

Interview with Head Freshmen Coach Tony Conques

Coach Tony Conques is in his 11th season as the PVI Freshmen Coach. This position was a nature progression for him from the parent of five PVI alumni, to Athletic Booster President, announcer for girls Soccer, boys/girls Basketball, Football, boys/girls Lacrosse, and Baseball games, to sitting on the sideline as a coach. When offered, he jumped at the chance to coach both because of his love for PVI and its' athletic programs and as a way to escape the pressures of his post 9/11 Pentagon duties. "It was a perfect way for me to get involved in something I truly love in a place where I call my second home (a 1967 graduate of Fairfax High now PVI) and at the same time being around young athletes". What has been the best part of coaching at PVI for him though have been two things - "first is that I have worked with my son Tony (6 years) and daughter Leanne (6 years) at my side the whole time, and second - I have had the privilege of working for Scott Allen - the best coach in Virginia"!

Tony brought to the position over 15 years of basketball coaching experience at St. Leo the Great in Fairfax where he coached teams for each of his children, sometimes working with three teams at once. He likes to brag about the dozens of trophies that fill the case in St. Leo's that were won by teams he was involved with. While at St. Leo's he acted as the CYO Athletic Director for 13 years, administering the basketball, cheerleading, baseball, and softball programs for hundreds of children and representing the school as the CYO Board Parish Representative. In 1995 Coach Conques was nominated by his friend and former Athletic Director, Pete Menke for induction into the Paul VI Athletic Hall of Fame as a "Community Star" for his many contributions to the PVI community.

Where are you from:	Born in Wichita Falls, Texas - Lived in Fairfax since 1956
Favorite place to visit:	Outer Banks, NC
Favorite Food:	Steak
Favorite Team:	Redskins/Yankees
Colleges Graduated from:	Virginia Military Institute - BA; The American University - MPA
Favorite Music:	Country/Soul

1. What is the first memory that comes to your mind about any PVI basketball games in the last 10 years?

I have been watching PVI girls' basketball since 1996, as a parent/announcer and as a coach. There are hundreds of memories that fill my recollections - in general though, being on varsity the bench during the 8 (out of last 10) VIS State Championship wins in total is the memory I hold dearest. PVI is the preeminent basketball program in the Virginia Independent School Association - no doubt!

2. What is your most memorable win at PVI?

As a freshmen coach I would have to say that two memories stand out - both involve Good Counsel - first was upsetting them in 2006 in their gym when they were 18-0 (won by 9)

and the other was winning the first actual game in their brand new gym a couple years ago. As a "clip board" assistant with the Varsity team the two biggest highlights were beating Norfolk Collegiate in the VIS finals at PVI. They were #1 seed and were 25-1 and we nailed them. One of the best games I have ever seen. The other was last year in the VIS finals when Arianna sank two free throws with no time left to tie and put the finals into OT - which we won by 8.

3. What is your evaluation of this year's team?

This year's team was outstanding. It was one of the most skilled and athletic team I have had at PVI. They had more depth than I am accustomed to, especially at the guard and post positions. We had a 16-4 record and had the highest point per game average of any team I have coached (over 40 points a game) and held their opponents to less than 30 points a game on average for the season. With the WCAS fielding only three other freshmen teams we took on all comers, travelling to Woodbridge, Westfield, Forest Park, John Paul the Great, Stone Ridge, Seton (Manassas), and Flint Hill to fill our schedule. It should be noted that we were undefeated outside the conference and also knocked off Ireton three times. All in all, this was a great team and will be missed by their coaches!!