

JANUARY 15, 2013

Oregon Sports



In Bill We Trust

One of America's top legal minds
is also Portland State's biggest fan



You Kidding?

Central Catholic at Lake Oswego, Jan. 4

Lake Oswego senior Jack Anderson reacts to a foul call against him during the second quarter of the Laker's 59-45 win over the Rams. Four days later, the Lakers beat Jesuit 46-38 to keep a firm hold on the top ranking among Class 6A boys basketball teams. (Photo by Cliff Pfenning)



**More Magic
Everett at
Portland
Winterhawks,
Jan. 5**

Portland's Nicolas Petan celebrates scoring against Everett during a 5-3 win at the Rose Garden. The win moved Portland's streak to 10 straight, which expanded to 14 after Saturday's 8-0 win at Everett. The Hawks play host to Lethbridge on Friday. (Photo by Cliff Pfenning)



Baby it's cold inside

CEVA Power League qualifier, Jan. 13

Players from the Portland Volleyball Club's 14U team covered up during their qualifying tournament Sunday at Eastmoreland Courts. (Photo by Cliff Pfenning)



THE PLAYERS' COACH

Bill Barton isn't just a loyal fan, he's an unofficial member of the Portland State men's basketball coaching staff

**Story and photos
by Cliff Pfenning**

When Bill Barton and his wife JoAnn bought a condominium in the South Park Blocks of Portland in 2006, Barton got used to his surroundings and one day wandered into a men's basketball practice at Portland State, just five blocks away.

After some conversing with head coach Ken Bone, Barton became a fan, and admirer of the coach, the players and the program, which reached the NCAA Tournament in 2008 and '09.

LEFT: Bill Barton rarely misses celebrating a key moment of a game when momentum swings to the PSU squad.

It was a fabulous time for the program, which had never played into the Big Dance, and Bone used that success to move up in the coaching ranks to Washington State in 2009.

It's at that point that Barton moved up from being a fan to being part of the program, which assistant Tyler Geving took over after Bone left.

Today, Barton holds one of the most unique coaching positions in America: "Life Skills Coach" for the PSU men's basketball program.

It's entirely unofficial.

He's not in the team's media guide as a coach, he gets no public recognition for his role, which is known only within the program. But he is part of the team. He has access to the players before and after practice, regularly travels with the team to road games and sits court-side at home games. He stands out at the Stott Center by frequently being one of, if not the only, fan next to the action who will show some passion for the game and the hometown Vikings, who are in the middle of the Big Sky Conference standings.

What makes Barton's role with the team even more unique is his background in the legal profession. Barton is one of America's most respected lawyers, who has argued more than 500 cases before a jury. He owns a law firm, is an author and has spoken on case preparation and ethics across the country.

He would be an extremely well-treated supporter at any school in the state, but he's loyal to Portland State having essentially adopted the men's basketball program, which has long been ready for adoption by anyone with some passion for its existence.

As Life Skills Coach, he focuses his time on making an impact on players so they improve their opportunities for success on the court, in a classroom

and in the professional world.

"I'm here for the players," he says. "I see it as my job to help them make good choices, the kind that will impact their chances for success in their lives, both personally and professionally."

Within the PSU athletic department, Barton remains something of a passionate, well-connected fan, who preps for games at the nearby Rogue Brewery, and then has a post-game event there that usually includes Geving, an assistant or two, and a number of friends he invites to enjoy the evening.

He has become the team's uncle - its rich uncle - who pays for pre-game and post-game food and drinks, and has no trouble telling a story about his experiences around the world, including the fact that he rarely drinks alcohol.

"He has a great passion for the game, for our program and for the players," PSU athletic director Torre Chisholm says. "He really wants to see the players do well in their lives, and that's something every program can use."

"And, he really is a great guy, someone you want to be around."

THE BARTON FILE

Born in 1949, Barton grew up in Alsea and was talented enough on the hardwood to play collegiately at Pacific University in Forest Grove. He earned

"He really wants to see the players do well in their lives, and that's something every program can use."

PSU Athletic Director Torre Chisholm

his law degree at Willamette University in Salem in 1972 and started making connections.

In 1980, Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman hired Barton to legally dog Ma Anand Sheela, the public leader of Rajneeshpuram, which he did for three years to protect Bowerman's interest in

property he owned in Central Oregon. The city, incorporated near Antelope and focused around a religious cult, essentially disbanded in 1985 after constant legal challenges, and then the discovery of criminal activity that involved food poisoning. Sheela was eventually imprisoned.

He became a specialist in cases involving serious injury and psychological injury from civil rights violations, sexual abuse, medical and professional neglect. His firm has successfully sued organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and Children's Farm Home in Corvallis.

At more than 500 cases before a jury, he's in a special category.

"There aren't many lawyers," he says, "who've been in front of a jury 500 times."

It's cases involving sexual abuse that have attracted much of his public attention, including one against the Archdiocese of Portland in 2004. Although there were settlement options available, Barton lobbied his client to let the case - for \$135 million - move forward in order to expose the true nature of the crimes involved. The Archdiocese declared bankruptcy as the trial neared.

Having prosecuted many other cases of sexual abuse and misconduct, Barton has seen the evil of the world and put it into a legal format to affect a jury appropriately.

It's also a history that will cause him to slow a conversation down when he talks about his career.

"I know more about sex," he says,

"than ... you want to know."

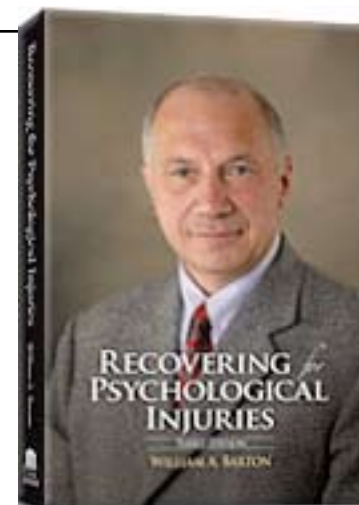
For a time, Barton worked cases across the country, but he now focuses on local cases and his office remains in Newport, where he regularly performs legal assistance for the Rogue Brewery for free. In return, they've put his face on their 2013 issue of in-house currency, and send those to him in batches of a 100. He hands those out like business cards.

His career has been successful enough that he no longer worries about income, and spreads what he has around to friends and interesting people he

meets.

The father of three, the website for The Barton Law Firm promotes his work and personality: "He rides a cus-

Recovering for Psychological Injuries is one of the bestselling trial strategy books ever written. While the book was originally known for its use in psychological injury cases, it has a much broader appeal for its advice on case preparation, dealing with experts, researching insurance issues, jury selection, and a wide range of other issues. *Rules of the Road* author Rick Friedman has called the book "a true masterpiece."





ABOVE: During a run of success while PSU played Oregon State, Dec. 12, Barton took a moment to taunt former Big Sky rival Damian Lillard before giving him a big smile and pat on the back. RIGHT: Barton chats up Mouse Davis during Saturday's game with Northern Arizona. FAR RIGHT: Head coach Tyler Geving is in his eighth year at PSU.



tom-built chopper and waxes philosophy at the drop of a hat."

His son Brent works in his firm, although he lives in Oregon City, something that has become easier to accommodate through electronic communication. The firm also has an office in Portland.

In a moment of personal reflection, Barton, who is the father of three, his career seems to have a life of its own.

"Sometimes I have a hard time believing where I'm at and what I now have access to, especially from where I started," he says. "But, it's been through a lot of hard work and commitment, and I feel compelled to share what I've learned with the next generation so that they'll be better prepared for the challenges that they'll face."

SPREADING THE WORD

Through his work across the nation, Barton has established a reputation that few professionals can promote in any line of work.

He is an author, most notably of "Recovering for Psychological Injuries," lectures across the country and serves as a part-time judge. He's been recognized with numerous awards and been noted as one of Oregon's Top Ten Super Lawyers.

An online legal review company, avvo.com, has him rated at 9.5 out of 10 based on awards, certifications and endorsements.

He serves as Commissioner for the Port of Newport, which is an elected position.

After four decades of professional work, he could easily retire, but he shows no signs of that.

Among the unique ways he's come up with advising the next generation of lawyers is a annual Advocacy Boot Camp, in which he personally selects a group of 10 lawyers and works with them for 23 hours during two weekends about six months apart. One of those boot camps, which focus on con-



cepts and strategy, took place this past weekend.

He has been a guest lecturer at the Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop.

And, yet, he promotes he's able to avoid being classified as a suit-and-tie kind of guy via the firm's website: "Bill claims to be the source of some amusement for his children and after spending a few minutes in his company, you'll find this easy to believe. His expansive personality and endless intelligence come together to create a highly effective and accomplished lawyer."

WHAT'S PSU GOT?

So, why Portland State?

Success attracts success, which is the key element of athletic recruiting as well as the base of capitalism.

"You want what we've got."

Oregon's other three Div. I schools: Oregon, Oregon State and University of Portland; play in more financially successful conferences with larger arenas and have more fan support. There are numerous small colleges with law

"If you look at my background, you might say I'm kind of a mongrel."

Bill Barton

schools located between Newport and Portland, and plenty of community colleges across the state with students looking for paths to success.

There are plenty of other schools to adopt.

Barton says it's Portland State's location near his condo, his background as a basketball player and his upbringing

ing that makes it the program he feels compelled to assist.

"I did not have a perfect upbringing," he says. "I had family in trouble all the time, including time in jail. I got in trouble all the time myself. I wasn't a role model at all. If you look at my background, you might say I'm kind of a mongrel. It's those experiences that help me to have a connection with the team and the players, because they face a lot of challenges that I can relate to. I really enjoy working

ing with young people who are trying to better themselves, and I feel there's a need for what I have to offer within this program."

It's not hard to see the basketball program at PSU as an NCAA Div. I mongrel.

Almost no one starts their college career at PSU, they wind up there.



ABOVE: PSU's starters include Michael Harthun, Lateef McMullan and Aaron Moore, who all started at other colleges. RIGHT: Renado Parker is in his third year with the team.



The Vikings have no freshmen amongst their 15-player roster, and only three of those players started with the program out of high school (and one of those players was a non-scholarship walk-on). The other 13 players all transferred to PSU from other Div. I programs or junior colleges. Only seven of the Vikings were with the program last year.

That makes the Vikings stand out within the Big Sky and the nation as well.

The other 10 schools in the Big Sky have at least two freshmen, and at least six players who started with the program. Weber State, Damian Lillard's alma mater, has nine players who started there out of high school. Montana has 11 players who started college in Helena as freshmen. North Dakota has 13.

(Portland State's women's team has three freshmen and 10 players who started with the program.)

When Geving took over as coach from Bone, with whom he had been an

assistant for four years, the program immediately got hit with NCAA probation for low academic progress and lost two scholarships. It has since recovered, and is in good standing.

With the men's team having virtually no local support, the kind that might impress a high school senior looking for a college program to commit to, Geving has focused his energy on finding experienced, older players able to adjust to experienced, older opponents. Those players were generally recruited by Div. I schools in high school due to their skill, but often had academic or social issues that caused them to need one or two years of college training before a school such as PSU would look their way. When they get to PSU, their social and academic backgrounds come with them.

That's when Barton goes to work. He has no problem getting to know virtually anyone or offering advice on a path to success. His leadership skill and passion for being a mentor and facilitator serve him well in find-

2012-13 PORTLAND STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Exp.	Hometown	High School	Previous College Experience
1	Lateef McMullan	G	5-11	170	Sr.	1V	Tulsa, OK	Flora MacDonald Academy	UC Riverside / Citrus JC
2	Marcus Hall	G	6-4	200	Jr.	JC	Bakersfield, CA	Bakersfield Christian	Fresno CC
3	Dre Winston Jr.	G	6-1	170	So.	RS	Lakewood, WA	Lakes	Washington State
4	Michael Harthun	G	6-3	185	Sr.	1V	Medford	South Medford	Washington State
11	Jordan Ellis	G	6-1	185	So.	JC	Medford	North Medford	Grayson CC
12	Alyx Foster	G	6-3	180	Jr.	JC	Phoenix, AZ	Thunderbird	South Mountain JC
13	Michael Harvey	F	6-5	195	Sr.	1V	Montgomery, AL	Sidney Lanier	Feather River JC
14	Gary Winston	G	6-0	190	So.	1V	Walla Walla, WA	Walla Walla	
15	Tim Douglas	G	5-10	160	Jr.	TR	Cerritos, CA	Mayfair	University of Portland
21	Aaron Moore	F	6-8	215	Jr.	JC	Riverside, CA	Dominguez	San Bernardino Valley JC
23	Martin Whitmore	F	6-5	195	Sr.	1V	Los Angeles, CA	Artesia	LA Trade Tech JC
30	Renado Parker	F	6-5	245	Sr.	1V	Kent, WA	Kentridge	North Idaho JC
34	Joel King	G	6-3	185	So.	1V	Lacey, WA	River Ridge	
42	Lamont Prosser	C	6-8	275	Jr.	JC	Fort Wayne, IN	Charis Prep	Sheridan JC
44	Brandon Cataldo	C	6-10	290	So.	1V	Rainier	Rainier	

HEAD COACH: Tyler Geving

ASSISTANTS: Andy McClouskey, Eric Harper, Anthony Owens, Mickey Polis, Barry Adams.



The post-game event following Saturday's game included a cast of young professionals.

ing a level at which to communicate with young professionals, very much like an uncle of around 40 even though he's 64.

He can be highly critical of a player when he can see they aren't fully motivated on or off the court, but is highly supportive in recognizing personal and team success, which he freely celebrates during a game.

"He's a really good man, who takes time out of his day to get to know the players," Geving says, "He has great contact with players who played here in the past and still cares about those guys. It's not just about basketball, it's about life."

"He tells us a lot of stories about lifetime lessons," says senior forward Renado Parker, who Barton has taken a special interest in. "We can joke around with him, and act like ourselves

when he's around.

"Sometimes, he acts just like us."

THE LONG TERM

With such a resume of success to offer, Barton's impact would be an asset to other programs at PSU, but he says he's reluctant to go beyond the men's basketball team. He knows the game better than other sports having played it collegiately, and recreationally in national tournaments into the '90s. And, he has an equal focus for the group of young lawyers, who he promotes as having access to his advice 24 hours a day. That's plenty of commitment.

At Saturday's win over Northern Arizona, Barton invited the lawyers in his Advocacy Boot Camp to attend, and that turned into a group of around 30. Following the game, though, he celebrated at the Rogue Brewery with

Weronika Budak, an Assistant Marketing Director at PSU, and a group of her friends from the University of Oregon. Also, former UNC Charlotte player Marlon Thomas, who he met at a Northwest Portland printing company, was along as well.

Barton spent the evening getting everyone to introduce themselves and promote their histories, which led to business card exchanges.

"Mentoring," he says, "is in my DNA."

While the results of the unofficial coaching are impossible to calculate, the team is successful to a level it probably shouldn't be considering the constantly changing nature of the roster and potential for personality conflict. Last season, the Vikings won seven of their final 10 games and finished at 17-15 overall, and 10-6 in conference play. Seniors Chehales Tapscott and Charles Odum, who each came to PSU from a junior college a year earlier, were named to the All-Big Sky First Team. PSU was the lone school to have two players on the first team.

This season, the Vikings are 5-8, but in the middle of the conference standings at 3-3, with their three losses by a combined 14 points, including 73-69 in overtime to conference leader Weber State. With 15 games to prepare for the Big Sky Conference Tournament, the Vikings have plenty of opportunity to grow into a team that can make a run at a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

"We had a tough early schedule, but I think we're better than our record shows," Geving said after Thursday's win. "We dug ourselves a hole, and now it's time to get out of it."

This week, the Vikings begin a stretch of four consecutive road with the opener Thursday night at Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Barton will be with them.