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Rogue Community College Hires Cross Country Coach

Cole Watson, a Rogue River native, will be the first cross country coach for Rogue Community College. The college started an athletics program this year.

“I am excited and humbled at the same time,” Watson said. “It is the utmost honor to give back to the southern Oregon region and to have the opportunity to make a significant and important contribution to young lives.”

Coach Watson ran track and cross country at Rogue River High School, graduating in 2010. In his four years at the high school, he captured seven state titles in multiple distances of 400, 800, 1,500, and 3,000 meters and a cross country title in the 5,000 meters his senior year. He also earned the Nike Steve Prefontaine Award in 2010.



Watson is currently a student at the University of Oregon, where he has been a varsity track and cross country athlete and was a member of the 2011 and 2012 Pac-12 conference championship teams. He has maintained a 3.0 grade point average for five years and was named Pac-12 Academic All Conference in every season he competed. He is graduating with a bachelor's in product design this year. Watson intends to bring that same winning spirit to RCC cross country.

“We are excited to have a person of the caliber of Coach Watson join our program,” said RCC athletic director Kori Bieber. “We believe he has the leadership, skills, and knowledge to help our student athletes excel in their sports and in the classroom.”

Coach Watson said participating in athletics helps a person succeed in every aspect of life. As coach, he hopes to help develop student athletes into great runners that will bring pride to the school and to themselves. “We want to instill confidence that they can achieve their aspirations with hard work and discipline, and be productive student athletes,” he said.

Rogue Community College launched an athletics program and joined the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) this year. NWAC is the parent organization for 35 community colleges located in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. NWAC sports include cross country, baseball, basketball, golf, softball, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. To learn more about NWAC, visit www.nwaacc.org.

