

Date: Mar 24, 2012; Section: Sports; Page: B3

Cardinals name Freier interim head coach

MOUNT VERNON — Skagit Valley College men's basketball coach Roger Valentine stepped down after a long career at the helm of the Cardinals recently, but another familiar face will be on the sidelines next season.

Cardinals assistant coach Dick Freier was named the program's interim head coach on Friday by athletic director Gary Knutzen.

Knutzen said Freier's presence will help prevent any disruption to the program as the Cardinals recruit for next season. "We're really very fortunate he was willing," Knutzen said. "If we had to go through the full hiring process, it could have taken two months." Freier has been an assistant coach for 19 years. In a press release, Freier said, "I'm ready to jump in with both feet for a year, recruiting players and preparing for the upcoming season."

Valentine was head coach for 20 seasons, helping teams to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament 12 times.

— Trevor Pyle