

# Beaverton's VanWieren won't be pacing sidelines

BEAVERTON — Dick VanWieren will watch tonight's Beaverton-Gladwin season football with a new perspective.



**BILL  
SIEL**

SPORTS WRITER

For the first time in 23 seasons VanWieren will not be pacing the sidelines in front of an eager-beaver bunch of yelling, fired up Beaverton High football players.

The adjust-

ment will be difficult.

Perhaps VanWieren will start out sitting with his wife, Donna, in the stands but she'll understand if perhaps he should make an excuse to take a walk around.

Donna is used to sitting without her husband on football Friday nights. In fact for the first season she'll probably glance sideways a few times, just to make sure she isn't dreaming.

"She's put up with me all those years," said VanWieren, "and she never complained about all the time I spent with football."

Van Wieren had to make the decision to hang it up last year. He struggled with indecision but then took the open position of assistant principal and athletic director.

"It was a chance to advance and another opportunity probably wouldn't come along for another 10 years," said the slightly-graying 47-year old VanWieren. "At least I'll still be able to work with kids."

home after graduation from Indiana University and running into the superintendent from the Beaverton schools.

"He told me they needed a teacher at Beaverton and I drove over and got the job," said VanWieren, a positive thinker who speaks well of his friends and players at Beaverton.

He's been there ever since.

"It's just a nice place to live and work and to raise kids," he said. "I've met a lot of nice people here. They've been very good to us."

Dick and Donna have three children, two daughters and a son.



**VANWIENEN**

Then there was the game itself and the twinkle in VanWieren's eyes as he described the big games and the outstanding players gave his sentiments away.

Players like halfback Dan Grant, the brother to Van Wieren's successor, Tom, and fullback Mike Loar, were All-State first teamers and there were many others who attracted state-wide attention.

There were championship years in four seasons and a whole lot of years when the Beavers were breathing down the champion's neck.

But there was another championship where the winner didn't get a trophy. That was the game between tonight's two rivals, Gladwin, which always had a size advantage (Class B) and Beaverton.

"I remember one year when we were both champions of our leagues and the game ended up in a tie," said Van Wieren, as if the 1969 game was yesterday. "We were running for the PAT

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that would have won the game and we had the only fumble on the exchange between the quarterback and the center we'd had all year long.

"I'll never forget it. There was the play and we had a big hole in the line and there was the ball lying on the ground."

That was the year Beaverton had two halfbacks who both rushed for over 1,000 yards but neither got his hands on the ball.

Van Wieren can't remember the championship years right off, but he can tell you the times Beaverton beat Gladwin — especially when the Beavers won four in a row.

"We beat them last year and have a good chance to make it two in a row," said VanWieren, who successfully recommended Grant — who

played quarterback for him in the mid 1970s — to take over as head coach. Grant also worked under VanWieren as an assistant coach and has done his homework well.

"Tom has done an excellent job," said Van Wieren. "Gladwin looks strong again but Tom has our team ready."

But then talk of the past drifted back to the present and Van Wieren thought about tonight's experience.

"It'll be hard not coaching," he said softly. "This is going to be hard. I'm not looking forward to it at all."

"There are some good players back for us this year. Besides that they're good kids. I'll miss them."

You can bet that goes both ways.