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LHS's Brimhall tabbed 3A Coach of the Year

By Wade Denniston
sports writer

River in the title tilt, Brimhall's efforts did not go unnoticed. The Lake Havasu City, Ariz., native was recently named

When Jeff Brimhall took over the boys basketball program at Logan High, the Grizzlies only won a combined 14 games during his first two seasons at the helm.

My how things have changed, though. the 3A Coach of the Year.

"It was a huge surprise," Brimhall said. "It's just something I never really thought about, to be honest with you. I'm very honored and I'm very grateful to have had the coaches and players around me that can make a great season and allow for an award like that to happen.

"That's an award that shows what kind of people are around the program — the players, the assistant coaches. Those guys are the ones that really Over the past five seasons, the Grizzlies have won at least 13 games each year and have not had a losing record since the 2003-04 campaign. Logan went 16-9 this past season and advanced to the championship game of the 3A state tournament. While the Grizzlies fell short to Bear make that kind of award possible."

This is the second straight year a coach from the valley has been singled out like this. Mountain Crest's Jim Crosbie was named 4A Coach of the Year last season.

Logan Principal Patricia Hansen couldn't be happier for Brimhall.

"We are thrilled for Jeff," she said. "He is a quality guy and runs a great program at Logan High School. We're very proud of the efforts of this team, and Jeff, for playing in that championship game."

Assistant coach Jason Ward just completed his fifth season with Brimhall and was thrilled when he found out about the award.

"It was awesome to hear he got it because Jeff wants to see the kids succeed and that's his ultimate goal, is to see them succeed," Ward said. "So it was awesome to see him get some recognition for all the time he's put in."

Brimhall made it a point to single out all of his assistants — Ward, Derek Brimhall, Kevin Day, Grant Calverley, Ken Mitchell, Tyson Jenkins and Derick Earle.

Joe Stock, who played for Brimhall at Logan, also helped out this season.

"I am honored and like I said, grateful more than anything, to have had such a wonderful team I coached this year and wonderful assistant coaches that just make things run smoothly," Brimhall said. "... Any coach that receives this would be lying if they didn't say they were honored.

"It's a neat award, but all it means is we've got to go back to work and work even harder for the next year."

During his seven seasons at the helm, Brimhall has compiled a 97-68 overall record (46-24 in region contests).

"A neat stat that we kind of take pride in as a coaching staff is our program has made an improvement in either record or state tournament finish in the last seven years," Brimhall noted. "Up until we got 20 wins (2006-07), the first five years we improved our record.

"And then the last two years, we advanced further in the state tournament. So we've made an improvement in one of those areas every single year, which is something we're excited about."

The Grizzlies have won three region titles under Brimhall and have reached the state

tournament five consecutive seasons.

Several of Brimhall's former players have gone on to play at the next level, including Charles Abouo, who just wrapped up his freshman campaign at BYU.

Ward said Stock will be heading to Western Nebraska and Rory Patterson, who has been at Snow College, is probably going to sign at BYUHawaii. He also said seniors Omar McDade and Darrick McIntosh both have offers to play collegiately.

"Next year, Jeff will have five guys out playing college basketball," Ward said. "To me, that says a lot about him and his program, and what he's developed."

Brimhall and the Grizzlies will be returning to the 4A ranks next season, but the coach is looking forward to the challenge.

"We're excited about that," said Brimhall, who also thanked the school's administration and players' parents for being supportive of the program. "The expectations keep going higher and we push ourselves to have high expectations in the program."



Meegan M. Reid/Herald Journal

Logan head boys basketball coach Jeff Brimhall was recently named the 3A Coach of the Year. Brimhall has won three region titles during his tenure with the Grizzlies.