

# Coaches



Stuart Welch

Title: Head Coach

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Coach Welch enters his 4th year as the Head Coach of the Yuba WBB team. In his third year, Coach Welch delivered the first ever Conference Championship in Yuba's history. He was also instrumental in developing the first ever Conference MVP and the only Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year in the school's history. Coach Welch has produced seven All Conference players and the first California State Female Athlete of the Month (Jan. 2020). Coach Welch was named Conference Coach of the Year for the 2019/2020 season in leading Yuba to their Conference crown.

Coach Welch grew up playing basketball in Upstate New York and

it was that passion that led him to participate and coach basketball for the past twenty-five years. After graduating college with an AAS degree and relocating to Oakland California, Coach Welch played one season at Cal State Hayward before joining the Alameda Pro-Am Basketball Tour. While playing on the Pro-Am Tour, Coach Welch had two unsuccessful attempts in trying out for the Golden State Warriors basketball team. After those two attempts, his playing days concluded and he was hired by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff. While working at the Sheriff's Department, Coach Welch became the Assistant Coach for the Head Royce Boys Basketball Team for two seasons. After transferring to the Pittsburg Police Department as a Police Officer, Coach Welch continued to coach with the Los Medanos College Men's Basketball Team.

In 2001, Coach Welch was hired as the Boys Basketball Head Coach at North Hills Christian School, where he remained until relocating to Elk Grove, CA in 2012. In his 11-year tenure at NHCS, he failed to make the play-offs only once and received 2 CIF Coach of the Year awards and 3 NHCS High School Coach of the Year awards. After spending 1 year at Natomas High and taking them to the play-offs after a six-year absence, Coach Welch was hired at Rosemont High School as the Girls Basketball Head Coach. Coach Welch led the Wolverines to 3 consecutive play-off trips and won the first League Championship for basketball at RHS. Coach Welch was named the CIF Sierra Valley Conference Coach of the Year following the 2015/2016 season, after compiling 22 wins – still the most wins in the program. Coach Welch is also the Lead Coach for Girls Got Game, his skills development agency for girls' basketball.

Coach Welch is married, has 5 children in a blended family and resides in Elk Grove, CA. Coach Welch holds an AAS degree, a Bachelor's degree as well as two Master's degree and is currently pursuing his Doctorate degree in Strategic

## Leadership.



Erin Cunningham  
Assistant Coach

Erin Cunningham, a Yuba College alumni, is in her second season as an assistant coach at Yuba College. Coach Cunningham was born and raised in Yuba City and is proud to be back home, ready to help take her alma mater to new heights.

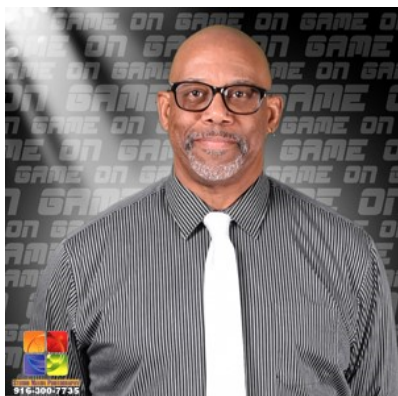
As a dual sport athlete, Coach Cunningham excelled at both soccer and basketball at Marysville High School, earning multiple MVP honors, All-League and All-Area Honors. Her athletic endeavors led her to Yuba College, where she continued her two-sport schedule. As a goalkeeper, Cunningham set 2 then-school records of 17 shutout games and most consecutive minutes without a goal being scored, for the women's soccer team. In basketball, Cunningham helped lead the team to the programs first play-off berth in over 30 years. She also earned All-Conference nods for both sports.

Coach Cunningham decided to focus on basketball and continued her career by earning a scholarship to The University of Alaska Anchorage. During her tenure with the Seawolves, Cunningham's team earned its first NCAA berth her junior year. Her senior year, UAA won their first NCAA Western Regional Championship and earned a trip to the Final Four. Cunningham was voted Most Inspirational Player both her Junior and Senior seasons by her teammates. Cunningham was also named to the NCAA Academic All-American Team her senior season.

After her playing career was over, Coach Cunningham picked up a coaching clipboard as the Head Freshmen girls coach at River

Valley High School. In her four years, Erin led her teams to an impressive 67-10 record, including four consecutive undefeated league titles.

Coach Cunningham earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Journalism and Public Communication from UAA. She furthered her education with a Master's Degree in Education from National University and is currently working in education in the community she grew up in.



Robert Johnson  
Assistant Coach

Coach Robert Johnson has coached high school basketball for (30) years, with (28) of those years coaching females. Coach J started his coaching career by coaching neighborhood teams shortly after graduating high school. Coach J has been fortunate to have coached a number of All-City men's players, including ex-NBA and former Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson.

Coach Johnson joined the Del Campo High School staff during former NBA player Matt Barnes sophomore and junior years. Coach Johnson has coached all levels in the girl's game; Freshmen through Varsity at various high schools. Coach J has been fortunate enough to be part of two new Elk Grove high schools, Sheldon High & Franklin High. At Franklin, Coach J guided the Wildcats to their first ever play-off appearance, falling short in two consecutive years. Coach Johnson has been an assistant coach with Coach Welch for five years, three years at the high school level and the last two years at Yuba

College.

Coach J is a retiree of the State of California and the father of three adult children (two women and one young man).