Jeff Place Sports



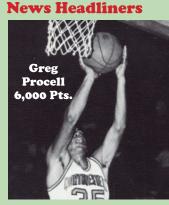
Born: June 27,1990

Bobby Wagner

Seattle Seahawks

"No offense to anyone but I'm playing until I can't anymore, I love this game to much.."

QUOTE



Next winter, the high school basketball scene will see a major change.

Several of the top scorers and teams over the past three years will be gone. It is doubtful that either Sunnyside Christian or Kittitas will be four-peat champions.

Brock Ravet of the Coyotes became the first Washington prep star to score 3,000 points and there is a chance his record may not last more than a year or two.

The one record that may never be broken is the most points scored in a high school career in the United States.

It was done by **Greg Procell** of Ebarb (La.), who had 6,702 career points (1966-70) including a 100-point game. In his senior season, Procell set a national record of 3,173 points. All without a threepoint line. Amazing!



"The Room" The Silence is Deadly, But Listen Closer & Hear Laughter

FROM the SIDELINES • Publisher Jeff Place

T'S NOT VERY BIG – only about 9 feet by 11. But it carries a loud voice and fond memories.

It sits silent now with shadows peeking through the cracks of the curtains and sunlight dancing like pixies on a cool, summer night.

But it sits silent.

Where clothes, softball equipment or shoes laid scattered around nearly everywhere, there is just carpet.

Memories are stacked in boxes waiting to be carted off at the first opportunity and the closet is a shell of itself.

Once full of clothes, it is now full of empty hangers.

Soon, the room will be lonely. But the memories will remain.

It saw a person's struggle – school, events, sad days and dreams were formed there.

If you look hard, you can see someone leaning over a desk, working on an assignment for school in the late hours of the night.

Or perhaps the door is closed with faint sounds slipping under the small crease between the floor and the bottom of the entryway to the room. Giggles come from the bed and you can see the mist of someone who watched videos on their phone.

Look harder, and the TV on the wall has a video game on it.

The bookshelves on the wall in the corner are now lonely, too. Where spectacular stories and mementoes were overflowing, there is only dust.

Soon, the room will be empty with only a bed and an old wooden file cabinet in the corner. The walls will be bare and their faded green paint will soon be brightened by white.

A new coat of paint and new items will replace the old.

Someone new will be breathing in the room that held the life of a teenage girl, adjusting to a new town, new school and new surroundings. Along, with a new parent's rules.

The walls will dance with the sunlight of a new day and a new energy will fill the room. Just like life, everything comes full circle.

But, no matter what the future holds for "The Room," the memories will remain.

Early in the morning,

you can see dad looking in to make sure everything's ok, but seeing only silence.

It is the transition that all parents have to make when their children graduate and move out to start the next chapter of their life.

This house had two rooms, that have had to go through transition of two children moving on. One room was given new life and it's memories have been replaced with new adventures.

The sad thing is, this family has never had to exist in the house without the girl. It is a tough and difficult transition but one that has to be made.

If you listen closely, "The Room," still speaks.

It has memories that will never be erased and like ghosts, their imprint will stay.

Listen even closer and you can hear a young girl dreaming of wanting a rabbit, a small kitten or perhaps a new color of canvas-style converse tennis shoes.

Like the shadows of night, sunlight will bring new excitement.

But it will never be the same in "The Room." ◆

"Sometimes Good Things Fall Apart so Better Things Can Fall Together." . . . Marilyn Monroe

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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

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.

> 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 waspitching.

They had a staff ERA

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

"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.²

One of this year's star pupils was senior Dylan Bishop who fashioned an 8-1 record, started ten

games four) with 42 strikeouts in 46 innings.

Fellow senior Payton Andreas was 7-1, with a 0.36ERA 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 An-

dreas 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 onbase 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 Gar-

"All our opponents are tough. retson .362. (completing found unit by Senior Bran-We don't worry about them, Senior Brandon Bruner hit .338 and iunior Chase

Ergeson had 10 RBI.

we worry about us."

"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 stress speeding the game up so we can manufacture runs." (Next Page)





Mike Archer

Jeff Place Sports

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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).

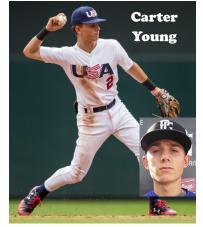
Last year, he was the Washington State Player of the Year and a huge banner hangs in the trophy case near the gym.

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



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. ◆

