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**SELAH'S  
CAMERON  
DITTER  
EAST MVP**

**JON  
"THE TAZ"  
RANDALL**

**Jelinek  
Moves to  
Hanford**

# QUOTE



**NELSON CRUZ**  
former Mariner

**Born:**  
July 1, 1980

*"There's nothing worse than seeing your teammates battle, knowing you can't help."*

## News Headliners



This past June was the 25th East-West Earl Barden Classic in Yakima.

Showcasing football players from 2A-1A-B, the West Head Coach was Jon Randall, from Clover Park High (Lakewood).

Known as "Taz," it doesn't take long to figure out where he got the nickname. The 5-foot-5 Randall was on the fast track to either the NFL or Division I.

He played on an undefeated championship team at Douglas, Wyoming and watched over Ickey Woods at UNLV. He was later the defensive coordinator at New Mexico Highlands.

He also coached alongside Rex Ryan and interviewed with Bobby Petrino Sr.

He got some interesting advice from a colleague while golfing, changed his mind and just finished his 16th year with the Warriors.



# "The Attic"

Escaping Death as a Youngster

FROM the SIDELINES • Publisher Jeff Place

**O**N MY BACK, THERE IS A four-inch scar.

It is a remembrance of how close an adventure can turn into a tragedy.

When I was younger, I was very adventurous. I would climb buildings and trees. Walk across raging rivers and just tease death.

I grew up pretty much alone. My brother, John, was 12 years older than me and graduated when I was in the first grade.

My dad left when I was five and my mother had to work long, hard hours trying to scratch out a living for us.

When I was eight, we moved from Ohio to Zillah where I attended third grade. I remember, that although I was new, I made a lot of friends.

We lived with my grandparents on Edson Street and I had a blast. Jeff Farmer and Dale Voorhees were among my best friends and they lived on both sides of my grandparents house.

My memories were of a house full of people, outdoor games and fishing with my uncles. We would wake every opening day about two in the morn-

ing and head to Spearfish near The Dalles, OR.

However, my mom got a job in Granger as a cook and waitress at the Circle Inn and soon, we moved there.

I was not happy.

Although I had my own room, I liked the life I had at Zillah and longed for my old home in Ohio.

I struck up a friendship with Matt LaCombe, whose parents Duke and Gaynell, owned the business my mom worked at.

They had moved to Yakima to an apartment the back of the restaurant and it was really nice with a rec room and a ping-pong table.

I remember Matt's older brother, Kenny, built racing boats out of balsa wood. They were scale models of the ones you can see this month race in the Tri-Cities.

They also had a drum set and a wing just for the four boys in the family.

Great memories.

If Matt and I had a problem is that each led the other in trouble.

One day while at Liberty School (4th grade), we read a book about a kid that explored his attic and

found treasures.

One Saturday afternoon, while my mom was at work and the baby-sitter took a nap, we hatched a plan.

We would climb into the attic of the apartment I lived at which was above the old theater (now torn down) on Granger's Main Street.

Being stealth, we made it up there and I remember it was hot and smelled like old insulation.

There were planks and we used them to walk around the ceiling of the old theater.

To make a long story short, I realized if I jumped, the old insulation would float up and go, "Poof!"

I ran to Matt and said, "Watch this!"

The ceiling gave away and I fell to the concrete below. Matt caught himself before he fell and ran for help.

I wound up in the hospital with a concussion, an ugly scar on my back, other wounds and no memory of what transpired. I was unconscious a week but learned a valuable lesson. Slow down, life is valuable and I never teased death again. ♦

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# Faces in the Crowd

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## CAMERON DITTER • Selah Football • 2019 Graduate

It was a simple play. Cameron Ditter was split out wide left for the East and ran a simple seven yard sit down route. Quarterback, Sawyer Jenks of Royal dropped back and was forced to roll right because of defensive pressure. Ditter stopped, looked at the situation and began moving toward the middle of the field. The Royal QB spotted him and fired the ball to him.

Ditter caught the ball, shook off several tackles and used his speed to head down the left sidelines for a touchdown. For his efforts, Ditter was named the East Offensive MVP after the game.

At Selah, he played multiple positions and is headed to Whitworth this fall. His dad, Scott coaches at Selah and Ditter's older brother Kyle, graduated from the same college and will teach at Wapato.



## EMILEE MALDONADO • Sunnyside/Providence U • Basketball • Junior

Following an All-American sophomore season at the University of Providence (Great Falls, MT), Sunnyside's Emilee Maldonado had her #3 jersey lifted to the rafters of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ring of Honor in Knoxville, Tenn.

The Hall selects over 100 high school and collegiate female student-athletes throughout the country to have their jerseys displayed each year. During Maldonado's breakout 2018-19 campaign, she helped lead the Argos to their fourth NAIA Tournament berth over the past five years. She started all 32 contests, in addition to netting a team-high 515 points and 163 assists. She finished second in the Frontier Conference in scoring per contest (16.09) and total scoring (515).



## MASON MARTIN • Southridge/Pittsburgh Pirates • Baseball

The Tri-Cities has a rich baseball history. A player to keep an eye on is Mason Martin, a 2017 graduate of Southridge High School in Kennewick.

His first year in Pittsburgh's farm system for the Gulf Coast League Pirates (2017), he set a team record with 11 home runs and was named the league MVP.

This year, the 19-year-old had a day to remember. Pittsburgh's infield prospect bashed three-run homers in the seventh inning in both games of Class A Greensboro's doubleheader sweep of Lakewood in mid-May. Both were walk-off home runs and Martin said he had never done that before in a career that spanned back to his Little League days.



## DERRICK PHELPS • Zillah/Whitworth • Golf • Senior

Derrick Phelps made the most of his one year at Whitworth and was selected as the Northwest Conference Player of the Year in men's golf. He was also named the Pirates' Men's Male Senior Athlete of the Year.

Phelps finished among the top three at each of the three NWC championship circuit events in 2018-19. He was second at the NWC Fall Classic last October, third at the NWC Spring Classic in mid-April and runner-up at the NWC Tournament in Walla Walla by a single stroke. Phelps was the medalist in his first tournament as a Pirate and added another first place finish at the NWC North tournament in early April. Phelps posted a scoring average of 73.0 over 22 rounds of golf in 2018-19.

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# The Viking Way

## Selah Utilizes Outstanding Pitching En Route to 2A State Championship

**T**HE PLAY WAS SO SIMPLE and quick, it was laughable. But it was very dramatic and executed to perfection.

With the leading run on second base, the ball was hit to the outfield wall at Yakima County Stadium.

The runner took off and rounded third. The center fielder grabbed the ball, spun and fired to the relay, who in turn pivoted and fired home to the catcher.

The runner was out.

That play sums up the Selah Viking baseball program.

Proficiency and execution is what an onlooker observes when watching them play. It is a guideline that smart baseball programs would do well to emulate.

For the Vikings, this past spring, Selah won their second state championship under Archer and now summer ball is busy underway.

It seems like every year, they lose an irreplaceable player. But the wins keep on coming.

It might be because of the detail and the involvement of the Archer family. It could be because of the strong baseball tradition. There are many factors to their success.



Mike Archer

But, the results speak for themselves.

Since 1996 when Mike took over the program, they have made the state playoffs 23 out of 24 times, including 14 straight.

There are two state titles, four second place finishes, four thirds and two seconds.

They are the gold standard of baseball in the Yakima Valley.

When asked about their success, Archer remarked, "We don't look for championships. They take care of themselves."

"You don't have to be a great team," he said. "You have to *learn* to play great."

When looking at the success of this year's team, it is not hard to figure out what their key ingredient was—pitching.

They had a staff ERA

of 0.80, which meant they gave up less than one run a game. (Including 12 shut-outs.)

"Our pitching was very deep," Archer noted. "We had five guys we felt comfortable with."

"A ton of credit goes to Rob Archer (Mike's brother and pitching coach), who has a progressive pitching plan from the day our players enter the program."

One of this year's star pupils was senior Dylan Bishop who fashioned an 8-1 record, started ten games (completing four) with 42 strikeouts in 46 innings.

**"All our opponents are tough. We don't worry about them, we worry about us."**

Fellow senior Payton Andreas was 7-1, with a 0.36 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 39 innings.

Senior Nick Garretson had an 0.79 ERA, junior Nate Gutierrez struck out 25 batters in 22 innings with an ERA of 0.63. Sophomore Caden Herbst had an ERA of 0.50 and junior Wyatt Berriman was 2-0 with a 1.02 ERA.

Both Bishop and Andreas won all-CWAC

honors while Gutierrez was second team and Garretson third.

Offensively, Selah could also score runs.

They had a .328 team batting average and on-base percentage of nearly .400.

Senior Carter Young was the center piece, leading the Vikings in batting (.415) and a .683 slugging average.

Andreas was next at .413, Gutierrez batted .387 and Garretson .362. Senior Brandon Bruner hit .338 and junior Chase Ergeson had 10 RBI.

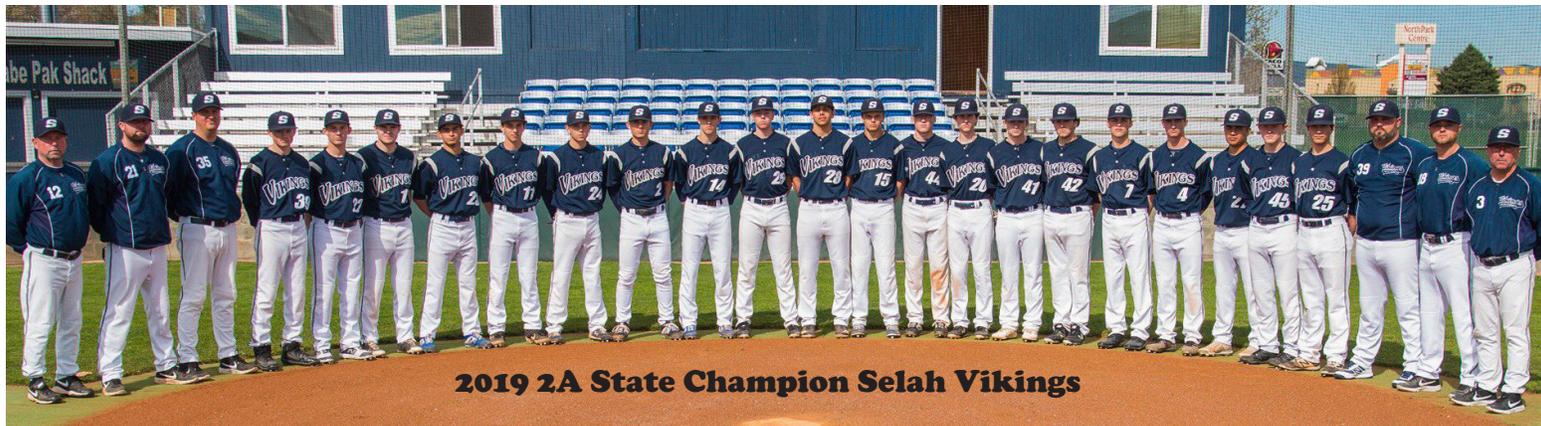
"Our offense was inconsistent at times, Archer

noted. But we try to put the game in motion and play faster than our opponents are able to play."

"We are very aggressive, so it makes our opponents make decisions they are not capable of, or they haven't practiced," he added.

"We also stress speeding the game up so we can manufacture runs."

(See the Next Page)



2019 2A State Champion Selah Vikings



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(Selah from previous page)

As with most championship teams, you have a player that oozes talent. That is the case with Young.

A catcher as a freshman who threw to second in 1.9 seconds, he is headed to Vanderbilt to play college baseball.

Now, a shortstop, he has a 'special' arm and this year was the CWAC Co-MVP (with Jason Bugni of Ellensburg).

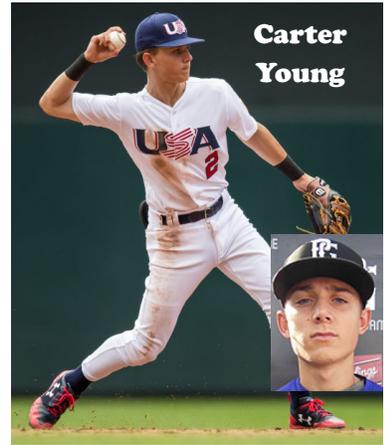
Last year, he was the *Washington State Player of the Year* and a huge banner hangs in the trophy case near the gym.

He also has spent his summers playing with the U18 USA National Baseball team that won a World Cup Gold Medal.

But make no mistake, the reason Selah has continued success is because they play team baseball and fundamentals are a must.

"Our philosophy is to make the average play 100% of the time, throw the ball over the plate (little to no walks) and play great catch," Archer notes.

"Our players are taught that the most important player is the guy standing next to you. Play the game for your teammate, feel accountable to them. Anything other than your best



Carter Young

effort is like "you" playing for our opponent."

Archer also tells his players that when they are not practicing or getting better, someone else is. Whether it be a team you might compete against or a person.

"You are responsible for your 'game.' You own it, so make it better," he adds.

"You have to have good players that are willing to be coached and have some toughness," he added.

Archer, who said he probably likes practice more than games, loves coaching and singles out every member of his staff for the program's success.

"They are all responsible for coaching a position for the whole program which holds them accountable on game days."

It sounds like program accountability might be the true secret to the Viking success. ♦

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**Visitor's Welcome!**

- Former Prosser standout, Josh Jelinek is new Hanford Athletic Director.
- CBC Baseball to get turf.

# For the Record

Coaching, Administrative Changes and Other Tidbits

- Kevin Young moves from Adna to Republic as a Superintendent.
- Racer Gary Willis passes.

**JELINEK MAKES ADMIN MOVE**

**Josh Jelinek** was an all-star lineman for the Prosser Mustangs, played in college and most recently, was the offensive coordinator for the Richland Bombers football team.

This past month, he was hired to be the athletic director across town at Hanford. He replaces **Eric Davis** who is the new principal at Chief Joseph Middle School (Richland).

Jelinek's nephew, **Dakota Hibbs** was an all-state selection this past year at Zillah and is playing college football at Eastern Oregon.

**YOUNG MOVES**

**Kevin Young**, another former Mustang (1991) was recently hired as the Superintendent of Republic High School (near Curlew Lake on the Colville Reservation).

He was formerly the principal at Adna High School, one of the most successful



**Josh Jelinek**

2B schools in the state when it comes to sports.

Young coached NFL running back, **Jonathan Stewart** at Timberline and helped lead Mossyrock to the state championship game where they placed second twice.

As a football coach, he had 87-34 record.

**WILLIS PASSES**

**Gary Willis**, who was known for racing a red 1967 Plymouth Satellite at Ren-

egade Raceway (Parker) recently passed.

Despite health issues, he was also a consistent staple at the strip and raced in several classes.

**CBC GETSTURF**

The **CBC baseball** field is currently undergoing a transformation.

Grass is being taken out and turf installed. They will have the only turf baseball field in the region. Sunnyside will also be building a new turf baseball field within the next two years.

**MOSES LAKE HOOP COACH RETIRES**

**John Hohman**, a fixture in the basketball coaching scene for the past three decades has retired.

He spent 15 years as an assistant to Mark Poth at Big Bend (Moses Lake).

He later moved to nearby Moses Lake High School where he led them to three

state tournament berths in four years.

He also coached at Warden and Medical Lake. His father, Wayne, was a Hall of Fame coach at St. John.

Hohman will be replaced by assistant Jake Hunt, who also played under Mike Thacker (Liberty) and Poff.

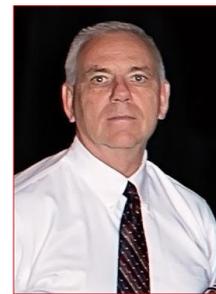
**ALLEN MOVES TO HOQUIAM**

Toppenish graduate, **Chad Allen**, is moving from Grays Harbor College as the women's basketball coach to Hoquiam in the same capacity.

Allen hopes to also coach track and field at the school and replaces Denny Hinchon who went 7-12 in his only season at the school.

Allen's teams at Grays Harbor were in the sweet 16 conference championships the past four years.

They also went 25-3 one winter and was the school's only Western Conference Champions.



**John Hohman**  
Moses Lake

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