

Eric "Pete" Petersen Athlete

Few athletes have achieved as long a list of awards and accomplishments as Eric Petersen, a Lynden High School graduate of 1986. Over the course of four years, he racked up just about every possible honor handed out to an athlete.



A four-year letter winner in football, basketball, and baseball, Petersen was one of the first Lynden athletes to graduate with 12 varsity letters.

In football, Petersen played defensive line, tight end, and kicker, and by the time he graduated, he had gained honors in all three positions. He was 1st Team All-State Tight End, 1st Team All-League Defensive Line, and 1st Team All-League Kicker during his senior season. Previous to that, he was named 1st Team All-League Kicker in both '83 and '84, 1st Team All-League Punter in '84, 2nd Team All-League Defensive Line in '84, and 2nd Team All-League Tight End in '85. His senior season also ended with a total of 17 catches for 263 yards and 3 TD's. The 1985 Lions were league champions with a record of 9-0. One of his most memorable games was the state quarterfinal game against Eatonville, where he had two catches for 14 yards, one of them for the game-tying touchdown in the second quarter. Although the Lions went on to lose, they brought home the 5th place state trophy with a 10-1 record.

On the basketball court, Petersen dominated the boards, hauling in an unprecedented amount of rebounds. From the floor, he was a steady shooter; his precision landed him in first place for the schools' all-time leader in total points with 1,506. Coach John Clark says of him, "Pete was the best offensive player I ever coached." On defense, he recalls when his senior 6'4" forward set a screen for Dennis Strong during their state semifinal game against Steilacoom. The Sentinel's guard ran into Petersen and "just bounced off him like he had run into a wall." Petersen also remembers this game and the fact that it was the last state tournament game played in the UPS fieldhouse. There was a "huge crowd and a super high school game environment." Averaging nearly 20 points per game his senior season, Petersen was part of a squad that was ranked #1 in the state from day one and a team that breezed through their regular season with a victory

margin of almost 30 points per game. Believed to be one of the best teams in Lynden history, they could do it all, both defensively and offensively. Their heartbreaking, double-overtime loss to Cashmere in the state final ended their perfect season, leaving them with a 26-1 record, the second-place trophy, and a 1st Team All-Tournament player named Eric Petersen.

When spring rolled around, Petersen transformed into a baseball player under Coach Rollie DeKoster. He played first base, and the team reached the regional tournament his senior year. He received honors as second league first baseman for his junior and senior seasons. During his senior season, Petersen also spent some time on the track team at Coach Leon Golden's invitation, trying the shot put and discus for a couple of meets until it got in the way of his baseball games.

After graduating from LHS, Petersen went on to play four years of basketball at Seattle University, where he started for three of those years and was the team captain both his junior and senior years. In 1990, he received his BA, and in 1993, he completed his Masters in Education from SU. From there he taught two years in Mercer Island, followed by seven years in Las Vegas, before returning to Whatcom County, where he has taught special education at Ferndale High School for the past 13 years. Along the way, Petersen has contributed to the athletic community by coaching a variety of sports. He coached basketball with Ed Pepple, the legendary Mercer Island coach, as well as in Las Vegas and at Ferndale High. He has also coached girls' fastpitch, football, and track.

For an athlete to have accomplished so much in so short a time is nothing short of amazing, and "Pete's" many honors and awards attest to the fact that he is one of Lynden's finest.



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