

# The Pueblo Chieftain

Your print and online news source for Southern Colorado

July 09, 2008

## Former Colt steps into top hoops position



Shannan Lane

---

***Shannan Lane takes over South girls basketball for retired coach Jim Harrison.***

---

**By TOM PURFIELD  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**

While Shannan Lane certainly has some big shoes to fill, she has been walking side-by-side with those footsteps for a long time.

On Monday, Lane was named the new girls basketball coach at South High School replacing legendary coach Jim Harrison, for whom she was an assistant for nearly a decade.

"Harrison is definitely one of the best at game-day coaching; what to do, subbing, how to work the refs. I've been lucky to be able to learn under him," Lane said. "I'm excited. It's been a goal of mine to be a head coach and I think I'm ready now."

Harrison retired following last season after constructing the most successful prep basketball coaching career in Pueblo history. While three-peating as Class 4A state champions from 1992-94, his Colts

went 108-7 during his first five years and he finished with a 352-80 career record.

Lane is fully aware of Harrison's unparalleled resume, but also looks back to the success of previous South coaches Rich Purcell and Rick Shelton. "I'm really coming in as the fourth coach in school history and all of them had winning records," Lane said. "South's had a winning tradition through 50 years and anyone would have a lot of pressure coming into this job."

Lane played for Harrison through youth ball and after three years at Central, was a starting guard on South's 1994 state champion squad. As she played college basketball at the University of Southern Colorado, Lane coached with Harrison during the summers.

For the past nine seasons, she was his assistant with the Colts.

"I'm so pleased that Shannan got the job. She's waited a long time," Harrison said. "Shannan's grown up around basketball her entire life and she knows the game."

Lane said her grandfather, John Davis, introduced her to basketball when she was 5, got her onto a team and "definitely set me on this path." She added that Dave Marez's coaching prior to high school, plus the instruction she received from USC coaches Sue Richardson and Sherry Winn, have helped mold her basketball mind.

"A lot of people in my life have been very strong influences as far as basketball is concerned," Lane said.

Harrison relied on Lane for scouting and said she can "tear down an offense" to the point his team knew the plays and cuts an opponent would run. Lane said that is one of her favorite aspects of the game, "seeing what other teams do and trying to adjust."

As the standing junior varsity coach, Lane took the Colts through their summer schedule despite not yet landing the varsity job. Interviews were conducted Monday and South athletic director Aaron Bravo said Lane was the class of the field.

"She was the best candidate and we're looking forward to having her," Bravo said. "She's definitely going to bring Jim's competitive edge to the program and I don't think we're going to miss a beat."

She joins Alamosa's Brenda Yohn as the only female coaches in the South-Central League. Lane, the reading specialist at Carlile Elementary School, and her husband, Scott, have one child, 3-year old Ryan.

Lane would like to continue the fast, pressing style that has identified South girls basketball under

Harrison, but knows she has to adapt her approach to her talent. With starters Kalli Kemling, Molly Thiebaut and Sarah Housman returning next season, Harrison thinks she has the talent to compete for the S-CL title.

But Lane's big-picture goals run deeper than wins and losses.

"At South, I'd like to see us be competitive, up there with the top teams when playing our best ball," Lane said. "If we play up to our potential, I'm big on that whether we win or lose.

"I want to be a motivating coach who can pull the best out of her athletes. I'm really about building girls' confidence and character, how to become great young women and how to look at their future."