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STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

Capitol Update
By Senator Howard Marklein
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Great Coaches From the 17th Senate District

The 17th District produces a lot of great things. From the world's best cheese to Rural Route 1 Popcorn; from Walker's stainless tanks to beef cattle from our rolling pastures; from cranberries in Juneau county to yogurt of all kinds; the 17th Senate District makes a lot of amazing things.

We also produce renowned coaches.

With the Badger football season in full swing, I am extremely proud of our coaching legacy every time I see Coach Paul Chryst on the sidelines. And we don't have to wait long until we see Coach Greg Gard on the basketball court. These men, among many others, make me proud to represent the hometowns, families and communities who have produced extraordinary coaches.

The Chryst and Gard phenomena is also very interesting because both of these coaches, who lead two of the best teams in our nation, went to high school less than 14 miles apart. And now, they are both head coaches of Division 1 NCAA programs!

Coach Chryst hails from Platteville where his father, George Chryst was a high school football coach who later went on to lead UW-Platteville football and was the Pioneers Athletic Director for many years. Paul Chryst attended Platteville High School and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from West Virginia University. His coaching career has taken him from West Virginia to San Antonio to Oregon State to Pittsburg before he was welcomed back to Wisconsin.

Chryst was a multi-sport athlete in Platteville as a three-time letterman in football and basketball. He also lettered in baseball and track. He took his football success with consecutive Southern Eight Conference titles and a Wisconsin Division 4 state championship to the UW where he was a three-time football letter winner and quarterback.

Back at the helm of the Badgers, Chryst uses his Midwestern talent and values to lead the team. We are glad to have Coach Chryst back in Wisconsin with wife Robin and children Katy, JoJo and Danny.

Coach Gard grew up in Cobb where much of his family still resides. Gard graduated from Iowa-Grant High School and UW-Platteville where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. Gard's brother Jeff is now the head basketball coach at UW Platteville! The brothers will face off on Oct. 30th when the Badgers play UW-Platteville in an exhibition game. Even more pertinent, the game marks the one-year anniversary of the passing of Glen Gard, Greg and Jeff's father, who died of glioblastoma multiforme

(GBM). In his memory, the Wisconsin vs. UW-Platteville exhibition will serve as Brain Cancer Awareness Game. What a terrific tribute.

Much of Greg Gard's coaching experience was under the leadership of former Coach Bo Ryan at UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin. He succeeded Ryan in 2014 and was part of the team's leadership for each of the top 11 winningest seasons at Wisconsin. Five of the players from Gard's first season as head coach at Wisconsin were on the Academic All-Big Ten list and throughout his career at the UW, he has helped lead the team to 53 Academic All-Big Ten honors.

But Gard's roots are in the 17th District. Gard's coaching career began at Southwestern High School and Platteville High School. In fact, this just goes to show that we also grow exemplary high school, middle school and club team coaches in our communities, including the winningest high school basketball coach in Wisconsin history.

Jerry Petitgoue has coached boys' basketball in Cuba City for 43 seasons with more than 850 Varsity wins. Petitgoue has led the Cubans to state championships in 1981, 1991 and 1998, as well as runner-up in 2012.

Petitgoue has also taken on a leadership role and serves as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) since 1995. He leads camps and clinics for players and coaches alike to share his knowledge and philosophy with teams throughout the state. His techniques are used far and wide through the 20 basketball videos he has produced to further share his winning techniques.

As the football season continues and we anticipate the beginning of basketball season, I hope you will join me in honoring the great coaches that have hailed from our communities. Perhaps the next great coach is sitting in a classroom in your town, studying biology and preparing for practice tonight. No matter who he or she may be, they come from good, strong Wisconsin stock.

For more information and to connect with me, visit my website <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/17/marklein> and subscribe to my weekly E-Update by sending an email to Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov. Do not hesitate to call 800-978-8008 if you have input, ideas or need assistance with any state-related matters.

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