

## BASEBALL

# Six Mustangs grab all-HOIAC honors

Troy Hyde  
thyde@shawmedia.com

The PCM baseball team ranked in the top two in most offensive categories this past summer.

The Mustangs' fielding percentage was second and their team earned run average ranked third.

And with so many key players eligible to return next season, the future looks to be bright.

Leading the way on this year's squad which finished third in the Heart of Iowa Athletic Conference was junior Nick Farver, who earned first team all-conference honors recently.

Senior Gavin Fenton, junior Easton Webb and sophomore Kaleb DeVries all were second-team selections and junior Jack Jungling and sophomore Trenner Van Dyke were the honorable mention choices.

PCM finished 9-5 in conference play and led the league in homers, walks and hit by pitches during conference games. The Mustangs basically were second in the other



Farver



Fenton



Webb



DeVries



Van Dyke



Jungling

offensive categories.

All-conference honors are based on statistics inside conference play only.

Farver made the first team as a utility player. He ranked tied for first in the league with two homers and led the conference with 15 RBIs.

Farver's .407 batting average and .491 on-base percentage ranked seventh and eighth,

respectively. He also ranked sixth with 13 runs, second with 31 total bases and tied for ninth with eight walks and four doubles.

He also added one triple and five stolen bases and he was hit by two pitches. His fielding percentage was .981 and he committed only one error.

As a pitcher, he was 2-2 with

an ERA of 3.00. His 32 strikeouts ranked eighth in the conference and he allowed a .215 opponents batting average over 25 2/3 innings.

Webb was a second-team infielder. He ranked tied for second in the league with six doubles and 14 RBIs, sixth with 26 total bases and tied for 12th with seven walks.

His .386 batting average and .491 OBP ranked 10th and eighth, respectively. Webb also finished with one homer, nine runs and one stolen base and he was hit by two pitches.

DeVries was a second-team outfielder after ranking tied for fourth in the conference with four doubles. His .364 batting average was 14th and his OBP of .475 ranked 11th.

He tied for 12th with seven walks and finished with nine runs, five RBIs, 16 total bases and three steals. His fielding percentage was .960 and his one error tied for fourth in the league.

Fenton earned his second-team honor as a utility player. His contribution to the team went beyond the

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## SOFTBALL

# Steenhoek named to IGCA all-state squad

Troy Hyde  
thyde@shawmedia.com

After being tabbed as a first team all-conference player earlier this season, PCM senior Paige Steenhoek added more postseason honors recently.

The Iowa Girls Coaches Association named Steenhoek to the Class 3A all-state third team.

Steenhoek, who also earned 3A Central District recognition, led the Mustangs with a .364 batting average this summer.

She also had a team-best 32 hits, 24 runs and 25 RBIs and finished with seven doubles, one homer, four walks and 42 total bases.

Steenhoek's on-base percentage was .383 and she finished with a .912 fielding percentage.



Steenhoek

## BASKETBALL

# PCM's dynamic duo ready for life after coaching

### Lorensen, Grier hang up their whistles after nearly 50 years of coaching

Troy Hyde  
thyde@shawmedia.com

When Fred Lorensen came to open gym on June 14, he didn't know if he was going to coach the PCM boys' basketball team another season.

But when he arrived and 25 players were there waiting for him, he took that as a sign.

"I was either going to have an open gym or tell them I was done," Lorensen said. "I wanted to make sure I could tell them if I was done. One of my concerns was that some kids who I think highly of might not be there, but I walked into the gym and everyone was there. God might have been talking to me. That meant a lot to me that they were all there. But it was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do in my life."

Lorensen said the contracts for next season were due on June 12. He called PCM Activities Director Jeremy Swink that day and told him he didn't know if he could sign it.

Swink told him to sleep on it. Lorensen asked if he could wait until that open gym two days later.

"I took the kids to the library and I told them what I was going to do," Lorensen said. "It was really hard. I just love those kids. I was pretty emotional. They all gave me a hug one by one."

Lorensen will hang up his whistle after serving as PCM's first and only head boys' basketball coach.

His friend and long-time assistant coach Joel Grier also decided he was ready to be done. There was a lot less debate for Grier though.

"I knew going into last season that that would be my final year," Grier said. "If I went another year, I'd be 75 years old. And that'd be dumb. It was long enough."

There will be a celebration of their careers at a retirement reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Gateway Recre-



PCM basketball coaches Fred Lorensen, left, and Joel Grier pose with some of their state-tournament trophies after announcing their retirement from coaching recently. The Mustangs' dynamic duo won one state championship, coached in 10 state tournaments and claimed 14 conference titles at both Monroe and PCM. Submitted Photo

ation Golf Course in Monroe.

"They are both certainly icons and pillars of the community," Mustang alum Grant Burns said. "They are not only great coaches but great people and role models."

Both Lorensen and Grier came to Monroe in 1975. They coached on the same high school boys' basketball staff for nearly 40 years.

They coached 10 state tournament teams, 14 conference championship squads and hoisted the Class 2A state championship trophy after the 2003-04 season.

The dynamic duo had only three losing seasons at PCM.

"An underrated part of their success has been their involvement within the communities and their ability to build relationships," said 1993 PCM graduate Ryan VanVeen, who played on the first two PCM teams. "Coach Lorensen was one of my Sunday school teachers. Coach Grier was my

fifth-grade teacher.

"I loved my experience playing for them. They made me feel valued long before I truly brought any value to the program."

VanVeen was not part of any of the state-tournament runs.

Lorensen and Grier guided the Monroe Wildcats to their only state tournament in 1986-87.

Four years later, Monroe consolidated with the Prairie City Plainsmen to form the PCM Mustangs.

They were good right away, too, qualifying for the state tournament for the first time in 1994-95.

They returned to state in 1996-97 and placed fourth despite starting the season 2-7. That was the program's first season in the Raccoon River Conference and the roster featured Coach Grier's son Bret and fellow standout Robbie Meyer.

"Their community impact

goes far beyond the game of basketball," Bret Grier said. "They are well respected by so many and have represented PCM with class not only on the basketball court but in the classroom as well."

"They were mentors to so many in so many different ways."

PCM returned to the state tournament in 1998-99 and lost to Pella Christian in the quarterfinals. Those two programs faced off against each other in the postgame a lot during Lorensen's time with the program.

The following season, the Mustangs finished under .500 for the first time in PCM history. That roster included Fred's freshman son Todd.

It also was the precursor to the greatest four-year stretch in PCM boys' basketball history.

"We had a great recruiting year and brought in a freshman by the name of Brandon Myers

that following offseason," Lorensen said with a smile. "We went to the state tournament four straight years. We could have won it the first three years and finally did in Myers' final season."

That championship team went undefeated in 2003-04. But every postseason game was tough and the championship game went to double overtime.

Grier admits to not knowing as many details as Lorensen during their time together. But he does remember one specific thing about the title team.

"After the first overtime period, Myers said 'we didn't come this far to lose,'" Coach Grier said. "I shut my mouth at that point. There was nothing else I could have said. We had some great kids."

Myers wasn't the only stud on that team. The point guard was sophomore Grant Burns.

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