BRINGING HIS GAME TO CAL POLY

TIM WALSH WANTS TO MAKE FOOTBALL GAMES ‘MUST-SEE’ EVENTS

BY STACIA MOMBURG
It’s not news that Tim Walsh loves football. Cal Poly’s new head football coach has a career record of 117-82 in 18 seasons. But ask Walsh about his greatest success, and he’ll tell you it’s his family.

The 54-year-old father of Luke (28), Casey (26), Sean (24) and Megan (20) has been married to his wife, Jody, for 31 years. Jody has been an inspiration in my pursuit of my career.

Walsh remembers a conversation when he and Jody were newly married, telling her that he could make a living at coaching. “She told me to go do it.” So I did.

One might think spending six months of the year working seven days a week would take a toll on a spouse. Jokingly Walsh says, “Maybe that’s what kept us together.”

Seriously, though, this is a really tough profession. Jody is alone a lot. Thankfully she really understands my love of the game,” he said.

In fact, the entire family understands Walsh’s love for the game and has managed to make it work. His long stint as head coach for Portland State University in Oregon enabled all four children to graduate from the same high school. While most college football coaches lead a gypsy lifestyle, Walsh was able to plant his family in Oregon long enough to be able to call it home.

He also managed to sign Sean at Portland State, with Luke being a walk-on. What would it say about me as a coach if I couldn’t sign my own kids,” Walsh said with a chuckle.

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It should be no surprise that the entire Walsh clan is athletic. Jody was a snow skier and competitive water skier. Luke, Sean and Casey all played baseball and football in high school, and Sean also wrestled. Megan played softball, basketball and volleyball in high school and currently plays softball for the University of San Diego.

Walsh played sports until he was 24. The former football, basketball and baseball player admits that by playing three sports year after year, he didn't give himself an opportunity to excel at one. "I was a quarterback, played third base and point guard," Walsh said. "I think I've seen what it takes to win, " says Walsh. "The pure energy and athletic nature of the game is both mentally and physically intense the game is both mentally and physically.

At 18, Walsh knew that the only way to stay involved in athletics was to coach. By 23, after coaching various sports for a few years, Walsh says he realized he enjoyed coaching football most of all.

"I'm enthralled with the game. A lot of people don't realize how intense the game is both mentally and physically. A player's mind is constantly strategizing while down after down their body is taking a beating," he says. "The pure energy and athletic nature of the game, along with the number of people who come together to accomplish a common goal, never ceases to amaze me."

Walsh's inherent love of family spills over into his approach to coaching. When asked what he likes most about coaching the game, along with the number of people who come together to accomplish a common goal, never ceases to amaze me.

Walsh's hope for Cal Poly football? "My goal is to bring the ocean and golf. I hear there are some really great golf courses in San Luis Obispo so far: "The ocean and golf. I hear there are some really great golf courses in SLO County."