

ALL ABOUT ME GEORGE SHIMER

I grew up moving a bit a young boy with my Dad in the United State Air Force. He was from Elkins, West Virginia (a true mountaineer) and Mom was from Boise, Idaho. I am named after my father. My mom said I was to be the Second and there would be no Junior. I am the fifth child of six; the last two being the males. So growing up I learned a lot from my older sisters.

Dad retired in England and we ended up moving to John Day, Oregon. I remember having a vivid imagination playing in the hills, finding a basketball in the shed which was to be my Christmas present, and sneaking behind the backseat of the car to go watch my Dad play basketball.

We later moved to Shoshone, Idaho where I spent the days of my youth. We owned a mom and pop's grocery/gas station on the south end of town. Then in 6th grade it was sold. Dad bought a lumber yard and we moved into a brand new home on the north end of town.

While in those days I participated heavily in sports. I am grateful for all the coaches, players, officials and fans I got to meet along the way. Sports were a haven for me. I was fortunate to go to state in football and basketball. We took 2nd place in football. In basketball; My sophomore year we placed 5th, junior year 2nd (by losing in the championship game to a team we had beat 4 times previously that year), and my senior we went undefeated and won the state title. I can say I gained some good friends from all different schools over the years through sports and I still see some of them.

I graduated with honors but only because I went from a C-D student and worked hard my Junior and Senior years to be an A student with a couple of B's, plus I retook my freshman science class as a senior; Talk about feeling out of place.

As a teenager I worked and saved money for some lofty goals. I attended the 1985 National Boy Scout Jamboree as a life Scout. I later on earned my Eagle rank. I worked at NBC camps during the summers going into my senior year and after my senior year. I loved the atmosphere there. Imagine me working around basketball and getting paid to do so. There are so many good people I met at NBC that affected my life. I will always be grateful for my time I spent there.

After my senior year I was able to go to Japan with NBC camps and play hoops. I remember expecting to play short people but the saw plenty of guys over 6'5" including a 7 footer from their national team in our very first game.

I was always active or overactive in whatever was going on: I loved being a line judge at the volleyball matches, help out with FFA (even though I was not a member), and going on some crazy dates. One of the craziest was catching around 50 frogs at a pond to use for a frog jumping contest at school. The bucket tipped over at my house that night so for all the years that my parents owned that house, one could hear the "Rib-bits" from this escapade. Another crazy one was driving 4 hours for a dance, going through two flat tires and sleeping in a sheepherder's cylinder camper. My father said I made life challenging by keeping myself so busy; some things do not change.

I had signed with the US Marines during football season my senior year but had put in a stipulation that if I got a scholarship I could take that. I ended up with that scholarship to Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Oregon. My major was Journalism. I went one year there before leaving to serve a mission in Southern Chile for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The people of Chile were awesome and I miss many of them dearly. I returned to BMCC to find out they cut the Journalism program. I then switched to a Health and Physical Education major while continuing my studies in Spanish. It was then when I got turned onto officiating sports which I continued to do all through the rest of my college career.

After graduating with an Associates degree, my roommate and I transferred over to Eastern Oregon University (back then it was Eastern Oregon State College). I redshirted a year in basketball. I then met my wife, Marie, at a city league tournament. I had the opportunity to be an assistant volleyball coach at Eastern my last two years while I continued to play basketball. I took pride in my grades and was an A-B student.

Both my sons, Sean and Gregg, were born in La Grande. I have a couple of great pictures of Sean as a baby and me in my uniform as a player. My daughter, Jenna, was later born in Baker City, Oregon, just like her mother and grandmother.

After college I took a coaching job at Baker City as a girl's assistant basketball coach and worked at the school as an aide in the Special Education program. We then moved to Myrtle Creek, Oregon where I taught Spanish and Physical Education while being the head coach of the girls program there. We only saw the grandparents once during the school year so we moved east.

I ended up getting a job in Nyssa, Oregon as a Spanish teacher where I taught for 11 years while coaching numerous sports including: Head soccer, head boy's basketball, head softball, assistant coach for track, baseball, football, volleyball, and the girls and boys basketball. The only sports I did not get involved with were: cross country, golf, and wrestling. But now I love golf.

I then got back into officiating and now have worked to get myself up into the college ranks. I have worked college baseball, basketball, and volleyball but am focusing more on the basketball. I still officiate high school and in this past year I was chosen to referee State in all three sports.

I have been gratefully employed here at New Plymouth School District these past three years as a Spanish Instructor and now in the middle school as a History Instructor.

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