

Portland TrailBlazers will honor Kyle Kalmbach on May 31

It doesn't take a champion season or even winning a game to have what it takes to be an outstanding coach. Kyle Kalmbach, varsity boys basketball coach at La Pine High School, has been named the 2007 "Ford Coach of the Year" by the Portland TrailBlazers and Northwest Ford Stores. Kyle Kalmbach - Ford Coach of the Year Kalmbach is among four selected for this year's award and will be honored by the TrailBlazers organization at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, May 31 in the La Pine High School Gymnasium at 51633 Coach Road. At that time, \$2,000 will be awarded to the school's boys basketball program. Kalmbach was nominated for the award by his team and school administration for his determination and exceptional leadership during a season that ended without a W in the win column. "It's a great honor to be recognized," he said. "You don't have to have a winning season to show that your program is going in the right direction." Boys varsity basketball team - La Pine Hawks Kalmbach teaches history at La Pine Middle School. Though he has been a coach for six years, this season was his first at La Pine High School. He saw this as a rebuilding year for the varsity team, and all but one player will return next season. "Sports teach a lot about life and character," said Kalmbach. "They give student athletes a chance to deal with life challenges on a smaller scale." The award is given to teachers, counselors, coaches, and mentors who positively influence and makes a difference in the lives of Oregon's youth. The award money is given in hopes of assisting with the depletion of activity funds in schools.