

October 2, 2009

Dear Cougar Fans:

As you know by now, the College announced today that I am stepping down as head basketball coach of the Highland Cougars. I've been thinking about this for the past couple of years. My mind knew it was time, but my heart wouldn't let me make the announcement until now. It is difficult and emotional to let go of something we have worked so hard to build the last 15 years.

It takes a lot of energy to coach a championship basketball team. At the end of last season I hoped to recharge for one more run. But as the season practices got ready to kick-off this year, I knew it was time.

Ronnie Dean joined me last season as assistant coach, and he is stepping up to coach the men's basketball team as interim head coach this season. I am confident in Ronnie's ability to lead the team. Ronnie recruited the players this year and has been developing a good relationship with them during the pre-season. I have confidence in the Cougars.

This is also the right time to say thank you to the Cougar Nation. You made our program so special, fun, and rewarding for me. I am grateful for your support and could not have had the successes we have had without you! I know you will show Ronnie and the Cougars that same support you have always given me. I truly believe Cougar fans are the best!

I will continue to serve Highland and the community as director of athletics and physical education and as an instructor. I am feeling really good about the opportunity to spend more time on these responsibilities. I'm sure I will wander into practice now and then. I am a Cougar after all.

Go Cougars!

Pete Norman