

The Monson Project Committee
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May 1, 2026

Michelle Whitney, Superintendent
Pasco School District
1215 W Lewis Street
Pasco, WA 99301

RE: Proposal to name Pasco High School Main Gymnasium in honor of Coach Don Monson

Dear Superintendent Whitney,

We respectfully propose that the Pasco High School (PHS) Main Gymnasium be named in honor of the late Coach Don Monson. Truly a legendary figure, he profoundly shaped the history and spirit of Pasco High School, the Pasco School District (PSD) and the greater Pasco community.

PASCO HIGH SCHOOL: During his 1967-1976 tenure at PHS, Coach Monson's impact extended far beyond his 161-65 win-loss record that included annual appearances in both regional and state tournaments. Coach Monson was instrumental in creating the meaning of "Pasco Pride" and emphasized what an honor was to wear the Bulldog Purple and White!

Numerous supporters whether former players, peers, or community members have commented, "Coach Monson was Pasco." He often spoke of his tenure at PHS as one of the most rewarding periods of his professional career, a career that included coaching at Michigan State, the University of Idaho, and the University of Oregon. Coach Monson was the recipient of multiple state, regional, and national coaching awards. Yet according to student trainer turned lifelong friend, "Of all the accolades that Coach Monson has received, I cannot think of one that would honor him more than naming the PHS gym after him."

However, in addition to emphasizing athletic skills, Coach Monson was unwaveringly committed to his players that they develop the following important life skills: integrity, self-discipline, respect, compassion, teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and perseverance. He was tirelessly in service to those he touched as a coach, counselor, or mentor. More important than teaching student athletes to play basketball, Coach Monson focused on teaching his players to become better people. Countless former players/students have gone on to share life skills instilled by Coach Monson in their own successful careers: teachers, coaches, athletic trainers, professional sports, and community volunteers.

Coach Monson's impact was also felt far beyond the halls of Pasco High School. In brief:

PASCO SCHOOL DISTRICT:

- Co-sponsor of golf tournament whose proceeds went directly to PSD Athletics
- Proactive in the growth of the Pasco Invitational Track and Field Meet
- Fostered a multi-generational and lasting desire for hands-on youth development participation which continues today through:
 - o PSD teachers, coaches, and athletic trainers as well as city-wide volunteer youth programs.

GREATER PASCO COMMUNITY:

- Developed and facilitated youth basketball clinics
- During a period of social unrest, his respected leadership helped unite a fractured community by bringing together administrators, parents, and students

Naming the gymnasium in honor of Coach Don Monson would permanently memorialize him as a devoted coach, counselor, mentor, role model, and exemplary community member. Each time a student athlete walks in the gym, they can be inspired by the legacy he left behind.

This committee has proceeded in accordance with Pasco School District procedure 9250P, *Section II. Naming of Existing Facilities*. In further support of this request, supporting documents are available for review: Biography, articles, list of accomplishments/awards, and letters of support that include examples of Coach Monson's personal impact.

We thank you for considering this proposal to honor a true legend of Pasco High School, Coach Don Monson.

Sincerely,



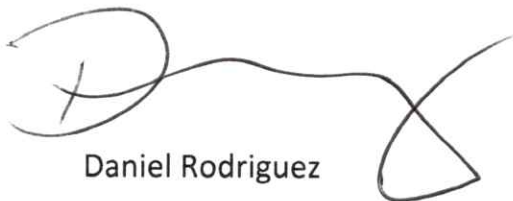
Nina Smith Dillon



Rayford Guice



Tamra Knapstad Ochoa



Daniel Rodriguez



Mike Guajardo