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Mounds View basketball coaching legend Ziggy Kauls to retire after 2011-12 season

Pioneer Press

Updated: 09/08/2011 11:58:14 PM CDT

Ziggy Kauls of Mounds View, who ranks third among Minnesota boys basketball coaches in career victories with 721 in 44 seasons, will retire at the end of the 2011-12 season, the school announced Thursday.

Kauls' teams have made 12 state tournament appearances and won two state championships, in 1972 and 1999. Kauls has coached the Mustangs to 12 conference championships and has coached three Mr. Basketball Award winners (Steve Schlotthauer, 1986; Nick Horvath, 1999; and Travis Busch, 2005).

Kauls was inducted into halls of fame by the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association in 2006 and the Minnesota State High School League in 2011.

"It's been an amazing experience being a part of Mustang basketball, but it's never been about me," Kauls said in a statement released by Mounds View High School. "I've enjoyed incredible loyalty and remarkable consistency in my coaching staff, but the true success of this program belongs to the hundreds of players who have upheld our traditions and embraced teamwork over the decades.

"I'll miss them all very much, and I'll be watching the future of this program with a lot of pride."

Mounds View activities director Bob Madison said of Kauls: "Mustang basketball enjoys a tradition of special basketball teams, and for 45 years now, Coach Kauls has led those teams with pride and passion. His records and accomplishments are amazing, but what's equally impressive is how he instilled in his players the qualities of being a

Mustang - teamwork, character and respect."

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