

## Interview With Ted Zehr, Vice Principle for CHS AJ Rocheleau and Tim Puckett

TP: What was your first involvement with CHS?

TZ: My first involvement with CHS was the summer before the school opened with um, Phil Barnekoff. I came to Century as the head baseball coach and then spent the summer helping the staff train and program the systems we have here, being PC programs. We were all Macintosh at uh other schools so we had to learn how to do things on a PC. I spent the summer training myself so I could train the staff on how that worked.

TP: Is that why you chose to come here, for the baseball?

TZ: That was my uh, Phil Barnekoff was my huge reason for coming here. I wanted to start a program from the beginning. A baseball program keeping a record of all the, stats like who had the most hits, who had the first victory, first team. Ya that was kinda exciting because I was at Hilhi, that school had been playing baseball since 1920, and I couldn't find any records from that long ago. So it was kind of exciting to have a history of the athletics program, so I wanted to get involved in that.

AJ: How long did you coach?

TZ: I coached 2 years at Linfield college, 5 at Oregon city, 6 at Hilhi and then 2 here at Century. So that is about 15 years of coaching. Hilhi were state champs in '95 and then legion champs in '95 and '96.

TP: Whoa, pretty successful.

TZ: Hilhi was pretty good. When century came in it kind of took a lot of the talent away from Hilhi, as you guys can see when you play them...

AJ: They probably wont do that again for awhile...

TZ: Well, when Liberty comes in, then will take away from you guys. Anything north of um, Cornell right now goes to Liberty, wait, maybe Baseline.

TP: How would you compare your experience h And when we first opened up we only had 1300. Look at the hallways now with 700 more students. Its easier to get through the hallways then, you cant do it now. Those were some of the challenges we faced. It is just getting programs started and everyone realizing "hey you know your not Hilhi or Glencoe anymore, and we are all in this together".

TP: What were some of your greatest satisfactions here at century?

TZ: Teaching and coaching as a VP, well as a teacher I was only teaching here for 6 weeks. (we all laugh and giggle) so as far as that goes, getting set up with how to use the commuter and e-mail, and using some of those special programs we had. As a coach uh, getting the fields built, getting dug-outs. We should have been in the playoffs the second year but we had two kids that got hurt, and we had no depth when the school first opened so we couldn't deal with that. Also the year we didn't have a field we had to play all games on the road and practice in the parking lot and getting some hitting time in the gym. Some ground work for the baseball team happened because successes are happening now. VP uh, just working with the kids and staff. Just making sure everyone is working well and getting along. Making sure everything is being successful here IN the school. Helping students find ways to be successful either academically or socially.

AJ: What class did you teach?

TZ: I was in math. I taught Algebra 2A and Algebra 1 the first year. There isn't a better subject out there...OK MRS. DUYKINK? (Laughs from all)

TP: How do you feel about the baseball team now that you set the foot work for it?

TZ: I think it speaks for itself, I mean you have a metro championship under your belt, and uh, a lot of kids playin out there. It is successful, I don't see it taking a step backwards anywhere. At least for the next couple of years. We'll just have to see what happens when the new school opens up. I think Century will be a baseball school for awhile based on the boundaries that we have now, even with the seniors we are losing, I mean this is a Reedville and Hillsboro school. Everyone plays together, it is pretty much tight knit. It isn't too spread out, so it is tight-knit. I mean we may never be successful in football or basketball, but I think Century will be a baseball school.

TP: (quietly) I hope so...

AJ: After your experiences, what advise would you give to the Liberty planning team?

TZ: Well, the Liberty planning team should make sure the outside facilities are done right. Because here we don't have draining, because when we did the varsity field, the right field was 6 ft lower than home plate. So if you could imagine it was this way so we had to put in a grater and lower it, and when you lower it, you have to take away a lot of the good dirt, and that means there will be a lot of clay and that doesn't hold water very well. Right field was also like you were looking at the catchers feet at home plate. So they didn't design that very well. Also, taking care of the outside facilities so you don't have to spend \$100,000 dollars to do it over again. As far as the programs in the school, some issues we had was making it too accessible for students. You want to make it accessible and the use of the computer labs but not give them so much freedom in the beginning because it is difficult to take things away and it is so much of a battle to make sure you have what you want. You know if your going to have study halls that great, but make is so it is more structured and not so loosy goosy. I mean you guys know, if you were given the option, you would sometimes choose to walk around and hang out, I think you would. I mean I know you two are good students, but who wouldn't do that?

TP/AJ: yeah we would...

AJ: What was your initial vision for CHS?

TZ: Well my first priority as a coach, was to get kids to come here and be successful for baseball. As far as academics, I want kids to achieve the state standards and reach for higher levels of learning. Be successful outside of school. What has been a problem for me hear as an educator is that we are so specialized here, we don't have the mechanics, we don't have the shop and metal shop that some students need, so we are a more academic place, and it is harder for the kids who aren't on that track. But my initial thought was to get kids who want to be hear and build a tradition. And for those kids who go to Hilhi to say, "hey I wish I went to Century". I think that is the next improvement for kids, is to reach them not only athletically but socially and academically. We have a great drama program.

TP: How much of that vision has been realized?

TZ: Baseball has done outstanding. I think if you look at how many students request to come here, how many students live outside our district and still want to come to Century, technically our school is outstanding. The academic programs like art and drama are very appreciated here, and they are always full. Programs we are just getting started are becoming very successful. I think we still have a ways to go, but we are in the right direction. We have an energetic staff and we try new things as opposed to other staffs who may not be so open to new changes. We have enthusiasm as we came to a new building and we just try and do things. You came here for a reason and you didn't want to be at Hilhi probably...or Glencoe. We have some neat stuff here to offer, but Glencoe is a great school also. The students and staff go the extra mile.

AJ: Do you think it is still exciting for the staff?

TZ: Yeah, we have a turnover in our staff here. What's happened is our staff is still outstanding. We have the best staff here at Century. I think what's happened it that we have got so crowded. And people are losing space.

AJ: Yeah I heard some teachers have lost their offices to more classrooms.

TZ: Office spaces have been taken away. You feel kinda rushed a little bit because it is crowded and you can't have your own room. You can't have that kind of stuff you feel you own, teachers feel like they own their rooms, and you just lose some of that. Some teachers do have their own space and some do not. But uh, we have a great staff. And some great kids. Everyone here is doing the best we can with the amount of students we have here. Once we have less kids here, we will find we'll get some of that joy back again. We have maybe lost some of the division of the new staff we have. This is the Century community, this is what Century is about. We do that with our teachers.

TP: What are some of the most significant changes you have seen since Century opened?

TZ: Well starting at 1300 and now being at 2000 that is a change. The significant change, well I don't know if this is actually a change, but the fact that we have 4 or 5 hundred more students than we did at the beginning of the year. So we keep having a lot of students come in and come out and that is kind of unique to our school, the other schools don't have that quite as much. I do like the diversity we have here, we have a wide range of cultures here which can be a benefit if tapped in correctly. Other changes I find significant are the drama and art. Our technology issue is that we bought all this stuff new about 2 years ago and now they are outdated. Trying to update all that is going to be KEY. And that is some advice I would give to the liberty planning team - they need to look at do you lease the equipment instead of buying it. Every 2 years you could get new stuff, or be like us the outdated school because we bought everything. We buy 500 computers that is a lot of money up front. And now technology has moved on and we have the slower equipment.

AJ: Didn't some get donated from intel?

TZ: Pieces were donated from intel, but we had to piece them together. That is what Mr. Parker has spent a lot of time on. Him and some students have worked on that.

TP: Why did you decide to be the vice principal instead of teaching?

TZ: Well when we first opened we were crowded and Mr. Barnekoff and Mr. Ormm were two good friends who came from Hilhi, and I was looking down the road, and they said I could keep coaching baseball and be VP. And so I said yes, as long as I could keep coaching baseball. I wanted to see how the school ran from a different perspective than teaching after teaching for 12 years. Then they said I couldn't coach any more and I said, well, I, I want to still teach then. But Rian has done a great job with you guys, and you have to be a good teacher to be a good coach, and I think that he is one. But yeah, Rian has done a great job with you guys and you've come pretty far.

TP: Would you still be a coach if you were a teacher?

TZ: Mmmm humm (yeah).

Both: is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

TZ: Well, hmmm, it has been a joy. It really has, even though we are over crowded and had some tough situations in the past, we are better than some other schools. We have some great kids, some really outstanding kids. For NHS, we had 10% of our sophomore class in it, which is outstanding. Actually there are more kids, there are 100 kids out of 500, so that's 20%.

Both: That's pretty good...

TZ: Yeah tells ya something. We have some good kids.

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ere with that of other schools?

TZ: Trying to build a tradition here was the big challenge here. Getting things started, you know everyone had ideas of how things were at Hilhi or Glencoe but trying to get your own identity here was, um, a big challenge. We had to do a lot of things here that didn't seem to work at the beginning like make access to the uh, the school. If a student had study hall but a 3.0 GPA, he could do anything he wanted. Like having access to a computer lab or library or being in the cafeteria. Every teacher used to have a study hall, so each student would have 5 classes then a study hall. But if you had a 3.0 you could do anything and not go, so that is how it started. Students were all over the halls and doing whatever they wanted because they had stickers, and it was a mess. So it started out as a real open school, but we lost some of that as we have gone through.

TP: What were some other chalen, challenges you faced?

TZ: UH, couple of other challenges we had here was the diversity issue. Not so much the Hispanic/ Anglo because that has always been a big diverse issue here in Hillsboro. It was in the beginning dealing with some of the um, religious students vs. the non-religious students, the Goths. We had a big influx of that. You know dealing with those types of issues. There were a lot of fights at the beginning.

AJ: Ya...I heard about that...

TZ: Like whats going on between those groups. Trying to get everyone to realize we are a group we are a family here and uh, you can imagine it is a big school here and did you know that when the school first started we had 5 minutes to get from one side to the other as opposed to the 8 to 10 minutes we have now?

TP: I may have had a few tardies if that was the case...

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