

St. Mary's Preparatory Eaglet Varsity Basketball Coach Retires After 22 Seasons with the Program

Anyone can coach, but I believe to be a good coach you have to be a teacher first - George Porritt

ORCHARD LAKE, MI - After 22 seasons (1989-93, 1999-2015) at the helm of St. Mary's Preparatory Eaglet Varsity Basketball, George Porritt (pictured) has decided to retire as head coach. "It has been a tremendous honor to serve in this capacity," said Porritt, "and I hope I was a great role model. I believe I always tried to see things before they happened, challenge young men and guide them to act with integrity."

During his tenure, the basketball program experienced unprecedented growth and success. Porritt wraps up his coaching run

with a career record of 336-180. He led the Eaglets to ten Catholic League Divisional titles, six Catholic League Championships, three City Championships, twelve District titles, six Regional Championships, two State Semi-Final appearances and one State title (2000).

Porritt's own experiences on the Clarkston High School basketball team and as captain of the Hillsdale College football team helped him learn life lessons from coaches such as Jack McAvoy and Dan Fife. He counts his blessings for the tremendous coaching staff he has had the great privilege



my wife, Terry, who continuously inspires me in everything I do."

As a mentor to young athletes, Coach Porritt believes there is no room for arrogance. "The toughest time to coach is when you are on top," he added. "Every year is a new year. As much as you build the program, it takes a full season with a lot of peaks and valleys to be a team. When I started, I could be a good advisor without all the outside influences of today's world. Now, the challenges are ten times greater than what I once faced. My journey has been possible because of all those who've helped along the way, and I'm proud of the countless Eaglets who stepped on the court."

At this stage of the game, Porritt will continue in his roles as both Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory Athletic

Director and Head Football Coach. But he will devote more time to his family, including Terry, his three children - Kenny, Marilynn and Mason - and grandchildren Tyler and Maddie (with baby Cameron on the way). He also points out that his mother- and father-in-law are the biggest OLSM supporters. "Being a father has helped me be a better coach and vice versa," he said.

"I'll be nearby to advise the new coach because St. Mary's basketball will always have a special place in my heart," he added. As Athletic Director, he will play an integral role on the selection committee in identifying his successor. "The new head coach must demonstrate consistency, integrity and discipline," he said. "He should always be early and late - the first one there and the last one to leave. And he must be all about St. Mary's!"

Hammer thrower Fajdek wins gold in Beijing



Poland's Pawel Fajdek has won gold in the men's hammer throw at the World Athletics Championships in the Chinese capital.

Fajdek threw 80.88 meters on Sunday at the championships taking place in Beijing.

Dilshod Nazarov from Tajikistan took the silver medal and Poland's Wojciech Nowicki got the bronze medal, both posting 78.55 meters.

The 26-year old Fajdek has a personal best of 83.48 meters thrown in August 2014.

On Monday, Polish athletes won two additional

bronze medals. Piotr Lisek and Pawel Wojciechowski shared third place with Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie in the pole vault.

All three managed 5.80 metres in the final, while Canadian Shawn Barber took gold with 5.90 meters.

Wojciechowski, who won gold in the 2011 World Championships, admitted that he felt a pang of loss "that it was not first place", but said he was pleased nonetheless and looking forward to next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

(Polish Radio 1)

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