



Athletic Director Doran Stout Retires after 34 Years

Doran was a coach and English teacher at Erskine for 14 years before becoming the full-time athletic director. He coached varsity baseball, leading the Eagles to the Class C state final in his first year, 1984, and coached varsity and JV basketball for nine years.

He started Erskine's cross country program in the mid-1980s and the track and field program in 1988. Sports offerings grew from soccer in the fall to include field hockey and cross country. Wrestling, swimming and indoor track joined basketball in the winter. Tennis, track and field and most recently lacrosse were added to baseball and softball in the spring.

As the school grew to over 700 students and then settled back to approximately 580, the school met challenging Class A action. He attributes the sports program success at Erskine to coaches who make playing fun, which creates students enthusiastic about sports and who want to come back.

Doran will continue to oversee the Northern and Southern Maine state basketball tournaments at the Augusta Civic Center, a post he's held since 2013.

Erskine Athletic Trainer Awarded

Erskine's athletic trainer Chris Sementelli was awarded the Larry LaBrie Award for outstanding contributions to the Maine Principals Association Interscholastic Division at a ceremony on April 28.

Chris has been athletic trainer at Erskine through the MaineGeneral Sports Medicine department where he is manager of sports services since 1999 and comes with



Athletic trainer Chris Sementelli



Doran Stout left with new activities administrator Chuck Karter

plenty of experience. We are lucky to have Chris's program in place. He has said that although many other schools in Maine have athletic trainers, the MaineGeneral program is a one-of-a-kind operation because of the extent of the athletes it covers and the liaison with the medical staff.

Lars Jonassen KJ 2016 Coach of the Year

Fondly known as "Mr. J", Lars Jonassen received the well-deserved recognition as Coach of the Year by the *Kennebec Journal*.

Staff Writer Randy Whitehouse wrote the July 18 article titled, "Jonassen didn't miss a beat in his return to the dugout":

When Erskine baseball coach Mark Bailey stepped down after a promising 2015 season to spend more time with his family, the school turned to the man who had preceded him in the dugout, Lars Jonassen, in hopes he would continue the program's growth.

The typically self-deprecating 64-year-old, who had coached the varsity for nine years in his previous stint and had stayed close to the program as JV coach in the first year of his two-year varsity hiatus, wasn't sure he was the right fit.

"I'm at an age where you wonder if it's the right choice and how the kids are going to react to someone my age," he said. "But we had 13 players and, for most of them, baseball is their first sport."

Jonassen and his players had some fun with the age difference and sharing their passion for the game they love all season. It carried over onto the diamond, as they finished 14-4 and reached the Class B North semifinals.

For the Eagles' accomplishments, Lars Jonassen is the 2016 Kennebec Journal Baseball Coach of the Year.

Despite losing star shortstop Ryan Rodrigue to graduation, the Eagles went

into the 2016 season with a great deal of optimism. Led by seniors Caleb Barden, Cody Beaudoin, Zack Glidden, Luke Peabody and Jake Suga, they had most of the nucleus back that showed consistent improvement and reached the playoffs in 2015.



Lars Jonassen

Adding to the air of possibilities was that many of the players were part of the Eagles' unexpected run to the state soccer championship game.

"We had a lot of things fall into place, but I think the attitude from day one was 'Hey, this could be special,'" Jonassen said. ...

...Erskine's season ended with a 3-1 loss to top seed and eventual state champion Old Town in the semifinals. It marked the end of the high school careers of five key contributors. But with their entire infield and three of their top four pitchers back, the Eagles could be even better next year.

Jonassen downplays his role in the steps they took in 2016, deflecting credit to assistants Scott Corey, Pete Howard and Jon Jorgensen. But he has no regrets about getting back in the game.