

## **Coach Burnett wants to instill winning culture**

**By Briana Coen & Olivia Stucker**

Doug Burnett, new OHS head boys' basketball coach, plans to develop a "winning culture" at OHS. In fact, he and his team have set four main goals for the season: to win eighteen games, to be undefeated at home, to win a conference title and to be district champions.

Burnett said he thinks the basketball team is intense, and he expects a lot out of them. He said they work hard at practice and mentioned that the practices are more difficult, so the games can be easier.

"This is a tough team, and will be hard to beat," Burnett said.

Burnett grew up playing basketball and was a shooting guard in high school. He said he shot a lot of threes. He attended the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas and received his teaching degree and is now in his sixth year of teaching math. He has head and assistant basketball coaching experience as well. He taught at Park Hill South, North Platte High School (head basketball coach), New Mark Middle School (with high school coaching duties at Staley) and Oak Park.

"I really enjoy the boys here and how hard they work," Burnett said.

He said he is constantly learning from the boys and figuring out better ways to communicate with his students. He said the people of Odessa have been very welcoming and that his favorite part of being in Odessa is the kids.

"They give me gray hairs," he joked.

"Coach Burnett is a great guy," Will Fox, varsity basketball player, said. "I like his style of coaching. We get up and down the court faster, and he lets us play more freely. He's really opened the court up for us."

In his freetime, he likes to hang out with his fiancée, Sadie, who is a pharmacist. Burnett said they are both busy with their careers, but whenever they have freetime, they like to go on ice cream and cheesecake dates. He also enjoys spending time with his friends, playing yard games and watching football.