

## On the road to 1,000 wins

Here are the milestone victories in the career of Oregon Tech men's basketball coach Danny Miles

### No. 1

Oregon Tech 106, Northwest University 71, Dec. 7, 1971, Klamath Falls

This game is Miles' home-court debut.

### No. 50

Oregon Tech 55, George Fox 54, March 4, 1974

OIT wins third-place game in district.

### No. 100

Oregon Tech 103, University of Great Falls, 73, Dec. 18, 1976

### No. 128

Oregon Tech 57, Western Washington University 53, Jan. 28, 1978, in Bellingham, Wash.

Miles becomes Oregon Tech's winningest basketball coach.

### No. 150

Oregon Tech 110, Brigham Young-Hawaii 81, Feb. 3, 1979

### No. 156

Oregon Tech 109, Hawaii-Hilo 74, March 7, 1979

Oregon Tech wins district championship, qualifies for national tournament.

### No. 200

Oregon Tech 93, Lewis & Clark College 59, Dec. 20, 1981

### No. 250

Oregon Tech 67, Columbia Christian 63, in overtime, Feb. 1, 1984, in Portland

### No. 300

Oregon Tech 97, LaVerne University 60, Nov. 22, 1986, in LaVerne, Calif

### No. 329

Oregon Tech 75, George Fox 69, March 3, 1987

Oregon Tech wins district championship, qualifies for national tournament.

### No. 330

Oregon Tech 67, Northwestern, Iowa 63, March 11, 1987, in Kansas City, Mo.

Oregon Tech's first national tournament victory.

### No. 350

Oregon Tech 77, Northwest Christian 69, Jan. 29, 1988, in Eugene

### No. 400

Oregon Tech 130, Simpson University 52, Jan. 19, 1990, in Redding, Calif.

Game was played in two gymnasiums because of a shattered backboard after a dunk shot. In the terms of time, it is the longest game in OIT history at more than five hours.

# 1,000

# WINS

## Danny Miles

## Coach leads OIT men's basketball team to milestone victory

### INSIDE:

Foreign exchange players share what their coach has taught them

Milestone victories for Danny Miles

A look back at the build-up to 1,000 wins

The H&N's take on OIT's winning tradition

## Colleagues call Miles 'a class act'

### It is more than the wins — a lot more.

When Danny Miles' colleagues talk about the longtime Oregon Tech basketball coach, victories seldom are part of the conversation.

Integrity, passion, class, nice guy, professionalism and the ability to adapt are what they say.

"When I hear the name Danny Miles, a lot of ideas come to my mind, all of them positive," former Warner Pacific head coach Bart Valentine says.

"I have been amazed over the years how Danny's teams can always play their best when the moment is the greatest," Valentine says. "I have learned to never count them out of a game."

"I have seen them come back and win when facing next to impossible odds, and I have seen them consistently play their best games when the most is on the line," he adds.

"The thing that stands out to me is the way Coach Miles has been able to adapt his coaching style to each generation of players," former College of Idaho coach Marty Holly, now his

school's athletic director, said.

"The game that Dan coaches now does not even resemble the way the game was played when Dan started. He not only adjusts to a different game, but he adjusts his style year-by-year, depending upon the talent he has."

Concordia's Brad Barbarick, who is one of the longest tenured coaches in the Cascade Collegiate Conference, also notes the adaptability Miles has shown in his 43 seasons with the Hustlin' Owls.

See COLLEAGUES, page 2

### Miles defines an Oregon Tech guy

An Oregon Tech Guy can come in any size, shape or color. There is no common denominator except for a love for the game and a desire to get the most out of his ability. He is not only proud of his strengths, but also understands his weaknesses. He is, first of all, concerned with the good of his team and knows that individual recognition will come through team excellence.

See DEFINITION, page 2

## Once and always a Tech guy

### Former OIT athletes team up again in Portland

Birds of a feather flock together. Yep.

One of the youngest players on a Portland city league team, Alex Zerbach, said so.

He and several other former Oregon Tech basketball players have been on the court this season thanks to the efforts of David Michaelis. Two things tie this team together — OIT and national championships.

"I wanted to make sure I had all Oregon Tech guys," Michaelis, who played on the 2004 national championship team, said.

Michaelis said he saw Scott Riddle from the 2012 title team at a Portland restaurant and they talked about joining forces with a city league team. Justin Parnell, Florian Houguet, Bryant Sentman and Zerbach all had moved to the area.

"This is just a great way to keep 'Oregon Tech Guys' together, or at least around basketball," Riddle said.

See ALWAYS, page 2

Stories by H&N Sports Editor Steve Matthies

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*"When I hear the name Danny Miles, a lot of ideas come to my mind, all of them positive."*

— Bart Valentine  
Former head coach  
at Warner Pacific College



*"I have never heard one person say a bad thing about Coach Miles."*

— Greg Crawford  
Portland sports blogger



*"To me, that sums up the type of person Coach Miles is — a class act."*

— Todd Eisner  
Bellevue University  
of Nebraska coach



*"Danny's legacy as a coach will be how he taught the young men in his program the value of the team."*

— John Van Dyke  
Northwest University coach

## COLLEAGUES From page 1

### Miles is respected as both a winner and man of integrity

"I think of a coach who has given his life to one school," Barbarick says. "Any person who can coach or do the same job for 42 years at the same place has my utmost respect."

"To do be able to do what Dan Miles has done at Oregon Tech, in Klamath Falls, borders on the unbelievable. The average person has no understanding of the travel, stress, long hours, focus and discipline it takes to coach at a small college."

"Dan is truly one of the best coaches in all of college basketball," Barbarick says.

#### 'He does things for the right reasons'

Southern Oregon coach Brian McDermott says class is what he thinks of when Miles' name comes up, as well as the reason he believes Miles is so successful.

"Danny is all about the kids and the game of basketball," McDermott says. "He does things for the right reasons. He is trying to help his players become better people using the platform that basketball at OIT gives him."

"I think he represents the best of college athletics."

Barbarick says it made him proud to be part of the coaching fraternity when he was in Atlanta at the end of the 2013 season, to be present when Miles was honored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches at its annual banquet held during the NCAA Division I men's Final Four.

#### High honor bestowed

Miles won the association's Guardian of the Game Award.

"This prestigious award is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a college basketball coach," Barbarick says. "It was truly amazing and very inspiring to see one of my close coaching colleagues and friends receive this amazing award."

"This award is given based on four specific criteria — advocacy, education, leadership and service. Dan," he says, "continues to represent Oregon Tech, Klamath Falls and the Cascade Collegiate Conference with all of these qualities."

Northwest University coach John Van Dyke says there is a reason for that.

"When I think of a Danny Miles team, I think of a group that will play hard and share the ball," Van Dyke says. "They will make the extra-effort plays that don't show up in the box score but are the plays that win games."

"When I think of Danny as a person, I think of a man who is comfortable in his own skin," Van Dyke continues. "He has always been willing to share his expertise,

even with the guys like me who are in the same league."

"There is no ego with him."

"To me," Van Dyke says, "Danny's legacy as a coach will be how he taught the young men in his program the value of the team. He teaches his guys how to be part of a family and community, which, in the end, makes them better husbands and fathers."

Greg Crawford, who writes a three-times-a-week blog in Portland, notes Miles has passion and is innovative with the will to win.

The key, Crawford says, is that Miles' will to win does not come at any cost.

"I have never heard one person say a bad thing about Coach Miles," Crawford says, "which is a rarity in life and in sports, especially these days."

#### 'He respects the game, respects his opponent ...'

"Danny conducts himself with class in every setting," Valentine says. "His players follow suit and demonstrate class on and off the court, year in and year out, Danny does things right. He respects the game, respects his opponent, respects the officials and represents his institution with the highest level of integrity."

"Because of this leadership, his teams do the same things," Valentine says.

Holly says there are two constants that are part of Miles and Oregon Tech basketball.

"The first is he gives his players the most confidence in their own ability," Holly says. "In my opinion, his teams always play better than their talent because he makes them believe they are simply the best teams."

"Not all coaches can do that, and Dan has his teams believing in themselves year in and year out."

Holly says the second constant is class.

"It comes from Dan and trickles down to each player, and from year to year," Holly says.

#### The Danny Miles 'system'

Part of that success is what opposing coaches, OIT players and others call the "system."

"I think Danny's whole approach has been to develop a system that he is comfortable with, a system that is designed to maximize the talents of his players, a system that was developed with his standards as the linchpin," McDermott says.

"I think Danny was probably one of the first of the small-college coaches to use redshirting as a tool to develop young people — both on

the court and in the classroom," he adds.

"I think Danny's system on the court is probably most remarkable for its simplicity, which must be on his list of standards of the game," the SOU coach continues. "They don't do a lot of different things, but what they do, they do well, and are able to plug players into the system."

#### Preparation and dedication

Valentine calls it preparedness.

"His teams are always prepared to the nth degree," Valentine says. "I pride myself on having my teams well prepared, but I certainly had a tough matchup in this area with Coach Miles."

"As a coach, I had no doubts Danny would have his teams ready for whatever strategy I threw at him. If I did surprise him with a tactic, I knew for sure Danny would have his teams make the proper adjustment and they would be ready to go."

"Danny is a sly one," Valentine says. "He may come off as unassuming, but no coach at our level is consistently better prepared than Coach Miles."

Roger Kaiser and Todd Eisner both saw that in Miles' OIT teams.

"He is a kind and giving person who has helped more people than anyone can ever know," Kaiser, who coached Life University teams, says. "He is a competitive person and coach who is constantly encouraging and coaching his players."

"He is a person who entered my life unexpectedly, and has become a treasured friend to Beverly (Kaiser) and me."

Kaiser's Life teams played in a tournament for several years in Klamath Falls, although the intended invitation was supposed to have been to Life Bible College, not Life University in Marietta, Ga.

#### To think always of others

Eisner has coached only two games against Miles and the Hustlin' Owls.

OIT won both games against Bellevue University of Nebraska, for the 2004 and 2008 NAIA Division II national championships.

"The one thing that has always stuck out to me was the first championship game in 2004 and the class Coach showed our program," Eisner says. "When the final horn sounded, I was not sure what the reaction would be on the OIT bench with the players and coaching staff."

"With it being the first championship for Coach Miles, I would not have had a problem with the entire bench 'going crazy' and celebrating on the court."



*"I think of a coach who has given his life to one school."*

— Brad Barbarick  
Concordia University coach



*"Coach Miles has been able to adapt his coaching style to each generation of players."*

— Marty Holly  
Former coach  
at College of Idaho

"But," Eisner says, "I looked down the sideline and, within seconds, Coach Miles was walking down the sideline toward me to shake hands. To me, that sums up the type of person Coach Miles is — a class act."

"In a time that was, to that point, the pinnacle of his career as the head coach at OIT, he made sure to congratulate our program. To think of others during a special moment in your own coaching career showed the true character of Coach Miles."

"That is," Eisner says, "what I think of when I hear the name Coach Miles — not 1,000 wins or the national championships, but the person."

"I know Danny has made a boatload of friends through his years in teaching and coaching," McDermott says. "I am just proud and honored to have a seat in that boat."

College of the Ozarks athletic director, and former head men's basketball coach, Al Waller says Miles is a winner and nice guy.

"He is a great example of 'nice guys don't finish last.'"

## ALWAYS From page 1

### Former OIT players see similarities in their approach to the game

To have enough players, the team has used an individual or two from other Cascade Collegiate Conference schools — most notably Tyson Christie from Northwest University.

"Tyson fits well with the rest of us, and would have been a great asset to have with us in college," Parnell, who works in the OIT alumni office at the Wilsonville campus, said.

"We actually meshed really well together from the state," Parnell, who was a coach with the 2012 team, said. "It's really been a blast. All six of us knew each other, one way or another, and getting to grow that relationship on the court has been a very enjoyable experience."

The others agree.

"It has been fun to play with some other OIT guys," Houguet, who was on the 2004 championship squad, said. "All the guys but David are from teams that came after 2004. I watched them play after my college days and I always wanted to have a chance to play with them."

"It is so great that we all have the same demeanor in how we approach the game," Houguet said. "We are all great individuals, but we all know that the

team will win."

For Riddle, the experience has allowed him to come full circle.

"Playing with players from the 2004 team is really fun," Riddle said, and noted, "these guys were on the team I originally talked to Coach (Danny Miles) about trying out with back in 2003."

"The chemistry is awesome," he said. "Everything about our style of play has Coach Miles written all over it. Coming from his program makes you not only a better player, but also a better person. We have made life-long relationships because of Coach Miles, and I will never forget that."

"Aside from my marriage and children," Riddle said, "playing at Oregon Tech was one of the greatest things to happen to me."

Houguet agreed.

"Being part of OIT and its basketball program has been a privilege," Houguet said. "Now, almost 10 years later, I am able to keep on playing basketball thanks to this program and the group of guys who have gone through the program."

"Being an Oregon Tech guy isn't just for two or



H&N file photo

**Florian Houguet, pictured above, recalls his days in an Owls' uniform by playing on a Portland city league team with other former OIT athletes.**

four years. It is for life. This city league team we got going on right now is just another way to prove this point."

The league has been fun and competitive, the former Hustlin' Owls said.

It also has allowed them to stay in contact with several former opponents, too, especially from Warner Pacific.

"I would say the closest thing resembling Oregon

Tech teams is how we get out and run," Michaelis said.

Zerbach added: "It feels like practice, but a lot more fun because I can play point guard and decide when to sub myself out."

All of the former Hustlin' Owls jab each other a little, too.

The memories live on, as well.

"I loved my time in

## DEFINITION From page 1

### Qualities of a true Tech guy go beyond the basketball court

An Oregon Tech Guy has the enthusiasm of an evangelist, the discipline of a monk, the heart of a warrior and never loses that honesty and character of a small child.

An Oregon Tech Guy appreciates the support of hundreds of fans, but is much more aware of the example he is setting for some small child watching from the sidelines. He is happy when he scores, but never forgets that a teammate threw him the ball. While he never lets up at either end of the floor, the other team is not the real opponent. It is the full extent of his own potential that he is always playing against.

An Oregon Tech Guy is made, not born. Constantly striving to reach his potential, knowing he will bypass other players who cannot withstand the strain of this quest for excellence. He realizes the challenges and competition of today's game will better prepare him for tomorrow's world. He knows the true meaning of one's performance is not recorded in wins and losses, but how much of one's self he has given to the game.

An Oregon Tech Guy never realizes when the odds are stacked against him. He can only be defeated by a clock that happens to run out of time. He is what a small child wants to become, and what an old person can remember with great pride that he, or she, once was.

Klamath Falls and my team playing for Miles," Michaelis said. "The fan base is second-to-none, and the school is first-class. I will always come down and visit when I can."

The experience has not gone unnoticed by Christie.

"Having played against OIT players for two years, it's finally nice to play with them," he said. "They really know how to play team basketball, and play hard,

even when age is starting to get to a few of them."

"I never went to OIT, but always had great respect for the coaching staff and players," Christie said.

"They are a great group of guys to be around and hoop with. I'm glad they let an Eagle soar with them."

"Teams still fear the Hustlin' Owls of Klamath Falls," Zerbach said.

Colin Huber contributed to this story



# OREGON TECH

## CONGRATULATES

# DANNY MILES

Whether you are here in the courts of Oregon Tech, at church, coaching your child at his summer camp, or on a televised National Tournament, Danny Miles is everywhere. Through his 44 years at Oregon Tech, Danny has coached a variety of sports and thousands of players, finding their love for the game, teaching them technique and helping them realize their dreams, and reminding them the importance of character on and off the court or field. He has shaped an athletic program, mentored young minds, and brought national exposure to the University and Clatsop Falls. To allow his only personal reward and honor among coaches to live your own dreams, Clatsop Falls basketball facility, but to those places that he has touched, Danny represents absolute hard work, dedication, and community.

These 1,000 basketball wins have and have not of other educators, to other know, every single one of these has had a role in the school and the community of Clatsop Falls.

Through offers from other schools, "calling" to save other's jobs, and traveling to other countries to get an award, Danny has always come back to Clatsop Falls and has given more than half of his life to ensuring that the "Hustlin' Owls" of Clatsop Falls continue to set off the court.

**Clatsop Falls:** Thank you for being the community that Danny loves.

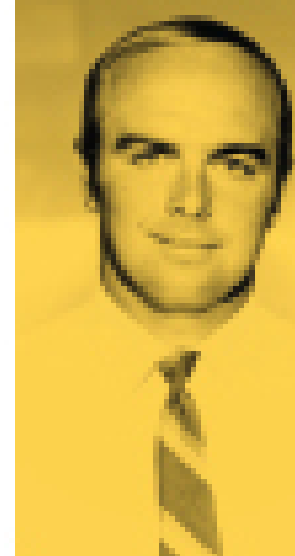
**Hustlin' Owls:** Thank you for being your coach.

**Danny:** Thank you for going out of us just all.



# 10000 Wins

"Here come your Hustlin' Owls!"



- Danny Miles**  
**BASKETBALL RECORD**
- 1000 Total Wins
  - 14 Conference Championships
  - 17 National Tournament Appearances
  - 5 Final Four Appearances
  - 4 National Finals
  - 3 National Championships

### Continue the Legacy

Danny Miles has much more than a coach. He has a mission and a leader in his community. Continue the legacy of Coach Miles to provide the opportunity for national competition and encourage our young people to reach their potential.

### Danny Miles Success Fund

The Fund will provide a lasting tribute to Coach Miles' legacy. Success building programs to exceptional student athletes from all sports at Oregon Tech. The Danny Miles Success Fund will provide personal funding for travel to national tournaments and support for training scholarships.

For more information contact:  
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# Miles a welcoming face for foreign players

Danny Miles has been called a father figure by many of his former Oregon Tech basketball players.

That holds true, especially by those individuals who have traveled to Klamath Falls from around the world — Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, the Ivory Coast and Serbia, among others.

“He was a father figure to us all,” David Clarke, from New Zealand, said.

“He was not only a coach,” Greg Regan said, echoing Clarke’s sentiments.

“He not only taught us the game inside and out, but how to be a quality person,” Regan, one of several Australians to play for Miles and the Hustlin’ Owls, said.

“I can remember many times where I would go into his office and just talk about anything other than basketball ... something the guys who were away from their families needed. He would also open up his home to us ... and that was a credit to him and Judie’s kindness.”

That is one reason players remain in contact with Miles, and often watch OIT games when they have the chance.

“I am from France and Danny took a huge gamble giving a French guy a chance to go to OIT,” Florian Houguet said. “Not everyone today is willing to take big gambles which could jeopardize their reputation. Danny did.”

“By doing so,” Houguet said, “I felt even more a need to do the best I could for the OIT basketball program as well as anything else involving OIT or Klamath Falls. Overnight, Coach gave me a hand to succeed. It was then my duty to make the best of it.”

Houguet did and was a key component of the 2004 national championship team.

“Danny used to come to the south of France to visit me and my family prior to my coming to the USA,” Houguet said. “Each year he came by, we always brought Danny to various site-seeing locations from my region. Each time, he would strike up conversations with complete strangers who wore some T-shirt that might indicate which school or U.S. city they have been to.”

“Such behavior amazed my dad and me so much. Danny was so friendly to others, and loved to have a conversa-

tion with random people. After many years being with Danny, on and off the court, I just knew that this was part of his character,” Houguet said.

“Danny is interested in people. He loves to hear their stories. Danny certainly has a huge set of stories to tell, but he always seems more interested in your stories. This is one characteristic trait of a humble man.”

It was that image that brought Max Gotzler to Oregon Tech.

“My first real impression of Coach was formed while sitting with him and my parents in a beer garden at the Staffelsee lake in southern Bavaria,” Gotzler said. “Firm handshake, strong eye contact.”

Gotzler, like Houguet, was amazed Miles would take the gamble on a foreign player.

“I was excited (to be offered a scholarship to OIT),” Gotzler said, “and, all of a sudden, scared. Oregon? That’s too far way. What if I don’t like it? What if they don’t like me? What if I’m not good enough?”

“Coach noticed my concerns and assured me that I would have the scholarship, if I wanted it.

“Looking up,” Gotzler said, “I just knew that I could trust him. And the more I heard and read about him, the more I wanted to play for him.”

Gotzler played two seasons before he transferred to Boston University, where he played for two years after having changed his major.

“During my sophomore year at OIT, I decided to pursue some of my other academic interests more,” the affable German said. “Even though I knew it was the right decision for me, I felt terrible

*“He was a father figure to us all.”*

David Clarke  
Former OIT player, New Zealand

because I felt that I let down Coach Miles, the basketball program and the school that had done so much for me.”

That included the chance to basketball in the USA, something Gotzler said is the dream of almost every young German player.

“Coach Miles, however, was very understanding and immediately offered to help me with the transfer,” Gotzler said. “A couple of days later, I received a call from BU’s head coach, who offered me a spot on the team, over the phone.

“Coach Miles had already sent over tapes to Boston and had given ‘the best recommendation for a player (Boston University coach Dennis Wolff) ever heard from a coach.’”

Regan joined a series of Australian players, the first of whom was Sammy Fotu.

Gotzler was referred to Miles by former OIT player Christian Maerz, one of several German players at OIT.

Clarke discovered OIT after another school’s offer fell through.

“Coach Miles was the only reason I came to America,” Clarke said.

**RIGHT:** David Clarke, New Zealand, stretches for the ball during an OIT game.

**BELOW:** Max Gotzler, Germany, drives to the basket for OIT during one of the two seasons he played before transferring to Boston University.

H&N file photos



“He made us be a champion — on and off the court.”

The growing up that I did during my two years in Oregon is still incomparable to any other period in my adult life,” Gotzler said. “Coach is a no-nonsense guy, he shows everyone respect but his expectations are high and he can be very tough if you don’t live up to them.

“An OIT basketball player is a man, not a boy any more.”

Gotzler took Miles’ “An OIT Guy” speech to heart.

“There is one part that really stuck with me, and that I am still passing on to fellow teammates, friends and players I coach — ‘Be an idol to the little boy in the stands, watching you in awe and striving to be like you one day. Act like you want to be perceived by him. Act like you want yourself to be seen through his eyes.’”

“This is one of the

most powerful messages I’ve received from Coach Miles,” Gotzler said.

“My time in Klamath Falls was not an easy period in my life,” Gotzler said. “Quite the opposite. I remember it being quite tough. Now, after nine years since my arrival, however, I look back at it with so many amazing memories and realize that this was really the time when I started growing up.

“Coach Miles was a huge part of the process, teaching me not only the game of basketball, but how to prepare the right way, stand up for myself, be thankful for the opportunities I get and never forget that little boy in the stands.

“I experienced Coach Miles as a man with tremendous integrity who never gives up on you, tries to help you however he can and pushes you to live up to your potential. And ... I experienced Coach Miles as a man who loves beef jerky, loves the movie Caddyshack and knows a ton about the JFK assassination,” Gotzler said.

Houguet said, simply: “Coach cares.”

“Danny Miles cares about each player indi-

vidually and wants to make sure they all know that they are important to the success of the team,” Houguet said. “He demands a lot from each player, such as being on time, being classy on and off the court, working hard at practice, keeping your grades up and, mostly, do the best you can in anything you do.”

What have Oregon Tech basketball players learned from their coach?

“Respect others.” “Teamwork is how you succeed.” “Failure is part of winning.” “Hard work will pay off.” “Winning is giving it 100 percent, whatever the outcome.” “Thank God.”

“I was always confident going into games, that Coach had gone above the call of duty to prepare us the best way he could,” Regan said, “especially the crucial first game of the national tournament. You knew your opponent better than anyone would expect. Coach was definitely someone you would bust you ass for.”

Clarke may well have best summed out what Miles means to his players, whether from the United States or not.

“He is a true legend,” Clarke said.



## Commentary

# Talented coach makes for prodigious subject matter

I loved watching “The Sound of Music” recently.

My favorite movie, all-time.

I love the song “How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?”

Why mention that?

What do you write about a coach like Danny Miles, especially as he approached a major, significant accomplishment — as in gaining his 1,000th career coaching victory?

Simple.

You ask a few other people to help.

Several responded; many did not.

The effort led to this special section, and the help from colleagues — coaches who battled wits with Miles, and sportswrit-



**Steve Matthies**

ers and editors who have chronicled Miles from near and far. Their help cannot be understated.

The challenge always is to come up with new, fresh, creative ideas to help tell the story.

That effort is exacerbated when Miles is the subject.

Yep, I have written a lot of words about the legendary Oregon Tech coach, who also spent time with the Hustlin’ Owls in softball, football and baseball. I am one who uses superlatives, well ... not often in order to avoid the trite and only to make an emphatic point.

As the current season approached, the challenge was to help readers, OIT fans, anyone interested, know the essential Danny Miles. Some ideas

came to fruition. Others did not and now are on hold for future endeavors.

For one story, I contacted more than a dozen coaches from around the country to share their thoughts about Miles. I asked one simple question: “When you hear the name Danny Miles, what do you think of?”

I contacted several former OIT players, all of whom were foreign, the same question.

Finally, I asked former Herald and News sportswriters and/or editors their thoughts. I included New York Times sportswriter Greg Bishop in the mix. I asked for each to write between 150-200 words. Some wrote more.

Sadly, there were coaches, players and writers who failed to respond by the time I needed to

put these stories together. Those individuals who did not answer my requests only would have added richness to the stories being shared.

For those who did help, I am grateful.

Like any great topic, there still are more than a few good stories to be gleaned.

I remember getting back from Branson, Mo., after the Hustlin’ Owls won the 2004 national championship. In addition to the stories from the tournament that ran daily, the H&N produced a special section.

After the section was published, Levell Hesia, who was on that team, asked me: “How much more can you write about this?”

My simple answer was: “Lots.”

Good subjects produce plenty of stories.

Great subjects produce more.

Danny Miles has proved that. It takes time. Effort. Thought. People with something to say. Photographs, and searching the archives for photos is as much fun as hearing what others have to say about the subject at hand.

Not only do those colleagues, former players, former writers need to be thanked, so do the photographers and the people on our copy desk who help design and make this section a reality. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone for their help.

Now, it is time to think about more, newer looks about a community icon.

Steve Matthies is Herald and News sports editor. He can be reached at 541-885-4456, or at smatthies@heraldandnews.com.



H&N file photo

Miles greets his fans at the 2010 Pink Out Game when he logged his 900th win.

# Reporting on Danny Miles

By GREGG BISHOP  
The New York Times



Greg Bishop is a New York Times sportswriter who spent three days in Klamath Falls for a piece that eventually ran in the Times.

Until about a month before I met him, I had never heard of Danny Miles. One of my regulars had mentioned his story.

I have thanked that regular, Greg Crawford, for the idea ever since. Because I've covered sports all over the world — I've covered Olympics and Super Bowls and Final Fours and tennis Grand Slams and one Tour de France; I wrote a story about grass from a field 200 miles north of London; I reported from New Mexico on the oldest indigenous Native American tribe; and I say all this, because I've never met a subject quite like Miles.

His story was more like five stories wrapped into one, and that became a challenge in organizing and writing and selling a 3,000-plus-word piece on a small-college basketball coach to skeptical editors. One of whom wrote me and said he spent five hours trying to cut it and still could not figure out how.

That's a testament to Miles. To his story. To the way that coaches resonate

across so many lives.

Miles was the rare subject who granted unlimited access.

We went to a holiday party at a friend's house. We went to a smaller dinner party with his neighbors. He drove me to and from practices and games, and let me hang out in the locker room, at team dinners, or with his dog at his house while he knocked out his 50 daily push-ups.

Each portion of his story became sections, but deserved more. His background as a college athlete. How he came to the Oregon Technical Institute. The system he developed that vaguely resembled the "Moneyball" approach the Oakland A's made famous. The crowd, with its student

section, senior section and special needs section. The autistic Superfan. The partially blind public address announcer. The town and the logging industry.

You know a subject is an open one when his second wife, Judie, drops this gem: "Danny has great legs. Really, extremely muscular legs." You won't get that from Bill Belichick.

That's Miles.

We stay in touch, trade emails every few months or so. One story in particular stuck with me. It was snowing when I left, and I had to get to Medford, to catch a flight the next day back to Seattle, to catch another flight back to New York. Miles was doing his radio spot when I snuck out of the gym. He called me the next morning, asked me about the drive, apologized he couldn't say goodbye.

I told him I had driven to Medford with my blinker on, which is one of his favorite lines, a sure precursor to retirement.

"It's time to get out," he said, and we both laughed for a long time.

# National tournament loss set the stage for bigger success to come

By MIKE QUIGLEY  
Former Herald & News sports editor



Mike Quigley was a longtime Herald and News sports editor, who covered Oregon Tech's first six national tournament appearances. He currently teaches in the Klamath County School District.

H&N file photo

With each win in 1998, the excitement grew and grew.

The Hustlin' Owls had been to the national tournament before, but this was different. Four victories at the Idaho Center in Nampa, including a victory over Northwest Nazarene, in essence the home team, and here was Oregon Tech, facing Bethel of Indiana for the NAIA Division II men's basketball championship.

In 22 years of covering Oregon Tech and head coach Danny Miles, I had the good fortune of experiencing five national tournaments in three locations — Kansas City, Nampa and Branson, Mo.

In each case, the Owls won at least one game, including 1987 in KC when the NAIA was still one division and the talent-level was eye-popping.

Then came 1998.

It was OIT's second-straight trip to the tournament, critical in that many of the players were at nationals for the second time. Matt Foster was stronger inside, Saif Abdur-Rahman couldn't be stopped on offense and Bobby Townsend was a 6-foot-8

three-point machine. Soft-spoken Kevin Carlston ran the offense and, in one game, scored 32 points.

Josh and Josh, Woodson and Conrad, were demons on defense.

At the end of each win, Coach Miles and I would greet each other with a look that was part: "Can you believe this?" and: "This is so much fun."

In the end, Bethel won the title in a remarkable overtime contest.

Disappointment, yes, but I've always believed that team and that year set the stage for the tremendous success to come. Coach Miles' stature in small-college basketball, already significant, reached even greater heights and Oregon Tech had established itself as a national force.



H&N file photo

Miles talks strategy with his team during a brief break in game-play.



FROM YOUR BRANSON HONORARY COACHES  
RICK TODD + JOHN FITZGIBBONS + GINA CLAASSEN



# Where the man meets the legend

By **PETER MARTINI**  
The Salem Statesman Journal



**Pete Martini worked for the Herald and News sports staff from 2002-06. He now works for the Salem Statesman Journal.**

Danny Miles truly is a legend. I first met Miles in 2002 as a sports reporter at the Herald and News. I quickly learned about his success as the Oregon Tech men's basketball coach — more than three decades worth at the time. The only thing missing from Miles' career at that point was a national championship. In 2004, he cleared that hurdle. In 2006, I left Klamath Falls

and returned to my hometown, Salem. I still live in the state's capital and follow Miles' career achievements from afar, including the 2008 and 2012 national championships.

I'll never forget the Hustlin' Owls' 2004 run to the national title. The community was so

engaged with the program, and there was a sense of excitement everywhere you went in town. I will always cherish those memories.

Miles' loyalty and commitment to excellence is something that goes above and beyond sports. We all can appreciate what he has accomplished.

When I think about what it takes to win 1,000 games, it's just impossible for me to fathom.

Congratulations, coach. You are a great man and a tremendous leader.

# How to appreciate a lifetime of Danny Miles basketball

By **BRETT SOMMERS**  
H&N sports reporter



**Brett Sommers currently is a Herald and News sports-writer. He can be reached at bsommers@heraldandnews.com.**

975. 984. 988. 990. 993. 994.

Those six numbers don't just represent the corresponding wins during Danny Miles' illustrious career at Oregon Tech I have witnessed first hand.

Those are the only OIT men's basketball games I have ever seen.

Undefeated, 6-0, sitting courtside. I feel pretty fortunate.

Not every game I covered has been against greats teams. Twice I have seen blowouts over Multnomah University (975, 990).

But some were, and thrilling to boot, like the Hustlin' Owls' victories over No. 6 Warner Pacific last January in front of a Pink Out Crowd, and again over the No. 13 Knights in December, 69-66, in a comeback (984, 994).

One was a big confidence booster, in fact No. 993 the night before the latest Warner Pac triumph to open Cascade Collegiate Conference play. One of the six, No. 988, came on my birthday. Nov. 3, when the Owls opened the season with a win over Pacific Union.

I imagine I feel as

fortunate as the many people within the Klamath Basin who have witnessed some much more unbelievable feats.

Three national championships in 2004, 2008 and 2012. A run of 65 consecutive wins at Danny Miles Court — from Nov. 1 2008 to Dec. 29 2011. Oh yeah, and his other 994 wins.

The little bit I've seen, I can't even imagine what a lifetime of Danny Miles basketball has been like.

Then again, maybe I can.

Not because I can suddenly comprehend 1,000 victories over 43 years, but because of the six games I have attended in less than two years, where despite not saying many words — most of which were in response to my questions about the games — Danny Miles always gave me time and made me feel appreciated.

That, maybe more so than becoming the fifth coach in college basketball history to reach this milestone, is why the Klamath Basin community appreciates him.

# Coach Miles recognized as local celebrity

By **COLIN HUBER**  
Former H&N reporter



**Colin Huber spent the 2011-12 season as a Herald and News sportswriter. He now works at Oregon State University in Corvallis.**

People talk about celebrities. You know, the famous figures everybody's heard of. The Beyonce's, Justin Timberlake's and Brad Pitt's of the world. Then there's Danny Miles, Mr. Klamath Falls, The Great. Book of Miles.

But here's the thing about Danny Miles: It's not that everybody in Klamath knows his name. Everybody KNOWS him. They've met him, been around him, heard him speak. He shakes more hands each day than a groom at a wedding.

When I started at the Herald and News in 2012, not a single person didn't talk

about him. His success, the way he carried himself, his friendliness and ability to make anybody happy — just by shaking their hand.

I followed Miles through downtown during the championship parade in 2012. He waived, greeted, laughed and cheered with the people who came to see him.

Those people were all of Klamath Falls, and that was the first time I realized it was his town.

I watched Miles interact with each person at the team's annual Special Olympics Night, working games as a referee. That was the first time I realized how much he made people smile.

There's a video on YouTube of Greg Regan's game-winning, half-court shot that sent the Owls to the national tournament over the College of Idaho in 2000.

If you watch Miles' reaction, he does a wild, uncontrolled run-hop-skip-two-fists-in-the-air thing across the Yotes' floor.

Then, as pandemonium calmed, he turns his attention to the tear-filled COI coaching staff and players. He walks up to head coach Marty Holly (a dear friend of Miles, I'm told), and hugs him. He approaches each one of Holly's inconsolable players to, well, console them.

That's when I realized how much he cared about people, more than basketball.

A great friend of mine, and former player under Miles, Justin Parnell, told me once: "It's not the 1,000 wins people will respect him for. It's his compassion, integrity and how he treats people. He's like no other."

That's celebrity.

# Danny Miles at Oregon Tech — Men's basketball record by season

1971-72:	11-15	1985-86:	32-9	1999-00:	28-6
1972-73:	14-12	1986-87:	33-5	2000-01:	32-6
1973-74:	25-5	1987-88:	27-6	2001-02:	22-11
1974-75:	25-4	1988-89:	26-9	2002-03:	27-7
1975-76:	18-10	1989-90:	24-12	2003-04:	31-6
1976-77:	22-6	1990-91:	15-17	2004-05:	28-9
1977-78:	17-11	1991-92:	21-11	2005-06:	26-9
1978-79:	24-6	1992-93:	12-16	2006-07:	28-5
1979-80:	19-11	1993-94:	20-13	2007-08:	31-6
1980-81:	19-13	1994-95:	20-13	2008-09:	29-6
1981-82:	20-10	1995-96:	17-13	2009-10:	30-5
1982-83:	20-12	1996-97:	30-5	2010-11:	30-5
1983-84:	18-14	1997-98:	26-11	2011-12:	34-4
1984-85:	13-15	1998-99:	25-8	2012-13:	16-15

2013-14\*: 9-7  
Totals: 996-394  
\*after Sunday, Dec. 29

**RIGHT:** The 2012 OIT men's basketball team celebrates the school's third national championship title — won with the lowest scoring game in NAIA Division II men's national tournament history over Northwood of Florida.



H&N file photo

## MILESTONES

From page 1

**No. 450**  
Oregon Tech 97, Southern Oregon University 72, Dec. 29, 1992

**No. 500**  
Oregon Tech 73, Humboldt State University 56, Dec. 10, 1995  
Oregon Tech's Owl Court is renamed Danny Miles Court

**No. 523**  
Oregon Tech 77, Life University 76, Dec. 7, 1996  
This is Life's only loss in a 37-1 season in which the Eagles won the NAIA Division I national championship.

**No. 540**  
Oregon Tech 90, Southern Oregon 70, Feb. 20, 1997  
Oregon Tech wins first Cascade Collegiate Conference championship.

**No. 550**  
Oregon Tech 80, Western Oregon 61, Jan. 2, 1998

**No. 568**  
Oregon Tech 85, Northwest Nazarene 75, March 16, 1998, in Nampa, Idaho  
Win comes in Oregon Tech's first semifinal appearance at national tournament.

**No. 575**  
Oregon Tech 71, Northwest Nazarene 55, Dec. 4, 1998  
Games opens league season.

**No. 600**  
Oregon Tech 100, Pacific Union University 43, Dec. 12, 1999

This victory allows Danny Miles to become the first coach from an Oregon college or university to win 600 games, and he passes Oregon State legend Armory T. "Slats" Gill as the state's winningest college coach. Gill was 599-392 with the Beavers.

**No. 650**  
Oregon Tech 68, Warner Pacific 55, Feb. 13, 2001  
Owls win Cascade Collegiate Conference championship.

**No. 675**  
Oregon Tech 66, Southern Oregon 60, Feb. 2, 2002

Miles passes Ralph Miller as the winningest basketball coach to have an affiliation with a college or university in the Pacific Northwest.

**No. 700**  
Oregon Tech 73, Southern Oregon 60, Feb. 8, 2003, in Ashland

**No. 734**  
Oregon Tech 81, Bellevue, Neb., 72, March 17, 2004, in Point Lookout, Mo.

This victory gives OIT the NAIA

Division II national championship.

**No. 750**  
Oregon Tech 82, Albertson College of Idaho 63, Jan. 15, 2005

**No. 800**  
Oregon Tech 84, George Fox 73, Dec. 8, 2006, in Salem

**No. 847**  
Oregon Tech 63, Bellevue, Neb., 56, March 18, 2008, in Point Lookout, Mo.  
This victory gives OIT the NAIA Division II national championship.

**No. 850**  
Oregon Tech 93, Pacific Union 77, Nov. 9, 2008, at Angwin, Calif.

**No. 855**  
Oregon Tech 91, Southern Oregon 81, Nov. 25, 2008, at home

The win was Danny Miles' 100th career victory over SOU, his alma mater.

**No. 875**  
Oregon Tech 82, The Evergreen State 72, March 3, 2009, at home

The victory allowed Oregon Tech to win both the regular season and tournament championships of the Cascade Collegiate Conference.

**No. 877**  
Oregon Tech 82, Indiana University East 78,

Oct. 31, 2009, at home

The win allowed Miles to past Adolph Rupp and move into sixth place on the career win list of men's basketball coaches.

**No. 880**  
Oregon Tech 119, Multnomah 73, Nov. 7, 2009, at home

The win allowed Miles to move past Dean Smith into fifth place on the career win list.

**No. 900**  
Oregon Tech 101, Southern Oregon 76, Feb. 13, 2010, at home

The win made Miles the fifth men's coach at a four-year college win 900 games, and the second on Feb. 13. Philadelphia University's Herb Magee won his 900th win earlier in the day. It also was the Hustlin' Owls' 35th straight home-court win, a school record.

**No. 905**  
Oregon Tech 66, Warner Pacific 64, March 2, 2010, at home

The victory gave OIT unprecedented back-to-back Cascade Collegiate Conference regular season and tournament championships.

**No. 924**  
Oregon Tech 80, Southern Oregon 54, Jan. 15, 2011, at home

Miles becomes second winningest coach in the history of men's four-year college

basketball, and passes Don Meyer who retired at the end of the 2009-10 season.

**No. 925**  
Oregon Tech 93, Eastern Oregon 80, Jan. 21, 2011, at La Grande

The win came in Miles' 1,300th game as OIT's head men's basketball coach.

**No. 930**  
Oregon Tech 81, Concordia 62, Feb. 18, 2011, at home  
The win gives Oregon Tech its second straight outright Cascade Collegiate Conference championship.

**No. 935**  
Oregon Tech 88, Eastern Oregon 83, at home

OIT wins its third straight conference tournament championship, which no other team has done. It also is OIT's fifth overall conference tournament title, tied with The College of Idaho for the most.

**No. 950**  
Oregon Tech 68, College of Idaho 59, at Caldwell  
It was a rare OIT win at Cofl.

**No. 971**  
Oregon Tech 63, Northwood of Florida 46

In the lowest scoring game in NAIA Division II men's national tournament history, OIT won its third national championship.

# Looking back: Danny Miles' journey to 1,000 wins

**Editor's note** — This story first appeared in the H&N after Danny Miles picked up his 800th career coaching victory. It has been updated as needed.

Danny Miles often refers to himself as a dinosaur.

Forget his age. He turned 68 in October and says his coaching career could last an unlimited number of years.

In the process, Miles only would add to what already is a brilliant career, so no one laughs when he calls himself a dinosaur, one of a fading breed of coaches who last a long time, especially at one school.

"Now days, I am a dinosaur in coaching," he says. "It won't happen that much any more, especially at one school, because there is such a turnover in coaching."

"I remember in my first year of coaching at Mazama (then a mid-high school for freshmen and sophomores) and someone said Al Keck would be going for his 500th high school victory. I thought that was amazing," Miles said after having secured his own 800th career basketball victory.

"That was hard to fathom back then," Miles says.

So is Miles getting 800 victories, something that had happened only 10 times in the history of men's college basketball at a four-year college or university.

Eight women's coaches also have gained 800 wins and, the most recent studies indicate that there likely have been, conservatively, more than 25,000 men and women who have served as a head coach at four-year school.

"I don't think anybody started out to do it," Miles says of 800 wins. "It's something that, when you go into coaching, isn't even a thought. It's really a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

Miles has been in that place much of his life.

He was a three-sport standout at Medford High School (now North Medford), playing football, basketball and baseball.

He matriculated to what now is Southern Oregon University, where he played all three sports as a freshman, but, ironically, dropped basketball after that first year, a lot because of the way the three seasons all overlapped.

He thought his future was going to be in either football or baseball, and he was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in baseball.

He still holds the college football record, regardless of class or division, for pass completion percentage in a single season at almost 70 percent.

What is not ironic is that Miles would spend his life in athletics in some way.

"My dad (Claude) was an ex-professional baseball player and coach, and sport was always important in our household," Miles says.

His father died when the long-time OIT coach was 21 years old, and Medford's former community baseball stadium used for high school, American Legion and professional games was named for his father.

"Clifford 'Chief' McLean was my elementary school and American Legion (baseball) coach. Plus," Miles says, "there was Fred Spiegelberg and Barney Riggs. They all made an impact on my life. I always wanted to please the strong male figures in my life, and Chief was a real role model."

"Ninety percent of my coaches were a tremendous influence on my life, as was Al Akin (Miles' football coach at Southern

Oregon)."

All of those men laid the groundwork for Miles' career, and he now is in his 43rd season with the Hustlin' Owls.

"It was just something, to me, working with children and teaching, that I wanted to do," he says. "Coaching was a way to get there. By the time I was a sophomore in high school, coaching and teaching was something I felt I'd like to do."

His career path was set.

That path has carried Miles on an incredible journey, one he still enjoys.

The choice has not been as easy as it might seem. His first marriage ended with a divorce. He now has been married for the last 26 years to Judie, his biggest fan.

"Coaching early in my career," Miles says, "I was coaching three sports, teaching and the hard part was not being able to spend the time I needed to with family. I was trying to make it in my chosen profession."

In the early years, Miles says he was not sure what direction his career would take, which is why he spent time on the OIT staffs in football, baseball, softball and basketball.

"I stayed with all of them to see what doors would open," Miles says. "I knew I wanted to be a college coach, but figured it would be football or baseball, and possibly basketball."

"This job opened up when I was 24 years old and (OIT) had enough faith in me that I coached my first (varsity) game at 25. Whatever happened was probably going to be better than the last year."

OIT was 1-21 in 1970-71.

His first season, in 1971-72, OIT went 11-15, just one of four losing seasons Miles has had with the Owls.

It took the Owls four games before Miles picked up his first collegiate basketball victory, that during a season when Oregon Tech's Owls became known as the Hustlin' Owls.

"I remember that first season, before we had won a game," Miles says, "I was walking down the street and Bill Meade told me: 'Hang in there young man. You're going to be a fine coach.'"

In addition to his 43 seasons with the men's basketball team, Miles spent nine years as OIT's head baseball coach, nine as head softball coach with Mary Bradford and 17 years as an assistant football coach.

"It wasn't until 10 years ago that I wasn't coaching at least two sports," Miles says. "That was unheard of. Most sports have become year-round (for coaches as well as athletes)."

While Miles and his wife now are able to travel since the veteran coach has "retired" from other duties he has held at the school over the years and now just coaches his basketball team. He still is involved with the sport 12 months a year. Much of his summer includes his popular basketball camps.

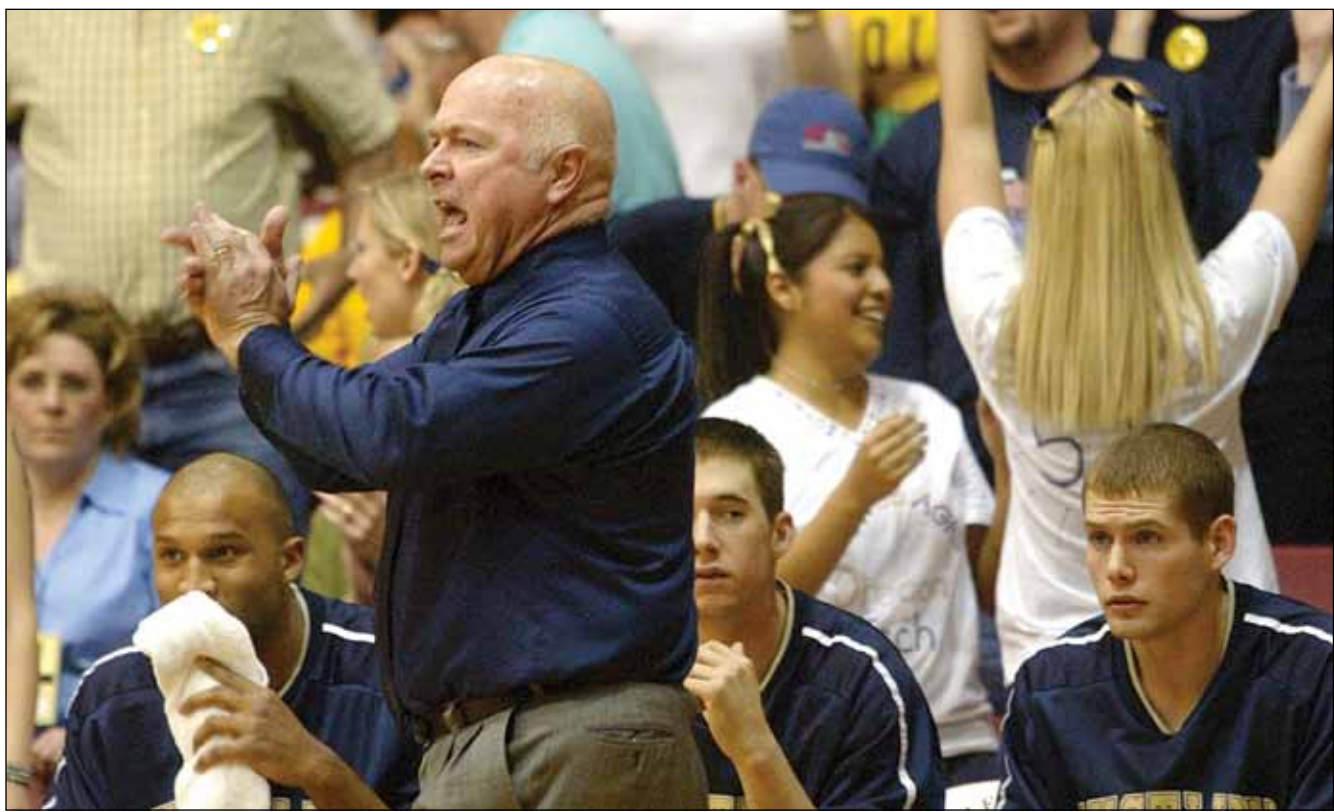
Then, there is the recruiting game.

"It has changed over the years," he says in a moderate understatement.

Miles tends to recruit players who will come to OIT as a freshman, have a red-shirt season and become what he calls "an Oregon Tech guy."

He likes players he calls Rim Rock Savages.

"I want kids who think



H&N file photo

Coach Miles cheers for his team from the sidelines of the 2004 national tournament.

Klamath Falls is a great place," Miles says. "We get a lot of guys from this side of the mountains and Klamath Falls who fit in real well. But, we've had some others."

"With all of that, in the last 16 years, we've had a cumulative GPA of 3.25. We're getting good, solid students who are proud to be here. A lot of kids have come here and made this their home."

Miles' players also have a brilliant graduation rate.

"We've only had one guy who played four years here and didn't graduate," he says, "and that is Herb McEachin (who, for many years, had been OIT's career scoring leader), but he's made a nice career for himself."

McEachin, still OIT's career rebounding leader, recently was inducted into Australia's National Basketball League's Hall of Fame, and Miles called McEachin "the Dr. J. of Australia," a reference to former National Basketball Association star Julius Erving.

"A lot of kids contact me," he says.

Miles gets a lot of his foreign players now via word of mouth, especially from his former players.

Norbert Schbielhut was the first German player to play at OIT for Miles. Since then, five more Germans have suited up for the Hustlin' Owls, including Alex Krueger, who is one of two OIT players to also wear the hat as student body president.

The other was Bob Townsend.

The Australian connection began with a high school exchange team from Australia visiting Klamath Union and Mazama high schools in the early 1990s.

"We got Sami Fotu and Matt Foster from that trip," Miles says. "Paul Poetsch (who then was an OIT assistant) watched them play and said they could play. Because of them, others came."

"Kids have come here and liked it, and sent others over."

Miles' coaching clinics in France brought Florian Houguet to OIT.

"Seventy percent of my recruiting now is from ex-players who tell me: 'Coach, I know a kid who would fit in at OIT,'" Miles says. "And, being in the top 25 consistently also helps."

"We try to recruit kids who fits the system, but almost everybody can fit our system if they buy into it, if they are unselfish, share the basketball and can play defense."

"I think we give a lot of kids an opportunity to be here," Miles says. "If they can't, we'll try to find a place for them where they can play. The difference is: 'Can they play in the system or win in the system?'"

That's where we want to get them, where they can win in the system."

Miles says being realistic is crucial.

"The next level isn't always going to be better than it is here," he says, "whether it's Europe, or China or someplace else. They have to take advantage of what we have here. We have a great level of basketball here."

At Oregon Tech, and the NAIA, Miles says his players are true student-athletes who get to play basketball in a great community, and he calls OIT "my Notre Dame."

Miles recalls a time when the wives of two Hall of Fame coaches came up to him and asked him if he would trade places with their husbands.

"I told them I wouldn't because I'm in the right

place," Miles says. "I have been blessed that I have learned that. Your Notre Dame can be at the ninth-grade level, or as a fifth-grade coach. If you can do it at a great school in a great community, that makes it real special."

Miles says he initially intended to be in Klamath Falls no more than five years and move on, especially as an assistant football coach in a major college program.

"Each year, the community grew on me and basketball became more fun," he says. "I've been so fortunate to be with a smaller community. Pretty early in my career I found out how fortunate I was to be here. I have been so blessed."

"I learned a long time ago to surround myself with quality people."

He freely admits there

have been bumps in the road, especially when it comes to family, but also says his family has been a great support system as he continues his career.

"It's been unbelievable what's happened."

"It took a long time to get my priorities straight, and the last 12 years have been the happiest in my life," Miles says. "It's about faith, family and friends. Things that were important to me when I was in my 30s aren't now."

"My future is open-ended. I still love coming to work every morning and I have decided to enjoy the bus trips rather than dread them, but I don't see coaching in my 70s."

"The day I dread practice is the time to get out. If I feel I'm cheating the kids, it will be time to hang up the stirrups."

Congrats, Danny!

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# Congrats Danny 1,000 Wins

