

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Robin Meier

Years I have coached: 15

Team(s) I have coached: 5 years at McKay, and 10 years at Stayton.

My favorite thing about coaching is: Working with the kids every day, and making a difference in their lives. Seeing their faces when they actually “get it” for the first time. I also love seeing something that was just an idea in my head come to life on the floor.

Most memorable coaching moment: There are so many, but being able to coach my daughter has been priceless. Watching her dance for the first time as a Highlight was one of the most precious moments to me.

My favorite routines are (*please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to*): I would say our space routine in 2006 and our Robot routine from last year. They were so much fun, and the team loved dancing them. Some others are, :By the way side” – Clackamas, Lincoln’s “Dream on”, and Colton’s “Climbing to the top”.

Something you might not know about me is: I have 2 other sisters who were also on dance team at Stayton, and now my daughter is on the team, and my youngest daughter will be trying out for the team next year. It has been a family way of life since 1980!

My favorite song is: The Climb by Miley Cyrus

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Name: Syndie Rider

Years I have coached: 15 coaching, 2 years on DDCA Board.

Team(s) I have coached: Amity High School

My favorite thing about coaching is: I enjoy that I get to work with a very diverse group of kids, no one kid is the same. Each one of them comes from a different background, has different goals, and varied interests. The group is so diverse, that if it wasn't for Dance Team most of these kids wouldn't know each other. Another thing I enjoy is when I can make a difference in their lives.

Most memorable coaching moment:

There was a girl on my team (a Junior) that came to practice for a couple of months then quit. She had been hanging around with some kids that were not a good influence on her. Because of this, she had poor grades, low self esteem and had already been sent to juvenile detention, more than once! She came back her Senior year to tryout again, and with a lot of encouragement, stayed on the team as an alternate. She came to every practice and always tried really hard. Because of her hard work and great attitude, I was able to put her in for part of the routine. She did great! I could see that a lot had changed for her but I didn't know how much until she gave me a letter at the end of the season. In the letter she told me that Dance Team had turned her life around. She got better grades and had something else to get her away from the bad influences in her life. She said that she was able to realize that she was headed down the wrong path and because I was encouraging and supportive, I helped put her back on track and that I changed her life more than I would ever know. She said that she hoped to grow up and be half the woman that I was, as well as a role model, just like I was to her. This meant so much to me! I still have that letter for those days when I want to quit and need a bit of encouragement myself.

My favorite routines are *(please give at least one of your own routines; feel free to mention other teams if you wish to):* Metallica (this was my first year as Head Coach)
Out of the box (who doesn't love green spiked hair)

Something you might not know about me is: I bought a 1967 Austin Healy Sprite to restore, made my first weld this weekend. I am going to paint it pink; it is going to be so cute, I cant' wait!!

My favorite song is: "It's your Love" The first dance with my husband Mark, The most perfect day EVER!

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Name: Jessica Anderson, Head Coach Valley Catholic Charisma, Beaverton

Years I have coached: 5

Team(s) I have coached: This is my 4th season with the Charisma and before that I was an assistant at Wilsonville.

My favorite thing about coaching is: The connection between all the coaches past, present and hopefully, future. The sense that while we all have our own teams, priorities and goals that we as coaches are all part of the larger DDCA “team” as well. I cherish the friendships I have made in the dance team world. The support system between coaches amazes and humbles me. We truly are the best sport there is. It is comforting to know that we are all in this dance team experience together, for the kids, for each other, and for the promotion of the sport. As a dancer I was blessed to have been a member of the Wilsonville Pride. The school was very supportive and I have wonderful memories. I want to give that kind of experience to my teams. I benefitted from having dedicated coaches that inspired me to follow in their footsteps and become a coach. I hope someday that there will be dancers that I have inspired that will do the same. I love the continuity, history and the traditions of being a dance team coach. I love seeing the look of accomplishment on the face of a dancer who has finally perfected a skill that has eluded her. I love watching my freshmen dancers develop both their dance and leadership skills over the years and become captains. I love the frenzy of getting ready for a competition. I love the ridiculous moments and when we collapse in laughter for reasons no one really understands and the inside jokes. And even though it is emotional, I love those bittersweet moments of reflection and team bonding at State, when everyone realizes the journey is almost over for that season and this is the last time for that routine and that team. I guess I could have just said I love it all.

Most memorable coaching moment: The most recent one happened at Stayton on February 6th. It was the first time that a team that I coached placed first and our music was played. I’ve experienced it as a dancer, but this was the first time as a coach and I was overwhelmed with emotion for them, for me, for all the memories, and all the hopes and dreams. I was so happy for my dancers. I love the tradition of playing the music of the first place team and not as many competitions do that these days.

My favorite routines are: The ones that leave a lasting impression and move me to tears, joy or both for many different reasons. There are almost too many to mention! But, here it goes in no particular order. Wilsonville’s 4 state championship routines, the 2 that I danced and the 2 I wished I was dancing but watched from the stands as an alumni; and the Wilsonville routine that I helped create the year I was the assistant coach. Pendleton’s Leprechauns. That was the first 50 person team I saw and they were dazzling. Colton 2003. Perfect, elegant, beautiful. It still makes me cry when I watch the tape. Stayton 2004. It was the year they wore red dresses and I will never forget how impressed I was when 6 Stayton girls made All-State. Banks’ “Wayne’s World!” They

showed how a team of 6 could totally captivate the judges and the crowd. Thurston's "Caliente". Tigard's "Lion King" and "Imagine". Glencoe—all their shows from about 98-2002. Parkrose's "Ramalama". Putnam 2009. And of course, our Valley Catholic routines current and past. All of these routines taught me something; there were lessons to be learned.

Something you might not know about me is: I am a medical student. I am engaged and I need to start planning the wedding. I love to play the arcade game "Galaga" and I am very good at it. My favorite color is purple. I broke my foot at a dance practice in November. I also remember many, many state routines by teams that are no longer competing. I remember those teams and I miss them, and I wish we could get them back.

My favorite song is: Right now it is Use Somebody by Kings of Leon. I learned a wonderful routine to it a few months ago and every time I hear it on the radio it makes me think of that routine.

2010 Coach of the Year Questionnaire

Name: Christina Stinson

Years I have coached: I have coached the Santiam Wolverettes for fourteen years now! Seven years as assistant coach and this will be my seventh year as head coach!

Team(s) I have coached: Santiam Wolverettes

My favorite thing about coaching is: I love seeing the development of a dancer through different stages. I take everyone who tries out for our team. We have a no cut policy. I love to see a dancer “get it” for the first time. That may be a particular move she has been working on or maybe just dancing in general. When the moment happens that they suddenly become a dancer it is something you have to experience to know just how amazing that can be. It brings endless joy to me to see dancers pursuing dance past high school. I am bursting with pride every time I have the opportunity to see a graduated team member perform.

Most memorable coaching moment: I actually have two. The first is when I was asked to take over the team after Terri Moberg announced she was retiring. I was so nervous to be the one in charge. I knew a lot about dance team but doing all of the forms and choreography by myself was absolutely terrifying! I remember when my soon to be Assistant Coach, (Or more like Co-Coach) came to me and offered to help. It was like the weight of the world had been lifted. We do all of our routines together, from the idea stage through the music choices, costumes, forms and choreography. I could not ask for a better person to coach this team with. That leads me to my other most memorable moment. I still cannot believe it is true even as I type this. We started out at the beginning of our first year coaching together with our main goal to make second round. We could have never dreamed that we would actually win the 1A/2A/3A state championship our first year coaching together!

My favorite routines are: Well my first year coaching was “Perfect storm” in 2004. What an accomplishment! I also loved our Zombies last year. So different than anything we have ever done so that made it special. I think that I love all of the show routines. I admire anyone who can do what they do. I sometimes feel like I am waking up from a dream after an especially good show routine!

Something you might not know about me is: Hmmm. You may not know that I was a member of the Santiam Wolverine Dance team for four years and was a member of the ‘94 All-State team when I was a senior. I also took second place in Drill Down at State in ‘93 and ‘94. I have four kids. Two step kids that I have raised for the last 15 years. I claim them as my own. Kaytlyn (19 graduated Wolverine) and Josh (17) I also have two children with my husband, Chloe (9) and Paige (5). I am a Hair Stylist by day and Dance Coach by night. I have a very full life! Oh and when I am not dancing I tend to be very clumsy!

My favorite song is: Right now it is “Need You Now” by Lady Antebellum, Of all time would be I think “You Shook Me All Night Long” ACDC! In truth I am inspired by any song that makes me want to move. I’ll take it one step further. My favorite song I danced to on dance team was my senior year when we did “Rain” we danced to “It’s Raining Men” by the Weather Girls. It was so much fun!

Thank you for whoever nominated me and to everyone who took the time to read this!