would mistakingly blow a play dead upon seeing the fullback tackled, believing that Chris had handed off when in fact, he still had the ball. Chris also played defensive back, and received an athletic scholarship to continue playing football after high school at Carroll College in Montana. Chris was an outstanding leader who helped Fernley to a winning record in 1989 which started a run of success for Fernley in football. Chris was named to the all conference team as a quarterback in both his junior and senior seasons, and was recognized as a hard nosed player who wasn't afraid to get his uniform dirty. Chris was selected to play in the Sertoma All-Star football game following his senior year. In basketball, Chris was a 2 year Varsity player who embraced the role of leader of a young team. He was a heads up player who consistently encouraged his teammates and led by example with his hustle and commitment. Chris could score in bunches, and had a 42 point outing against Dayton, and a 35 point game against Battle Mountain. His 42 points was the highest single game total in the school records kept during Coach Wilson's tenure as head coach. His 17 total field goals made during that game is also a school record. Chris made 7 three point field goals in his 35 point game at Battle Mountain which tied the school record for three pointers made by an individual in a single game. In that game, Chris led the team to victory as the Vaqueros overcame an 18 point deficit in the 4th quarter. Chris also averaged 14.6 points per game for his career, which tied the school record for that category. Chris finished with 757 points for his career, with 472 coming in his Senior year. He also took down 291 career rebounds. Chris was named All-Division Honorable Mention as a Junior and was All-Division 1st Team as a Senior. He was also selected as the team Most Outstanding Player as a Senior. In baseball, Chris was a 2 year varsity letter winner. As a junior, Chris was 1st team all conference as a catcher. As a senior, he was once again all conference, playing both as a pitcher and as a catcher. Chris was also the team MVP as a senior. At the conclusion of Chris's senior year, he was awarded the Fernley High School Iron Man Award, an honor given to a senior who has participated in 3 sports for all 4 years of high school, and regarded as the most outstanding performer and contributor to the FHS athletic programs during that person's high school career.

JOHN TAYLEN

Class of 1996

John was a 3 sport athlete for FHS earning 9 varsity letters including 3 in Basketball, 2 in Football and 4 in Baseball. John was a hard nosed competitor who contributed a sense of toughness to the teams he played on. That competitive spirit and confidence helped the Vaqueros to the basketball success they enjoyed in the mid 1990's. John, a guard on the Varsity Basketball team for 3 years (1993-1996), helped the team to an undefeated League record and regular season League Championship in 1996, a pair of Zone Tournament Championships (1995, 1996), a State Tournament 3rd Place finish in 1995, and a State Tournament Consolation Championship in 1996. During John's career, the Vaqueros set numerous school team records that still stand and that continue to be listed among the best in Nevada history, as indicated in the NIAA boys basketball record book. John scored 757 points in his career, with 423 of those (third highest on the team) coming in his Senior year. He also hit 72 three point field goals as a Senior, which at the time was good for 2nd in the Fernley school record book for three pointers made in a season. John was also third in the school record book for career assists with 275. A good rebounder as a guard, John grabbed 275 career rebounds. John was named to the All-Division 2nd Team as a Junior, and was All-Division 1st Team as a Senior. He was also All-State Honorable Mention as a Senior. John was a Nevada Prep Sports Player of the Week, and was a Home Town Hoops Honorable Mention Selection, an award that took into consideration players from all classifications. At the conclusion of his Senior season, John received the team Outstanding Defensive Player Award, having often been given the assignment to guard the opposing team's leading scorer. As a football player, John was a 1st team all conference wide receiver and 2nd team defensive back, playing safety, as a Junior. As a senior, John was the 1st team all conference Quarterback while continuing to play safety on defense. John set 2 single season school records in 1995 with 1582 passing yards and 18 touchdown passes. As in basketball, John contributed to many FHS football school team records which still stand, as well as numerous listings in the NIAA football record book. John also has a number of individual listings in the NIAA record book for both basketball and football. John was a great leader and a very unselfish player. Going from 1st team wide receiver as a junior to 1st team QB as a senior was a great example of his versatility, of his strong character, and of his willingness to put the team first. As a baseball player, John was a starting infielder all 4 years of his high school career.

RYAN WILSON

Class of 1996

Ryan was a key ingredient in Fernley's basketball success in the mid 1990's, playing point guard for the Vaqueros for 3 varsity seasons from 1993 to 1996. During that time, Fernley went undefeated in league to win the regular season League Championship in 1996, won 2 Zone Tournament Championships (1995, 1996), won third place in the State Tournament in 1995, and won the State Consolation Championship in 1996. The Vaquero teams that Ryan played on set numerous school team records that still stand and that are listed among the best in Nevada history, as indicated in the NIAA Record Book. Ryan was an outstanding ball handler and shooter and an unselfish passer. In his Senior season, Ryan dished out 159 assists while only committing 48 turnovers in 33 games, an outstanding 3 to 1 assist to turnover ratio which set a school record. Ryan also set school records by making 74 three point field goals and shooting 42% from three point range that same season. For his career, Ryan handed out 296 assists, made 139 three point field goals, shot 39% on three pointers, and shot 79% from the free throw line, all school records. Ryan also tied a school record and State Tournament single game record by making 7 three pointers in a game. That occurred in his final game in the State Tournament, and it still stands as a State Tournament single game record 20 years later. Ryan made a total of 15 three pointers in the 3 games of the 1996 State Tournament. Ryan is also listed in numerous individual categories of the NIAA Boys Basketball Record Book. Ryan was recognized by being named All-Division Honorable Mention as a Junior, and was then selected to the All-Division 1st Team and the All-State 2nd team as a Senior. In 1996, the Reno Gazette-Journal featured Ryan as a Prep Academic Athlete of the Week, he was selected to the All-Tournament Team of the Manogue Tournament (which Fernley won), and Home Town Hoops made Ryan an Honorable Mention selection in their post season awards which took into account players from all classifications. Prior to his Senior year, as a result of his play in the Nike Summer League, Ryan was selected to play on the Reno Nike All-Star Team which competed in the large Nike Summer Tournament in Las Vegas. In Track, Ryan competed as a distance runner for 2 years, contributing to the Fernley Boys Zone Runner-Up finish in 1995 and Zone Championship in 1996, qualifying for the State meet both years. On the Zone Championship team, Ryan was a member of the winning 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 relays, and also finished 3rd in the individual 800. Ryan also competed in Cross Country and qualified for State his Senior year, the first year that the sport was reinstated after it had been dropped for several years. Ryan never missed a game throughout his 4 years of high school basketball, and received Coaches Awards in all 3 sports in which he participated in recognition of his dedication, commitment and team-first attitude.

BOOMER TAYLEN

Class of 1997

Boomer is one of only a few athletes to play 4 years of Varsity Basketball at FHS. As a result, Boomer appeared in 112 Varsity Basketball games, a school record. Boomer's name dots the school record book in many categories, and his remarkable career contributed greatly to Fernley's success on the hardwood in the mid 1990's. During Boomer's career, FHS won 2 regular season League Championships (1996, 1997) and was undefeated in League play in 1996. Fernley also won 2 Zone Tournament Championships (1995, 1996), finished as the State Tournament 3rd Place team in 1995, and won the State Tournament Consolation Championship in 1996. Fernley averaged 20 wins per season during Boomer's 4 years on the team, and as a team, the Vaqueros established many school records which still stand. Fernley's team records and Boomer's individual records also appear among the all time state bests in the NIAA basketball record book. Boomer was widely recognized for his fearless effort and hustle, as well as the big numbers he was able to put up. Boomer finished as the career school record holder in scoring with 1421 points, assists with 382, steals with 279, field goal attempts with 1170, free throw attempts with 489, and free throws made with 341. He also grabbed 436 rebounds, good for 4th on the list. Boomer set single season school records in scoring (569 points), scoring average (19.6 ppg), two point field goal % (56%), total field goal % (52%), free throws attempted (248), and free throws made (176). Boomer set the single game record for free throw attempts with 18 (twice). Boomer's speed and versatility allowed him to score from the perimeter, take it to the basket effectively, and even score on post ups against larger defenders. Boomer scored 20 or more points in a game on 25 occasions. He received All-Division Honorable Mention as a Sophomore, All-Division 1st Team and All-State Honorable Mention as a Junior, and was All-Division Player of the Year and All-State 1st Team as a Senior. As a Junior, Boomer was the Manogue Tournament MVP (Fernley won the tournament), All-Tournament at the Reno High Sierra Shootout (Fernley was Runner-Up), Home Town Hoops Honorable Mention (selection took into consideration players from all classifications), and was chosen for the team Mr. Hustle Award. As a Senior, Boomer was once again the Manogue Tournament MVP, made the All-Tournament team at the Reed Tournament, was a Nevada Prep Sports Player of the Week, and was chosen for the FHS Outstanding Player Award. Prior to his Senior year, as a result of his play in Nike Summer League Games, Boomer was selected for the Reno Nike All-Star Team which competed in the large Nike Summer Tournament in Las Vegas. Boomer was also a standout in Football, lettering for 3 years on the varsity. Boomer was an all conference 2nd team wide receiver as a sophomore, and became a 1st team all conference selection at both wide receiver and defensive back in each of his junior and senior seasons. Boomer set numerous school records including career records for receptions with 67, receiving yards with 1270, touchdowns with 27, interceptions with 10, and scoring with 168 points. Boomer also tied the single season interceptions record with 6, and tied the single game interceptions record with 2, which he accomplished twice. The teams that Boomer played on set numerous school team records, and many of those are listed among the all time state best, along with Boomer's individual records, in the NIAA record book. Boomer is regarded as a difference maker and one of the best athletes to play at Fernley High School.

ROSS WILSON

Teacher and Coach, 1987 to Present: Coach Wilson is currently in his 30th year at FHS and 39th year overall. Originally hired as a Teacher and Boys Head Basketball Coach at Fernley, Ross has served over the years in coaching 49 FHS athletic teams, including 36 as a Varsity Head Coach. Ross served 13 years as the Boys Head Basketball Coach (1987-88 to 1999-2000), 15 years as the Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach (1999-2000 to 2013-14), 6 years as the Girls Head Basketball Coach (2009-10 to 2014-15), and 2 years as a Track and Field Head Coach (1994-95 to 1995-96). Ross has also assisted in coaching 13 other teams at FHS including 4 years as a Varsity Football Assistant (1987-88, 1989-90 to 1991-92), 1 year as JV Football Head Coach (1987-88), 1 year as Girls Freshman Basketball Coach (2001-2002) and 7 years as Girls JV Basketball Coach (2002-03 to 2008-09). In Coach Wilson's first year, the Vaqueros boys basketball team made their presence felt. Picked in several pre-season newspaper polls to finish last in the league, Fernley finished 4th (of 8 teams) and hosted a first round zone playoff game. Continuing to build, Ross's teams gained notoriety in the mid 1990's as they qualified for the State Tournament 5 times in 6 years, won regular season League Championships in 1996 (undefeated in league) and 1997, Zone Tournament Championships in 1995 and 1996, and appeared in 9 State Tournament games, winning the State 3rd Place game in 1995 and the State Consolation Championship in 1996. The 1995-96 team won a school record 29 games and Fernley averaged 20 wins a season for a 4 year period. Fernley, with an enrollment near 500 students, routinely scheduled games against large school opponents and gained many memorable victories. Noted for their high scoring style of play, the Fernley teams from that era are still listed near the top of the NIAA Basketball Records in numerous categories. Ross was recognized by fellow coaches in being selected Coach of the Year in 1988, 1996 and 1997. In Football, Ross was the Defensive Coordinator for Fernley's 1991 League Championship Team and also filled that role the following summer in helping to coach the Sertoma All-Star Game. In Track, Ross helped lead the Fernley Boys to a Zone Runner-Up trophy in 1995, followed by the Zone Championship in 1996, Fernley's first Zone Track Championship in 17 years. In Cross Country, Ross's athletes won 2 individual State Championships on the girls side, and on the boys side, an individual Northern Regional Championship and an individual State Runner-Up finish. In Girls Basketball, Ross guided the team to the State Tournament Semi-finals in his third year, 2011-12. Prior to Fernley, Ross's teams won a Nevada 8-Man Football State Championship at Gabbs High School in 1983, after having finished as State Runner-Up twice, in 1981 and 1982. The Gabbs Boys Basketball team coached by Ross also finished as the State Runner-Up in 1984. Ross was recognized as Coach of the Year for Basketball in 1980, 1982 and 1984, and for Football in 1983. Altogether, Ross was Head Coach for 8 years of Boys Varsity Basketball, 2 years of Girls Varsity Basketball, 9 years of Track and Field, 5 years of Football and 1 year of Cross Country, in addition to 2 years as JV Boys Basketball Coach and 2 years as Athletic Director prior to coming to Fernley.