

Tualatin High School Girls Basketball Coach Casey Bunn

She was a College Star at OSU, Professional Player in Australia and Europe, Entrepreneur, and now Coach of our Girls at Tualatin High School.

BY JAY BENNETT

Tualatin High School Girls' Basketball Coach Casey Bunn is an amazing asset for our girls because she has had such a vast array of experiences that have contributed to the professional she has become. Casey grew up in Stayton, and spent her summers at her uncle's farm/ranch in Idaho riding horses, roping and branding cattle where her brother and late grandfather were cowhands. She is an alumna of Oregon State University and played for the Beavers.

She went on to play professional basketball in Portugal, Spain, Greece and Australia--her personal favorite. She had some pretty entertaining stories about Greece, noting the prevalence of cigarette smoking in their culture. In Panathinaikos where she played, the arena was built underneath an ancient coliseum and, after coming out of the locker room during halftime of their games, the air throughout would be thick with cigarette smoke. The local players even smoked in the showers before the games!



When I asked her about the differences between our WNBA league and those of Europe, she had some really interesting things to say. One was that American players could be paid as much as four times as much as they could be paid to play in the WBNA (in Israel), and that an American female player could play the WNBA season here in the states during the summer then go on to play in a professional league in Europe for anywhere between 5-8 months for the remainder of the year. So playing women's professional ball could be a thrilling and financially rewarding avenue.

Over a lifetime of playing, coaching and otherwise being

consumed by her love for basketball, Coach Bunn took the steps necessary to convert her dream into a small business. Three years ago, Coach Bunn and a business partner breathed life into her dream of coaching competitive basketball for kids. The result:



Portland Jr. Energy, a company that is putting the 29-year-old coach/player/inspirational role model on the map for Tualatin.

Portland Jr. Energy is geared toward girls in grades 4-12 throughout the greater Portland area, and their mission is to expose our motivated, young female athletes to a level of coaching and competition that will take their basketball game to a higher level.



My daughter has played for Coach Casey and loves playing in the Jr. Energy club. She thrives under Casey's guidance and leadership. Casey is a great role model for our girls. If you're interested in learning more about Casey's Portland Jr. Energy program, please email her at casey@portlandenergybasketball.com.

Jay Bennett is a Tualatin resident and father of 3 daughters.

Coach Casey Bunn

Casey Bunn played basketball for the beavers from 2002 to 2007. Her freshman year Casey earned



honorable mention Pac-10 All-Freshman honors. Casey excelled both on the court and in the classroom, and found time to be involved with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee as well. As a senior she led the Pac-10 in scoring (20.6ppg) and became one of just six OSU players to have 1,000 points and ranked #8 in all-time leading scorers in OSU history adding 650 rebounds in her career. Casey graduated with a degree in Public Health Promotion and Education.

After graduation Casey continued playing basketball, professionally overseas in Greece, Spain, Portugal, and Australia. While in Portugal, Bunn played on the Portuguese All-Star team, received all-league honors, and was awarded all-league first team defense.