

Lynne Perryman, Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame inductee

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Lynne Perryman knows when she'll retire as athletic department secretary for Chippewa Valley High School.

"When it isn't fun anymore!" says Perryman, who has been a vital member of the Big Reds' athletic program since 1998.

That day doesn't seem to be anytime soon because it's obvious that Perryman enjoys her job.

"Once my boys graduated, working in athletics helped a lot with 'empty-nest syndrome' since I just adopted the kids I interact with on a daily basis," Perryman says. "The kids at school call me Miss P. but I've had several over the years who continue to call me Momma P."

"I love those bonds that were built and enjoy being out and about and running into kids who have gone on to lead very successful and productive lives. The relationship with the kids not only keeps me young but is also why I look forward to coming to work every day."

Both of Perryman's sons graduated from Chippewa Valley and were very involved in sports their whole lives. Her oldest boy was a freshman when she began working in the athletic department.

"I was a volunteer parent at the elementary school and, to a lesser extent, middle school so knew a lot of the kids who came through the program those first eight or nine years," Perryman says. "It was fun to watch them grow as students and athletes from the little kids I knew since elementary school."

The athletic directors Perryman has worked for appreciate her efforts in helping the programs at one of the largest high schools in the state run smoothly.

"Whether it's handling the day-to-day tasks in the office or helping at an event, Lynne's smile and warm welcome has made her one of the most-beloved employees at Chippewa Valley," says Chad Hottle, the current AD at the school.

"Lynne truly loves our students and can often be found cheering on her 'kids' during their competitions. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand at any athletic-related event because she enjoys being part of our student-athletes' lives. Lynne has had many opportunities to accept other positions within our district but has turned down those offers because her heart is in athletics."

Kari Drogosh, the AD before Hottle and now an assistant principal at Chippewa Valley, also has high praise for Perryman.

"As an athletic department made up of two individuals — an athletic director and athletic secretary — the work is plentiful and Lynne was able to juggle it all," Drogosh says. "From creating rosters, checking in pay-to-participate, collecting physicals, paying officials and handling community members, she did it with ease."

"Her vast knowledge from spending years in the athletic arena was invaluable to me as a new athletic director and to every new coach who was added to our staff. She is a steadfast employee who puts her heart into everything she does."

Perryman is a fixture at many of the Big Reds' athletic events.

"You'll see Lynne with popcorn in hand, always in her Big Reds gear, cheering on our student-athletes and supporting them," Drogosh says.

It's because she wants to be there.

"People ask me all the time if I 'have to' go to the games as part of my job," Perryman says. "I go to as many as I can, both home and away, to support the kids who work so hard every day. Just as they love seeing their parents in the stands, they are also happy to see me and other staff members in attendance."

Perryman lives and dies with the Chippewa Valley teams.

"After a big win or a crushing defeat, Lynne is often more affected by the outcome than our athletes and coaches," Hottle says. "Lynne is a firm believer in the positive role interscholastic athletics plays in our students' lives."

It's difficult for Perryman to pick out a single highlight during her 20 years at Chippewa Valley.

"I am lucky enough to have several memorable moments," she says. "I worked in athletics during the school's two football state championships in 2001 and 2018. There are no words to describe the pride and excitement I felt sitting in the stands week after week watching 'my kids' succeed at such a high level.

"Not so much a moment, but something else I will never forget is the support and encouragement I received from coaches, parents, students and other Chippewa Valley staff members while I was battling lung cancer. We always talk about the Big Red Family here at Chippewa and that family certainly came together for me, as they have for others since. That is something I will never forget."

— Chuck Klönke