

Sports

Baseball

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offensive numbers. He also called pitches for the Mustang pitchers.

Fenton batted .250 and had an OBP of .348.

He finished with three runs, two triples, five RBIs, five walks, 17 total bases and two steals. His fielding percentage was .972.

Van Dyke's contribution to the team came as a pitcher. He was 3-1 in conference play with

an ERA of 3.43. His 43 strikeouts ranked fourth and his 32 2/3 innings ranked sixth.

Opponents batted .228 against Van Dyke, and his fielding percentage was .933. He made one error.

Jungling ranked fifth in the league with an OBP of .535 and he tied for fifth with nine walks.

His .375 batting average was 11th and he finished with eight runs, two doubles, eight RBIs, 14 total bases and three steals and he was hit by two pitches. Jungling was one of three

players in the HOIAC who did not commit an error during conference play.

Heart of Iowa Athletic Conference Baseball Final Standings		
Team	Conference	Overall
West Marshall	13-1	27-7
Saydel	11-3	19-17
PCM	9-5	13-15
Perry	6-8	10-15
South Hamilton	6-8	10-13
Nevada	3-11	9-16
Greene County	1-13	3-19

All-Conference First Team	
Pitchers — Grayson Shaver, jr., West Marshall; Brady Hicks, eighth-grader, Saydel.	

Catcher — AJ Dee, so., West Marshall.
Infielders — Caden Pfantz, so., West Marshall; Mason Hicks, sr., Saydel; Brett Schmitz, jr., Roland-Story; Fausto Beato, sr., Perry.
Outfielders — Owen Siegert, jr., West Marshall; Beckham DeSotel, eighth-grader, West Marshall; Jace Gebhart, sr., Saydel; Landon Skartvedt, sr., South Hamilton.
Utility — Nick Farver, jr., PCM; Jace Embry, jr., Saydel; Anthony Eaton, so., Nevada

Second Team
Pitchers — Jaden Cordova, sr., Saydel; Dillow Lettow, sr., Roland-Story; Owen Myers, so., Perry.
Catcher — Tjerdan Johnson, jr., South Hamilton.
Infielders — Easton Webb, jr., PCM; Payton Rummans, jr., Saydel; Drake Levan, jr., Perry;

Karter Beving, sr., Nevada.
Outfielders — Kaleb DeVries, so., PCM; DJ Ridout, so., West Marshall; Jackson Burlage, so., Nevada.
Utility — Gavin Fenton, sr., PCM; Owen Duns, jr., South Hamilton; Brayden Roberts, sr., Greene County.

Honorable Mention
 Trenner Van Dyke, so., PCM; Jack Jungling, jr., PCM; Noah DeSotel, so., West Marshall; Evan Siegert, fr., West Marshall; Ryan Van Houten, so., Saydel; William Zamzow, so., Roland-Story; Sam Knoll, so., Roland-Story; Kain Killmer, jr., Perry; Juan Hernandez, sr., Perry; Prestin Van De Pol, jr., South Hamilton; Landon Sogard, so., South Hamilton; Drake Hinson, fr., Nevada; Kole Beving, fr., Nevada; Gavyn Winters, so., Greene County; Noah Hinote, so., Greene County.

Dynamic

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"That team was when it all came together," Burns said. "Fred's run from 90ish to 2003 is almost unprecedented at a public school. If the ball bounces a different way, he has four or five state championships. Go look at the early 1990s and his records. If they didn't play Pella Christian every year in substate, they would have made the state finals."

Lorensen and Grier returned to the state tournament two more times after the state championship season.

Led by Scott Bruxvoort, and with Grant's younger brother Hutch Burns, the Mustangs returned to Wells Fargo Arena in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The 2010-11 squad finished 27-1 and placed third in 2A. The Mustangs went 24-3 the following season but lost Bruxvoort to an injury in the district championship game with PCM leading by a large margin.

PCM advanced to the state tournament without Bruxvoort after knocking off top-ranked West Marshall in the substate title game but lost in the state quarterfinals as Bruxvoort was only about 70 or 80 percent healthy.

"My best psychological coaching job was before that substate title game," Lorensen said. "I was talking to Hutch and (Jordan)

Van Roekel and the other guys before the game and basically told them sarcastically that they have never won a game with Bruxvoort before.

"The truth was, they won a lot of games without him as he was playing big-time AAU ball in the summers and the rest of the guys were playing without him. I was being sarcastic to just let them know they can do it. It was a close game, but we got it done. We lost in the quarterfinals by one point and you cannot convince me that we were not the best team in 2A that year."

Between Monroe and PCM, Lorensen's final head coaching record was 632-327 over 42.5 seasons. Lorensen and Grier went 535-214 in 32 seasons at PCM.

Both also will end their coaching careers with the third losing season in Mustangs' history. The second losing season came in 2016-17.

"I'm not sure it's the right time. I guess I will find that out," Lorensen said about retiring from coaching. "There are parts I will miss but there are parts I won't miss, too.

"Things got harder every year. I felt like I was slower and it took longer to plan practices. After a while, you just get tired



PCM boys' basketball coach Fred Lorensen announced his retirement from coaching back in June. He won 632 games, one state championship and 14 conference titles as coach of Monroe and PCM. Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer file photo

of telling kids they are going to be JV or varsity. Telling kids they are or aren't going to play."

The biggest reason Lorensen stepped away now is so he can see the final seasons of his grandsons' careers — one is going to be a junior at Ballard and the other is going to be a sophomore at ADM.

"I just felt like it was time," Lorensen said. "I never wanted to do the farewell tour. I wanted to tell the kids before they found out from somewhere else, too.

"I didn't know when I got there on that Wednesday that I was going to be done. It was important that most of the kids were there. Telling them was one of the hardest things I've ever done. That was tough."

Grier's coaching resume goes beyond boys' basketball. He

was the girls' basketball coach back in the six-on-six days for six seasons. He also coached softball and boys and girls track for several years and coached baseball, football and cross country, too.

He had the luxury of coaching his sons and Bradley and Bret both played in the state tournament as senior point guards.

"Fred and I had a shared belief that we could get something going and we did," Coach Grier said. "We put a lot of effort into it.

"Coaching my sons was not too difficult. It was just part of the process."

In the classroom, Grier was an elementary teacher.

Lorensen taught junior high and high school math for a combined 31 years and served as the high school principal for four years before retiring on June 30, 2010, at the age of 57.

Tony Ford, who served as an

assistant on Lorensen's staff the past few seasons, will take over the program this winter.

He'll be just the second head coach ever at PCM.

"They will be tough to replace, but I do think Tony Ford will do a good job," Bret Grier said.

"It will be new and different to walk into a boys' basketball game this season and not see Fred or Joel on the sidelines. The days of finding coaches who will stick with one school for 40-plus years are almost over. It doesn't happen too much anymore."

Grant Burns knows replacing Lorensen and Grier will be difficult but also thinks their impact and imprint on the program makes it a bit easier.

"From youth all the way to high school, you have dozens of coaches teaching the game with what they learned from those two," Grant Burns said. "Fred is best at his ability to let players play. So often you see over-coaching and handcuffing talent. He would let you learn from your mistakes and get better."

VanVeen is one of those former Mustangs who is now coaching.

"This will be my 25th year in education and coaching," VanVeen said. "I'd like to think I model my teaching and coaching style after my experience at PCM. I was so fortunate to have been led by these men. There's an old saying in coaching ... you never want to be the man to follow the man. Whoever takes over has some huge shoes to fill."



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