

ADVERTISING

Referee Jersey \$14.99

Huge Discount Soccer Referee Store Save 20% to 60% on Soccer Ref Gear

LestersUpstateSports.com

Referee/Umpire clothing/protective Cliff Keen, Wilson, New Era, etc.

Save on Referee Uniforms

Enjoy deep discounts on all referee gear. Ref jerseys from \$18.95.

Official's Record

Record keeping for Sports Officials, etc.

Ads by Goooooogle

Ad



Home | Site Index | Subscribe | Shopping Central



News | Sports | Business | A&E |

Search News Archive:

JOBS
REAL ESTATE
AUTOS

- Local News
- Sports
- Seahawks
- Prep Sports
- Business
- Opinion
- Columnists
- News Wire
- Health
- Food
- Outdoors
- Obituaries
- Arts & Entertain.
- Home & Garden
- Travel & Leisure
- Features
- Vital Statistics
- Weather
- Blogs
- Celebrations

- Special Sections
- Clubs & Casinos
- Dining Guide
- OneCallClassifieds
- Place an ad
- Employment
- Real Estate
- Mortgage Center
- HomeSearch
- Rentals
- Automotive
- Service Directory
- Legal Notices
- All sections
- Subscriber Center
- Subscribe Now
- Renew Now
- Payment options
- Going on vacation?
- Buy a paper
- Community
- City/Town guide
- County Connection

Prep Sports

[email it](#)

[print it](#)

Published: Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Decades of dedication Rick Myers retires after 25 years as a basketball official

By Mike Cane
Herald Writer

It's a question that has always stumped Mike Lowery: Why would a well-adjusted person choose to be a basketball official?

Even if a zebra-striped ref has a perfect night and makes all the right calls, half the crowd still might want to toss the official on a one-way train to nowhere. Clearly, officiating is a rough, often underappreciated task. (Take a few deep breaths and count to 10, ever-stewing Seahawks fans.)



Michael V. Martina / The Herald

"It's the toughest job in athletics," said Lowery, who last year retired after 22 seasons as head boys hoops coach at Marysville-Pilchuck High. Official Rick Myers signals the scorer's table during his last game Feb. 3 at Archbishop Murphy High School.

The undertaking is also essential. Competitive sports without dedicated officials would be like airplanes without wings - they simply wouldn't fly.

As Lowery said, "If we don't have those kinds of guys, we don't have athletics."

Lowery's talking about guys



OneCall CLASSIFIEDS

- Jobs
- Autos
- Homes
- Rentals

Ads by Goooooogle

Referee Jersey \$14.99

Huge Discount Soccer Referee Store Save 20% to 60% on Soccer Ref Gear
www.epicsoccer.com

LestersUpstateSports.com

Referee/Umpire clothing/protective Wilson, New Era, etc.
www.LestersUpstateSports.com

Featured Adve

▼ [click to enlarge featured](#)

Events calendar
Schools Guide

ADVERTISING
Ads by Gooooooogle

**Referee Jersey
\$14.99**

Huge Discount
Soccer Referee
Store Save 20% to
60% on Soccer Ref
Gear
www.epicsoccer.com

LestersUpstateSpr

Referee/Umpire
clothing/protective
Cliff Keen, Wilson,
New Era, etc.
www.LestersUpstateSpr

**Save on Referee
Uniforms**

Enjoy deep
discounts on all
referee gear. Ref
jerseys from
\$18.95.
www.challengerteamwear

**Official's Record
Keeper**

Record keeping
software for Sports
Officials, (not
assignors)
www.officialsrecordkeepe

Advertise on this site

like Rick Myers, who recently ended his 25-year boys basketball officiating career. Myers, 54 of Lake Stevens, comes from a family that has made a hefty contribution to Snohomish County athletics for decades.

Michael V. Martina / The Herald
Rick Myers (right) concluded his 25-year officiating career working with his nephew, Mark (center), and son, Chris (left).

* His older brother, Dennis Myers, retired four years ago after 20 years of officiating local games and five state-tournament trips.

* 31-year-old Mark Myers, Rick's nephew and Dennis' son, has refed hoops contests since 1992, including two state tournaments.

* And 21-year-old Chris Myers, Rick's son and the youngest of the bunch, is in his third season of officiating.

"It is truly a family thing," said Rick Myers, who refed Class 4A state tournaments in 2000, 2003 and 2004, and three times was president of the Snohomish County Boys Basketball Officials Association (SCBOA).

Myers broke into hoops officiating with encouragement from his older brother and immediately found a new passion - though he admits it's not for everyone. "Most people figure out fairly quickly whether (refing) is something they want to do. You either enjoy being the object of that scrutiny or not."

For the last 25 years, Myers found that the thrill of being an official far outweighed any inevitable downsides. "I never feel more alive than I do in the middle of a gym and half (the crowd) is upset and half's not."

Lowery, the former M-P boys coach, said Myers' skills are obvious: "He's really a professional. It's a serious thing for him. It's not a hobby.

"He's always taken a lot of pride in it. It's really similar to coaching. You put your heart and soul into it, and he's been doing that for years and years. He'll be greatly missed."

Myers is moving on, but not because his enthusiasm faded. Instead, an aching, arthritic knee that required surgery about a year ago finally forced him out - but not before Myers took part in an emotional, historical final outing.

On Feb. 3 Myers officiated the Class 2A South Whidbey vs. Archbishop Murphy boys game with two special partners: his nephew, Mark, and his son, Chris. It marked the first time in SCBOA history that three family members worked the same game. It was also Chris' first - and last - chance to ref alongside his father.

"It was probably the most fun I've ever had on the basketball court," said Chris Myers, a 2003 Kamiak grad who had never officiated a varsity game higher than the B level. Myers - who said refing in his family "is just something that happens (like) a rite of passage" - was "incredibly nervous" before the game. But once it started he relaxed and enjoyed the opportunity.

North

1-year

4.50%
\$10,000 Minimum Opening

4.25%
\$500 Minimum Opening

*Annual Percentage Yield does not include fees and charges. APR is subject to change.

ARLINGTON
16412 Smoking Point Blvd.
360.659.7100

MARYSVILLE
1021 Stearns Avenue
360.657.3100

- Click advertiser nam

Banking and Financial Service
• [North County Bank](#)

Casinos and Cardrooms
• [North County Bank](#)

Hair and Beauty
• [North Sound Medical Spa](#)

Contact the Herald: 4

[Visit our Staff c](#)

Write:
The Herald
P.O. Box 930
Everett, WA 98206

With more than a dozen family members and friends in the stands, the Myers trio soaked up the occasion that was made possible by SCBOA game assigner Lee Ottini. Ottini usually picks officiating crews based on performance ratings and availability but he made an exception for the Myers clan.

"It worked out perfect and they had a great time," said Ottini, who called Rick Myers a well-rounded official who "knows the (rule) book inside and out."

A few days after the memorable game, Myers' knee ached and he battled mixed feelings. On one hand he said it was amazing to officiate with Mark and Chris. Then again, it was a bit embarrassing to be in the spotlight.

"It was tough for him," Chris Myers said, "because he's never been that official that wanted everybody's attention focused on him. ... But he'll appreciate it a long time from now."

As for that throbbing knee, Rick Myers said it held up just long enough to get through one unforgettable final game.

"I'm not sure I could have done another one," he said, "(but) I got right to the finish line."

My Snohomish

News and information tailored to your hometowns:

- Everett
- Mukilteo
- Marysville
- Lake Stevens
- Snohomish
- Mill Creek
- Edmonds
- Arlington
- Monroe
- Stanwood
- Granville
- Lynn
- Bothell
- And

Home Delivery Special 3 months for \$21



[Click here](#) and subscribe to convenient home delivery today!

What's Hot on HeraldNet?
[View the most popular HeraldNet stories](#) being e-mailed around today.

ADVERTISING

Listen to 900,000 tracks On Demand
Try it FREE >> [Click Here!](#)

ADVERTISING

Free Beef
with the Tires You Buy

Tires Plus
www.Les

HeraldNet: [Search](#) | [Problems with this service](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Link to us](#) | [Feedback](#) | [About Us](#)

[Go To Section](#)

Other Herald Co. Websites: [Er](#)
[NorthSoundDining.com](#) | [Business Journal](#)

The Daily Herald Co.: [Contact the newspaper](#) | [Advertising information](#)
[Home Delivery](#) | [Newsstand locations](#) | [Work at The Herald](#) | [Classifieds](#)

Copyright © 2006 The Daily Herald

Questions or comments? [Go to Co](#)

