

# Former Beggs coach passes away

*Henry Roland guided Demons basketball to four state titles in 1990s*

By **LARRY OWEN**  
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Former Beggs boys basketball coach Henry Roland passed away Monday in Tulsa. He was 76.

Roland enjoyed a 39-year coaching career that included guiding 21 teams to the state tournament and earning a total of seven Gold Balls at three different schools.

Roland began his coaching career in 1963 at Sasakwa High School, coaching the Vikings to five state tournament appearances during his 13-year stint. Coach Roland's Vikings captured back-to-back state titles in 1972 and 1973.

In 1976, Roland began the next journey in his coaching career, taking the head coaching job at Konawa. During his 13 years at Konawa, Roland led the Tigers to seven state tournament appearances, including a state championship in 1980 and runner-up crowns in 1981, 1986, and 1987.

In 1989, Roland took over the head coaching duties at



Beggs High School. In his first year at Beggs, Roland's Demons scored the school's second state championship in boys basketball. Coach Roland's squad repeated as 2A state champs in 1991.

Beggs went on to win the Class 3A state crown in 1993 under Coach Roland, finishing off a 28-0 record with a 55-51 win over Millwood in the championship game. The Demons returned to Class 2A in 1993-94 and picked up a fourth title in five years by

winning the 2A crown in 1994.

Roland coached at Beggs until the end of the 2001-2002 school year. In his final season at the helm of the Demons, Roland made one final state tournament appearance as head coach, leading Beggs to the Class 3A state basketball tournament. Roland's coaching career came to a close on a bit of a sour note, as the Demons dropped a heartbreaking 60-59 loss to Millwood in the quarterfinals of the Class 3A state tournament.

Roland was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2002 and into the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2005.

During his 39 years as a head basketball coach, Roland amassed a coaching record of 851 wins and 222 losses.

A funeral service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the Integrity Funeral Service Chapel in Henryetta. A public viewing will be from noon-to-8 p.m. Friday at Integrity.