Vicki Doty Girl's Track Coach at Ottawa-Glandorf for 40 Years – 1976/2015

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Vicki Doty loves finding those nuggets of historical information she's looking for to complete her track records.

But she's finding what she considers her most valuable research material the been-there, done-that kind, harder and harder to come by.

"I like playing with statistics, school records, WBL records, wins, losses, who has gone to state, etc." Doty said.

"But I have a couple holes I'd like to fill in. I'm missing a few things, especially concerning the WBL Meets. I keep trying to find people who have been around long enough and may have kept some of that stuff, but nobody's around anymore." Nobody, except Doty!

Doty retired from her teaching position in health and physical education at Ottawa-Glandorf five years ago. But she's still going strong as head coach of the school's girls track team, a position she's held for 40 years.

"The other day a couple of people asked me what I was going to do," Doty said as she leaned back in a chair in her office in the football building across the street from O-G High School. "I said that I'm just taking it one day at a time, at least until the administration says 'Get out of here!" "At the moment, though, I still I'm doing okay."

'OK' might be the epitome of understatement.

Under Doty's guidance, Ottawa-Glandorf won a girl's Division II State Championship in 2002. The Titans were also 3rd in 2005, 6th in 2008, 9th in 2007 and 10th in 1992.

Expanding the scope of the program to include regular season meets spotlights Doty's career even more.

Since 2001, Ottawa-Glandorf has competed in 85 regular, season meets, everything from its traditional seasonal opener at the Lima Bath Invitational to the Gold Medal Meet O-G hosts each year to the Western Buckeye League Championships. In 65 of those meets, O-G's girls have brought home 27 first place and 38 runner-up trophies. In only three of those 85 meets, did the Titans finish fifth or lower.

Typically, Doty deflects personal attention. "I'm not one of those rah-rah, cheerleader, life-of-the-party persons," she said. "I don't want to say I'm an introvert, but I am more reserved. Somebody once called me humble and that might be the best way to say it because I'm not the one out there doing the performing. The kids are. They're doing all the work. I'm just behind the scenes trying to push them to succeed."

Doty ran track during her prep career at Columbus Grove. Back then, though, she wasn't picturing a 40-year career coaching the sport.

"I ran track for three years. Then, my senior year, I wimped out and kept stats for the team," Doty said. "I was more of a slow-pitch softball player. About midway through the track season, we started practicing for the summer program and I wanted to do that instead."

One thing Doty was certain of, though, was that she wanted to teach health and phys-ed. And after earning her degree from Bowling Green State University in 1975, all she needed was an opportunity.

At Ottawa-Glandorf, she found it in a roundabout sort of way. "I lucked out because they needed a substitute," Doty said. "Well, one day turned into a week, then one week turned into two. They then asked if I could stay through Christmas and then till the end of the school year. I still didn't have a job, but four days before the next school year started, they called me. I think somebody was on maternity leave and they wanted to know if I would come in and talk about teaching special education. So, I took the job and while I was teaching, went back to school to get extra training. I ended up teaching special education my first 16-17 years."

Ottawa-Glandorf, however, was dangling more than just a teaching position in front of Doty's eyes.