

FRAN  
RISH



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# Fran Rish

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Fran is a native of Yakima, Washington, where he played high school football under Johnny Zeaphel. He then entered Washington State College and played three years of varsity football as an end for the legendary "Babe" Hollingberry, graduating in 1941. In 1942 he became coach of the "Frosh" team at WSC. Shortly thereafter he entered the Army and played football, as a quarterback, for the 1944 Amarillo, Texas, service team which lost only two games. The following year, 1945, he took over as coach and lost only one game during the season.

In 1946 "Rish" came to Richland and took over the helm of both the football and baseball programs for the Bombers. After a 4-3 mark in 1946 and a 4-5 record in 1947, Rish put together a string of 12 straight winning football seasons. In 1950 he was named as a coach of the all-state team, the first coach in the league to attain that honor. During one period, Rish's Bombers lost only 5 of 47 games. From 1946 until 1966, Rish's last year as football coach, his teams won 106 games, lost 63 and tied 10. During this period the Bombers won 8 championships and were rated in the state's final polls 10 times.

In 1967 Rish became the director of Athletics and Physical Education for the entire Richland School District, a position he has held through this school year. He continued as coach of the baseball team until 1976.

In total, Rish coached football for 21 years and baseball for 30 years—a grand total of 51 seasons.

# the Roasters

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## **Ray King**

(Master of Ceremonies)

RHS Class of 1949. Played football for Rish 1947 and 1948; baseball 1949.

## **Mel Thompson**

(the early years)

RHS Class of 1948. Played football for Rish 1946 and 1947, WSU 1949 through 1951.

## **John Meyers**

(ten years later)

RHS Class of 1958. Played football for Rish 1956 and 1957, U of W 1959 through 1961, NFL 1962 through 1967.

## **Ray Juricich**

(an assistant coaches' view)

Assistant football coach at RHS 1948 through 1968, assistant basketball coach 1948 through 1974, golf coach 1950 through 1976.

## **Bob McCord**

(baseball)

RHS Class of 1955. Played baseball for Rish 1953 through 1955.

## **Steve Potter**

(a contemporary coaches point of view)

RHS Class of 1968. Played football for Rish 1966 (and 1967). Track coach at Pasco High School 1973 through 1979. Assistant football and track coach at RHS 1980 to present.

## **George Mulligan**

(a sports officials' view)

RHS Class of 1957. Played football for Rish 1955 and 1956, baseball 1956 and 1957.

## **Skipper Scott**

(an insiders' view)

RHS Class of 1952. Played football for Rish 1949 through 1951, baseball 1951 and 1952.

## **Em Morgan**

(a view from the other side)

Head football coach at Pasco High School 1937 through 1944, and 1946 through 1953. Baseball coach 1937 through 1953.

## **Dick King**

(an Athletic Directors' perspective)

Head basketball coach and Athletic Director at Pasco High School 1977 through 1981, head basketball coach at Kennewick High School 1983.

# PROCLAMATION

## FRAN RISH DAY

*June 4, 1983*

*Whereas, Fran Rish will be concluding his distinguished and dedicated thirty-six year career at Richland High School; and*  
*Whereas, Mr. Rish has touched upon and influenced the lives of hundreds of young people in his capacity as football coach, baseball coach, Athletic Director and head of the Physical Education Department at Richland High School; and*  
*Whereas, a group of his teaching and coaching assistants, ex-players and friends have made plans to honor Fran and his family at a reception and banquet on Saturday, June 4; and*  
*Whereas, the City of Richland is desirous of further honoring this man, who has contributed so much to our community,*  
*Now, Therefore, I, Thomas M. Logston, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Richland, Washington, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 4, 1983 as*

### *Fran Rish Day*

*in the City of Richland and urge the citizens of this community to join with his friends and colleagues in a further tribute and recognition to this fine person, who has dedicated so much to helping the most valued of our possessions - our young men and women.*  
*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the official seal of the City of Richland this 16th day of May, 1983.*



*Thomas M. Logston*

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Mayor of Richland