



North Cross School

For Immediate Release

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Career Ends, Retirement Begins

North Cross Coach Resigns Reluctantly

ROANOKE, VA (May 9, 2013) — Bill Hodges came to North Cross School in August of 2011 as the Raiders' head basketball coach. In 2012 he also joined the North Cross faculty as a history teacher. He came to work in the professions he loves—teaching and coaching. Hodges inherited a team whose record the previous season was two wins and 15 losses. Fast forward to May, 2013, and Hodges, with a fan club of students, players, and parents, has twice reached the final four of the state tournament, finishing runner-up in the 2013 VIS Division III basketball championship. Unfortunately for all of us, Coach Hodges has decided give up his teaching and coaching positions.

“I’ve always made the choice to keep going, but this time advice from my doctors have taken that choice away from me”, Hodges reported. “This time, there are health risks which will not allow me to continue coaching.”

Hodges has stepped away because of his medical issues. Back in 2009, Hodges suddenly began to feel sick. Initially, Hodges thought he was having a stroke. It was not a stroke, but it was serious. His doctors found he had suffered a brain aneurysm, the same condition that took his sister’s and mother’s lives years before. He underwent surgery at the University of Virginia and made a full recovery. A year later, with his daughter Zoie encouraging him, Hodges returned to coaching, and North Cross hired him in August of that year.

At North Cross, Hodges felt he had found a home. “I love the faculty here. I think they are a great group of teachers, and they care for their students more than any other place I’ve taught. Students and parents should know what a great faculty North Cross has.”

The basketball program has blossomed under Hodges’ leadership. In two years, his teams have won 39 games and lost only 13. “My son loves Coach Hodges and followed him to North Cross. It’s not only because he is a great coach, but also because he is such a caring individual,” said Eddie Smith, whose son played for Hodges.

Over his long career, Hodges has coached at many schools, both secondary school and collegiate teams, and is remembered by many basketball fans for coaching Larry Bird and the Indiana State Sycamores in 1979, a team that lost the championship to Magic Johnson and his Michigan State Spartans. Hodges was named the NCAA Coach of the Year that year.

Dr. Christian Proctor, Headmaster of North Cross School, has witnessed the impact Hodges has had on the school, students, and basketball program. “Bill is very serious about his teaching, bringing history to life with a passion and depth that he shares every day in his classrooms. It’s great to see him bring that energy and knowledge to his students, and it is great to see his excitement and experience come to life on the courts during basketball season. When we had our own “Tobacco Road” battle this year against Carlisle, Coach took us to victory and our whole student body felt the thrill and pride he and his team delivered.”

When asked about replacing Coach Hodges, Proctor said, “Coach Hodges is one of a kind, and we were very fortunate to have had him coach the Raiders. With the departure of only one starter, our cupboard is definitely full. He’s left us with a great start on next season and our team is going to be better because he coached them. I’m confident we’ll make a great hire and I know there is a talented replacement who will want the opportunity to pick up where Coach left off.”

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About North Cross School

North Cross School is a college-preparatory day school grounded in a strong liberal arts and science curriculum combined with exceptional co-curricular programs. The academic program, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, prepares students to become responsible, successful citizens by encouraging them to explore their interests and develop their talents. The School is located at 4254 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA, 24018. For more information, visit www.northcross.org.