

## Pioneer Award Nominee

**Name:** Lisa Nelson

**School:** Ralston Valley High School

**CHSCA Membership Years:** Uncertain, but I assume that she was a member for the majority of her coaching career. Hopefully CHSCA can verify.

**Number of years a head coach:** Fourteen years as a head coach in Jefferson County. Alameda 1999, RVHS 2000-2012.

**Number of years a head coach at your current school:** Thirteen years as the head volleyball coach at Ralston Valley High School 2000-2012.

**Number of state championships:** 0

**Number of state runner-ups:** 0

**Number of state births:** 2004 (4A) and 2010 (5A).

**Number of league/conference championships:** Three time Jefferson County 4A league championships 2003-2004-2007.

**Overall record:** From 2000 to 2012 Lisa's RVHS varsity teams posted a combined overall record of 183-77.

**Short Bio (8-10 lines around 125 words) of your coaching accomplishments from past to present:**

During Lisa's career as the head volleyball coach of the Ralston Valley Mustangs from 2000 to 2012 her teams posted an overall record of 183-77. The Mustangs made seven sweet sixteen appearances in the first eleven years of her tenure and she was named Jefferson County Coach of the Year three times. These statistics and honors are only that; numbers and accolades cannot accurately measure her impact as a coach, but the lives she positively influenced throughout her career did.

Lisa loved high school athletics and she took her position as a teacher, coach and role model very seriously. She truly cared for her athletes and their high school volleyball experience. She was someone who loved the sport of volleyball and used it as a platform to teach student athletes the importance of character, work ethic, preparation, teamwork and perseverance. Unfortunately, Lisa passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 after a two-year battle with cervical cancer. She was forty-three. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Ralston Valley High School memorialized her teaching and coaching career by dedicating the volleyball court "Lisa Nelson Court".

Lisa truly was a Pioneer. Her passion for volleyball and coaching was contagious. Because of their experience playing for Coach Nelson many of her former athletes have pursued becoming high school

and club coaches. There is no greater honor or accomplishment as a coach than to have others follow in your footsteps.

