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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Keith Harring steps down as head girls soccer coach at Badin



The first time Badin High School head girls soccer coach Keith Harring started driving over to Badin to pass on the news that he was stepping down, he had to turn around and go home.

“I chickened out,” an emotional Harring said Tuesday afternoon. “I just couldn’t do it. I had to go home and talk to my wife, Pam, about it some more.”

But Harring, 64-years-old and an educator for four decades, knew that it was time.

“There’s so much else going on, I just couldn’t be here like I needed to be,” said Harring, very involved with family life, faith life and as the director of student teachers at Miami University. “You need so much energy to be the head coach, and I just don’t have that energy at this point.”

Harring, who directed the Badin High School girls program for eight years, leaves a tremendous legacy of success behind – 103 wins, district championships the last five seasons, three trips to the Division II state championship game in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and the state title in 2005.

“I just have tremendous memories,” Harring said. “I’m so proud of everything. It’s been so enjoyable; a great experience. It’s something I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

Harring joined the Badin High School staff as a science teacher in August of 2001, assisting that season with the boys’ soccer program. He was named head girls soccer coach the following year.

“I knew that the program could be very successful,” Harring said. “The goal was to get the consistency going. The people have been great. You hear a lot about the Badin ‘family.’ I didn’t know what that was until I came here. It’s really true. Everyone is together.”

Badin defeated Doylestown Chippewa in overtime to win the D-II state title in 2005, lost in a sudden death shootout to Parma Heights Holy Name in 2006 and dropped a 2-0 final to Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown in 2007. The Rams have followed that up with two more district crowns before bowing in the regionals in 2008 and 2009.

“What more can you say about Keith Harring than he is a consummate professional,” Badin athletic director Sally Kocher said. “He coached our girls soccer athletes to that next level.

“I knew that first year here, when he was assisting the boys, that he would be the right person to handle the girls program,” Kocher added. “He provided us with championship after championship. He was an outstanding coach and an outstanding person for Badin High School.”

Numerous graduates of Harring’s Badin program have gone on to play college soccer, including Kristina Anderson (Ball State), Lauren Gersbach (Butler), Heather Maus (Urbana), Bridget McKnight (Eastern Kentucky), Abby Milillo (Ball State), Heather Rains (Akron), Megan Reimer (Gardner-Webb), Ashley Roberto (Charlotte), Jenny Rosen (Xavier) and Lindsey Smith (Findlay).

“This is Badin girls soccer, it’s not Keith Harring soccer,” he said, pointing out that Badin had already been the state runner-up four times before he took over.

“Even our last game (a 1-0 regional semifinal loss to Wyoming), I’m so satisfied with it,” Harring added. “The quality, and the execution. As a coach, you could not have asked for anything more from your players.

“I can close my eyes and see all the teams,” he continued. “The excitement in the players’ eyes. Getting to state, even when you didn’t win it. ... I tried to teach them to work hard. You have blips in your life. But with God’s guidance, you can push yourself to get through those things.”

Harring and his wife, Pam, have two children and two grandchildren. He said that while he was stepping down as the Badin head coach, he was not leaving coaching. He will be an assistant girls' soccer coach at Summit Country Day this coming season. Interestingly, Harring previously coached a state championship hockey team at Centerville High School.

"I'm leaving Badin, but Badin will never leave me," said Harring, who told the players of his decision in the chapel at Badin Tuesday afternoon. "I'll always have that close feeling for Badin in my heart."

Kocher said that current members of the coaching staff planned to stay on and that offseason workouts would go on as scheduled. Internal discussions would commence immediately regarding the next head coach of the Badin High girls' soccer program.

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