

At half time of the consolation game –at this time we would like to announce the Harry C. Moore Memorial Basketball Tournament Lapeer West Honoree for 2013

Mike Smith's name is forever linked with winning games, league titles, and state championships on the field at Lapeer West, but his connection with the community goes far beyond the gridiron. As a second generation Lapeer graduate and Lapeer resident, who had children that attended West and will now have grandchildren that attend Lapeer Community Schools, Mike has a connection to the community and history of Lapeer that provides him with a unique perspective and connection to our area. His career in Lapeer schools has spanned nearly three decades.

During his time as a coach at Lapeer West, Mike, has positively impacted thousands of players both on and off the field. His football career includes his current role as the head coach, which he has held for sixteen seasons. Currently West has qualified for the state playoffs 11 years in a row. During this time, Mike, also became the winningest coach in Lapeer history with 111 wins. Prior to this he worked for several years as the defensive coordinator which was his role when West won the Class A state championship and finished 13-0 in 1995. Mike will continue his role as the head coach with the combining of Lapeer East and West into Lapeer High School.

As important as Mike's accomplishments on the field have been, it is clear that his role in creating young men that are successful off the field is his proudest accomplishment. Whether it be making house visits to athletes or students who he knows is having a hard time, or personally spending extra time with students that are struggling, Mike is always willing to give up his own time to improve the lives of others. As an administrator in the building, Mike, has had the ability to work with students on a daily basis through their highs and lows. The number of former students and athletes that come through the office on a weekly basis just to tell their stories of growth and thankfulness for 'Coaches' help is a sight to see.

Mike's biggest supporter during this time has been his wife Lila. Mike often mentions the importance of having a wife and family that understand the demands and lifestyle of a head football coach. Lapeer West has become as much a part of the Smith family as it can, with Mike's children attending West and playing sports there. You often see Stan, Melissa, Nate, and Madison on the sidelines looking just

as nervous and intense as Mike. This family atmosphere applies to all the West coaches and families, as they can be found on the far sideline each Friday night. Mike truly represents the family spirit and values that make Lapeer West a successful program and school. We are proud to have called him a part of the Lapeer family for all these years and we look forward to many more!

Please welcome Mike Smith and honor him, along with the Harry C. Moore Tournament family, and the 2013 honoree for Lapeer West.