

Lebanon CUSD #9 Announces Coach Hank Feldt's 50th Anniversary of Coaching for the District

Coach Hank Feldt's 50 year of coaching celebration

Lebanon, IL. April 30, 2010 -- Coach Hank Feldt's 50th year of coaching for Lebanon CUSD #9 celebration will take place on Friday, May 14 when the Lebanon Lady Greyhounds under the direction of Head Coach, Hank Feldt and Asst. Coach Amy Baer take on Mascoutah at a home softball game at 4:00 PM. The team is currently 21-3. Former students, players, as well as faculty, friends and family will be on hand to mark the occasion. Festivities will take place before, during and after the game.

Biography

Mr. Henry "Hank" Feldt has served his country, has served Lebanon school district for 50 years, and more importantly served students and athletes for a half-century. Despite having retired 17 years ago (1993), he continues to "live" at the school and to serve student athletes. He continues to serve as head coach of the varsity softball team and assist with the junior high softball team. He absolutely "is" Lebanon School District 9 when it comes to serving students and athletes.

He was born south of Lebanon in 1933, but raised in Mascoutah, where he graduated from Mascoutah High School in 1951. He worked in construction for a time, before entering into military service during the Korean War. Upon discharge, he enrolled at McKendree University in the same freshman class as basketball coach and Harry Statham. Hank played baseball and basketball for the Bearcats and graduated in 1959 with a degree in P.E. and biology. He later earned an M.S. degree from Indiana University in 1965. He took a position in the Lebanon Jr. High where he taught and coached, but he moved to the high school in the fall of 1962. He taught drivers' education and safety at Lebanon for the bulk of his career as an educator but also spent some time teaching science and physical education at both the junior high and high school levels.

During his career he coached seven different sports (both male and female) as well as serving as the district's only athletic director in history until his retirement. Hank coached basketball and baseball during his 2 years at the Jr. High with his baseball teams going 43-13 during that time. He coached boy's basketball in the high school for 12 years with a record of 174-137, winning 3 Cahokia Conference basketball team championships (1966, 1973, and 1974). He coached the high school baseball team for 4 years compiling a record of 72-33, and sharing the conference team championship in 1965 and winning the District Championship in 1966 (when there was only one class of schools in Illinois).

Feldt started Lebanon's tennis program in 1968 and coached it for two years building interest and success in that sport. He is most widely known for his time as Lebanon's Cross Country and Track coach. He started the Cross Country Program in 1966 and stayed on as head coach for 7 years. Besides developing Craig Virgin as a 2-time state champion, Feldt's harriers won the Conference and District team championships 3 times. Feldt coached Lebanon High School's Track Teams for 13 years. Besides Virgin he had success with many other Track and field athletes during that time period, qualifying many of them for state. The Greyhounds track team won the Cahokia Conference and IHSA District Championship 3 times. On 4 occasions they placed in the top 10 at the state meet (6th in 1973, 4th in 1972 and 1972 and 1976, and 2nd in 1977 when the IHSA adopted a 2 class system).

Feldt has also coached two girl's sports (basketball and softball). Hank has put Lebanon on the map with respect to girl's softball. He has won seven regional titles, four sectional titles and competed at the state tournament five times. His outstanding athletes in this sport have been Amanda Formoso, Dawn Bohnstiehl, Nicole Bohnstiehl (all whom have earned division I scholarships). His junior high softball team was the State Champion in 2007 and finished third at State in 2008.

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Facebook: Coach Feldt's 50th Anniversary

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