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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Buck Passes Away

The Community Colleges of Spokane mourns the loss of long-time friend, educator, and coach, John Buck. Coach Buck, as he was affectionately known by his peers and students, passed away early Friday morning following a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Coach Buck began his career at Spokane Community College in the fall of 1971. Hired to teach physical education classes and to be the very first cross country and track and field coach at the college he went on to win 4 cross country titles and 10 AACC Track Championship titles that included more than 66 individual conference champions and three Olympic athletes. His track coaching record is unequalled in NWAACC history. Buck also served as assistant and head football coach at SFCC until the program was discontinued by the NWAACC in 1989.

Coach Buck retired from the colleges in 1998 and was inducted into the CCS Hall of Fame in June 2001. Since that time he has been elected to the NWAACC Hall of Fame. Among Buck's many awards are the SWABS Coach of the Year, SWABS 25-year Service Award, and NWAACC Coach of the Year ten times.

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Coach Buck was born in Reardon, Washington, and graduated from Davenport High School in 1954 where he played four major sports and was nominated for All-State Honors in football. He received his bachelor of science degree from Southern Oregon College, where he was selected for the All-Oregon Collegiate and District Football Conference teams. During his collegiate career he was football captain for three years and an All-Conference baseball selection.

From 1964 to 1969 he was head of the Physical Education Department at Ashland Senior High School, with head coaching assignments in football and track. As an assistant coach at Idaho State University in 1970 he worked with the track team that won the Big Sky Conference Championship. He received his M.A. degree in Physical Education from that institution in June of 1970. Buck earned his Ph.D., in Health and Physical Education at the University of Utah in 1971 where he also served as an assistant football coach.

Coach Buck leaves behind his wife Melba, two grown children, Brenda and Jay, and the countless students whose lives were touched by his teaching and coaching.