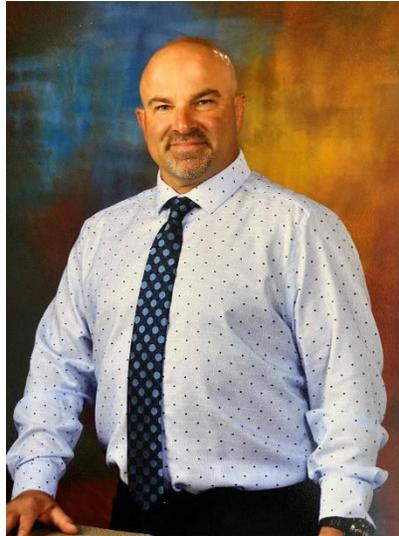




## Horizon Central Athletic Association (HCAA)

### Press Release: SHSAA Service Award Bestowed Upon Shaun Gardiner



Humboldt Collegiate Vice-Principal Shaun Gardiner has been awarded the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's Service Award. This award is given annually by the SHSAA to honor those who have provided outstanding leadership and service and the promotion of high school athletics within their school athletic district, Shaun's being the Horizon Central Athletic Association.

The award is typically presented at the upcoming SHSAA Annual General Meeting, but due to COVID-19, this meeting will be virtual. As such, the presentation was made at Humboldt Collegiate in front of Mr. Gardiner's staff and colleagues.

Shaun Gardiner is originally from North Battleford. Shaun had a very successful 5-year career as member of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team, and was drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. His teaching career has spanned nearly 30 years, beginning with a two year stint at Athahkakoop Cree First Nation, followed by seven years in Prince Albert. Shaun and his family settled in Humboldt in 1999 where he has been on staff at Humboldt Collegiate Institute for the last 20 years.

Shaun's dedication and commitment to athlete and program development at both the school and community level have been immeasurable, and the positive impact he has had on the athletic community is pronounced. He has for years spent countless hours leading Humboldt Collegiate's athletic programming to ensure that every sport, coach, and athlete has the potential to achieve excellence.

Coaching has always been one of Shaun's biggest passions. If Shaun chooses to coach a sport, you can expect him to put in hours and hours of planning and coaching in an effort to develop his players to compete at the highest level. He then takes the responsibility of developing the entire team surrounding his players including coaches, parents, and officials.

Shaun's coaching resume at HCI is extensive. He served as head coach of the tackle football program for 13 seasons, culminating in Provincial Championship titles in 2008 and 2010. He has also served as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. A great many football players that came through Shaun's program continued on to the next level of football after graduation.

As an extension of Shaun's passion for football, he is the original co-founder and coordinator of the Kelly Bates Football Camp, which has served the needs of rural football players and teams for 10 consecutive years. He has also served as the defensive coordinator/linebacker coach at the Football Saskatchewan Senior Bowl and at the Saskota Bowl, a 9-side all-star football game between Saskatchewan and North Dakota.

Shaun had also served as the head coach of the track program for many years, including many years as an events coach, with a number of provincial champions and medalists through these years. His ground-breaking efforts were and are the building blocks of what is now a very successful program.

Shaun has always had a keen interest in badminton, and has coached at both the Sr. and Jr. level. He has facilitated many competitive leagues and has hosted a number of very successful Pre-District, District, Regional, and Provincial tournaments. Shaun has also coached senior girls and junior boys basketball teams. He has taken on these roles willingly even after finishing a long football season.

Shaun has also contributed significantly to community sports programs, having coached with Humboldt Minor Hockey and Humboldt Minor Baseball. Shaun is also a certified fitness trainer, and supports a number of local football, track, and hockey athletes in this capacity, some who have gone on to compete at the provincial, national, international, and Olympic levels.

And if all that has not been enough, Shaun can still be seen officiating basketball or volleyball when the need arises.

Shaun has been the athletic director or co-athletic director for the majority of his time at HCI. He continues to advocate on behalf of both teachers and students for the advancement of sport within the school, the district, and the community. His current role as vice-principal provides even more opportunities for Shaun to support coaches and student athletes with his strong leadership qualities. It is Shaun's passion is to provide all students at varying levels of skill and interest an opportunity to experience the value of sport. He is always willing to provide mentorship to new teachers and coaches and never hesitates to share resources with his colleagues. He is always searching for new ideas and techniques and is always willing to try something new and innovative in the area of athletics.

Shaun has worked very hard over the span of his career to perfect his craft in teaching, coaching, and building relationships with colleagues and students. He is always focused on the task at hand while keeping an eye on the big picture. He often speaks of leaving things in a better condition than he found them in. He does this in his personal life, professional life, and within the community.

Shaun is married to Karla, who also teaches at HCI. Together, they are the proud parents of two sons, Reid and Eric, who have gone on to have successful hockey careers in the WHL, ECHL, AHL, and European leagues.