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# MHS Varsity Basketball Coach and MHS alumna Marianne Blackwell is excited to lead girls basketball; introduces assistant coaches

Middleton High School has a new slate of Girls Basketball coaches and they are excited about the upcoming season. As a whole, and as individuals, this group exudes enthusiasm for the Middleton Vikings.

1. **Head Coach:** Marianne Blackwell
2. **Varsity Assistant Coach:** Ro Wiggins
3. **JV Head Coach:** Quinton Erhard
4. **Varsity Assistant Coach:** Derek Kovick
5. **Varsity Assistant Coach:** Justin Fried
6. **JV and Varsity assistant Coach:** Kyra Lohrengel
7. **JV Assistant Coach:** Alana Ashby
8. **JV Assistant Coach:** Logann Walker

As a born and raised Viking, Marianne Blackwell has a strong desire to pass her passion and knowledge through the game of basketball on to future Middleton High graduates.

“I learned many valuable life lessons and principles through sports,” Blackwell said.

The new Head Coach has a long history with basketball and understands how it can positively impact our student-athletes, the school and the greater community. She has coached young players since college and since returning to Middleton, where she currently resides.

Coach Blackwell was a part of some outstanding teams, and with those teams, accomplishing great things. She was named outstanding female athlete of Middleton High award and received the Gail Garwick Award in 1998, in addition to earning several other local and state accolades. She continued at the collegiate level at Utah Valley State College and Brigham Young University coached by Jeff Judkins, where the team made it to the NCAA Division 1 Sweet-Sixteen tournament.

Coach Blackwell and her husband Bryce, are the parents of six children: twin boys, Brock and Brogen (18), Zoey (15), Olivia (14), Mecklenly (11) and Blaze (9). Coach Blackwell loves spending time with her family and staying active with her kids and following them in their various sporting events.

“My children bleed blue and gold and I know that Middleton High School, the teachers, the coaches and community shaped me – a three-sport varsity athlete – into who I am today, and those same influences are having a positive impact on who my children are becoming,” Blackwell said.

**Ro Wiggins** begins his first season as an assistant Coach with the Middleton Lady Vikings program. A Louisiana native, Wiggins brings energy and knowledge of the game.

“I’m thankful to be a part of a thriving community such as Middleton. I’m looking forward to working with these student-athletes and a coaching staff that’s committed to the bigger picture for these players,” Wiggins said.

Wiggins has built a reputation of connecting and adapting with many different skilled-level players within the Treasure Valley as well as the country. A former collegiate player at Central Wyoming College, Wiggins looks to serve the team and community in any way that he can.



**Quintin Erhard** graduated from Weiser High School in 2009 and most recently coached the Ontario Girls Basketball team for two years. He will be the JV Head Coach.

“I am excited for this opportunity to help the Middleton girls basketball program achieve the success they deserve,” Coach Erhard said.

While studying exercise science at BYU, he coached the 9th grade girls basketball team at Mt. Nebo. He left there to pursue his doctorate of Physical Therapy in Phoenix. After earning his degree he moved back to the Treasure Valley with his wife and three kids.



**Derek Kovick** is no stranger to Middleton as his family started in the Middleton School District before moving to New Plymouth in his early elementary years. Kovick was the ball boy for the Lady Vikes in 1987, when the team punched its first ticket to the State Tournament, with The team was coached by his father, Ron Kovick.

Coach Kovick brings a lot of teamwork and leadership abilities to the table at Middleton as he is still the Idaho’s Career Assist Leader as the result of a four-year varsity basketball starter.

“I’m excited to be a part of something big here at Middleton and the ability to coach alongside a great leader on and off the floor. To turn dreams into realities for many student athletes and their families,” Kovick said.

After playing college baseball was cut short due to health reasons, he became head coach for the New Plymouth Baseball program at 20 years old. In his second season, they won the 2A State Title.

He spent five seasons as a head baseball coach and four seasons as an assistant basketball coach in the Emmett and New Plymouth programs.

In 9 years, the teams he has led or been a part of, have made seven state tournaments. Coach Kovick has two sons, Langdon and Redick, and enjoys coaching and spending time with them as well as hunting and camping with family and friends and traveling to sporting events throughout the country such as World Series and Final Fours.

**Justin Fried** is an Idaho native and a 2001 graduate of Middleton High School. Justin played collegiate basketball at Cofl. Married to Chelise Fried, also a Middleton High graduate, they, together, have 6 great kids that love being Vikings.

"I'm excited to be a part of a program in a community that I grew up in and at a school I graduated from. I'm excited to be part of a coaching staff that is going to bring a lot of energy and who have such a strong desire for these student athletes to succeed on and off the court. This is the start of something great!"

**Kyra Lohrengel** and her husband recently moved from Utah to Middleton. She is from Snohomish, Washington and is the oldest of four. As a young player she played basketball for NW Blazers and BYU. In high school and college she played the 4&5 position.

"I'm excited to be a part of this team and excited to see what we will accomplish!"

Kyra and her husband have a dog, named Nugget, and they love him ... sometimes!

**Alana Ashby** moved to Idaho when she was 25 and considers herself a native Idahoan after being here for the past 23 years.

A former Boise police officer, Ashby is up for all competitive sports. She has previously coached Y Basketball, Middleton Middle 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball, softball and soccer.

Having always been involved in multiple sports programs growing up, she was a three-sport high school athlete – track, basketball and volleyball – and went on to play basketball at Southern California College (now called VanGuard) and graduated with a Psychology degree. While in college, she was a counselor for abused and neglected children at various camps and utilized sports to foster personal growth, teaching, and provide support to young females.

After college, Ashby joined Boise Police as a Patrol Officer, a Crime Scene Investigator, and a Field Training Officer. After having her second child she chose to stay home to be more present for her young daughters and growing family. Alana eventually bought a business which she recently sold, freeing up some time to devote to coaching. Alana has three daughters whom she is very proud of: Logann, Adisan, and Presley. All girls are extremely athletic and their lives are filled with multiple sports activities and a lot of travel! She is married to Hank Ashby and they enjoy traveling, coaching, golfing, amongst many other activities.

**Logann Walker**, a Middleton graduate herself, is excited to be back in the community and make an impact on the future graduates of Middleton.

"I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to coach an amazing group of girls, work with great coaches, and be part of the success of Middleton High School's basketball program. It's a chance to give back to the school that gave me so much."

She has learned so many great things during her athletic career and is looking forward to teaching the younger athletes her acquired knowledge. She believes being involved in sports plays a significant role in one's future, and helps students to be successful in their future lives.

As a Middleton Viking, Walker played softball, and was awarded first-team all-conference for outfield her senior year, and academic all-conference all four years. Two of her high school teams won state titles.

With a strong passion for sports, she continued her career at the collegiate level. Logann played softball at Corban University in Salem, Ore., her freshman and sophomore years of college. She is now looking to finish pursuing her degree in Kinesiology at Boise State during the next two years. She would love to become a physical therapist and work with children.

Logann has lived in Idaho her entire life and loves anything outdoors and sports. She loves hiking, fishing, camping, boating, swimming, staying active, attending sports games, traveling, and spending time with her family.