

# The Legacy of “The Spoon”: Remembering Spooner’s Athletic, Academic Impact

BY ISAAC WEEDER

Mr. Derrik Spooner’s departure from Mount Michael will mark the end of an era for the school. His contributions over the years have left an indelible mark on Mount Michael’s athletic, academic, and boarding programs. Spooner’s impact reaches not only to school programs, but also on the community and students of Mount Michael.

When Spooner joined Mount Michael as the head basketball coach, his intention was to teach and coach for the rest of my career.” But like all things do, Spooner’s visions changed during his years of coaching, and he had a new admiration for working in administration.

Spooner was later given the titles of Athletic Director and Dean of Students. In these new roles, Mr. Spooner faced new challenges, the most prevalent being balancing work and family life.

Spooner said, “There are not enough hours in the day, but I have an amazing wife who always understands.” The countless hours Spooner spent at Mount Michael supervising sporting events, recruitment camps, and other activities are a testament to his effort, passion, and dedication to making The Mount a better place.

While Spooner was working on making Mount Michael a better place, The Mount also did the same to



**Calling the Shots** Former Head Basketball Coach Derrik Spooner coaches the Knights during a 2019 game against Alliance. Spooner coached alongside current history teacher John Roshone ‘99.

him. Spooner said he learned to take something new from every situation, good or bad, and to learn from mistakes and put what he learned towards the next day.

Spooner hopes to be remembered for the effort and dedication he put into his different roles during his

time here at Mount Michael. Although it may be tough for his successor to fill the Spooner-sized hole at the Mount, Spooner gave a word of advice to his successor saying, “Be ready for anything, every day is different, and you’ll have to think on the fly and roll with the punches.”

When asked the one thing he will miss the most about Mount Michael, Spooner responded with no hesitation, “The community.” The Mount Michael community is something Spooner holds close to his heart, and this is clearly seen in Spooner’s favorite memory of Mount Micheal. He talked about how special the Mount Michael community is and how apparent that was to him during a basketball game at Skutt Catholic after the passing of Kyle Palen’s father. The community rallied around Palen and supported him and his family through the tragedy.

Not only does Spooner hold the Mount Michael community close to his heart, but the community values him and his contributions to The Mount as well. Mount Michael will miss Spooner tremendously but his efforts to make the school a better place will last long after he is gone. His hard work and dedication to The Mount will forever be appreciated.

## Basketball Captains Share Season Reflections

BY AARON DURAN



Drew Hoeft ‘25

*How has this preseason differed from the previous ones you’ve been a part of?*

“In the offseason we focused a lot more on lifting and getting stronger as a team which has helped us a lot in season.”

*What’s one goal you hoped to accomplish preseason, and how is your progression on it?*

“A goal that I had for the offseason was becoming a more consistent shooter and I did that by showing up to offseason shooting everyday.”

*What’s one attribute the team excels at?*

“One attribute the team excels in is being a community and getting along with one another, especially because of the strong number of sophomores on the team, which makes it easier for everyone to get along.”



Griffin Snyder ‘27

*What are your team goals?*

“I want the team to always keep fighting, not shying away from a challenge staying united through hard games.”

*What’s your favorite basketball memory?*

“Summer basketball, going on trips, and playing with my teammates. I like to compete and play against the best people I can, so summer basketball helped facilitate and let me see new opponents and get as much experience as possible.

*What are your individual goals?*

“My goals are growth- how I can keep progressing and compete against other players that are older.”

*What is it like having a younger team?*

“While some people see it as disadvantage now, it will prove to be helpful due to the experience we get and we’ll be able to see that payoff in years to come.”